


American Values, Hometown Roots

THE EMPIRE STATE GRANGER




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

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March-April 2022

President's Column



Stephen C. Coye

History Can Speak To Us – If We Will But Listen

Albert S. Goss, President of the National Grange from 1941-1950 is an individual worth a significant amount of study. Very often we tend to pour over the writings and actions of the Founders to the exclusion of those who came after them, which is a bit of a mistake, as had not successive Grange leaders captured the vision of the Founders and supplied the ability to apply the principles and policies to their time the organization could not have survived.

During his time the Grange was around its membership peak of nearly 800,000 members, enthusiasm was high, but there were huge clouds on the horizon in relation to economic wellbeing and an impending war. In fact, within a couple weeks after his election Pearl Harbor was attacked, and any future plans that had been made were immediately diverted. The immediate call by Mr. Goss was for Granges to maintain their meeting schedules, and to sponsor and support necessary activities for the war effort. Granges enlisted in Red Cross blood drives, assisted in war bond sales, and farmers pro-

(Continued on page 3)

NYS Grange Sesquicentennial

A Treasured Tradition with the Future in Focus

As the New York State Grange Sesquicentennial celebration year comes closer, more candles have been added to the special traveling 150th Birthday Cake. Our goal for this fundraiser 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. Additionally the following have been celebrated with candles on the cake: Steuben Co. Pomona Grange, Memory of Oliver J. Orton P.S. Master, Memory of Margaret Faulker, Richard and Joyce Church, Kirkland Grange #684, Roger J. Halbert, Virginia L. Connor, Stanford Grange #808, Roger Gleason, Alleghany County Grange, Clifford Drake Pierstown #793, Donald Drake Pierstown #793, Susan Drake Pierstown #793, Past State Deputy Joe & Vera Farkas, Hamptonburgh Grange #950, and Smithville Valley Grange #1397.

The NYS Grange 150th Anniversary Committee is encouraging you to participate in the “People’s Choice Poster Project”. Any member can submit a poster no larger than 36x48 inches. The two classes are 1. Any poster portraying the NYS Grange 150th Anniversary theme “A Treasured Tradition with the Future in Focus” or 2. Any poster focusing on Grange in 2073. All posters submitted will be displayed at the NYS Grange Annual Session in October 2022. You can bring the poster yourself or have someone attending bring it. The poster must have some means of standing upright for display. The fun part is that everyone attending State Grange will have a way to vote for their favorite poster. Let your imagination and creative talents find expression in the People’s Choice Poster Project. Needless to say prizes will be awarded.

Every member has contributed to the “treasured tradition” of Grange in some way. Every Grange project, every program, every event has built a legacy of which we can all be proud. May every Grange celebrate their accomplishments and look to the future with hope.

Candle Order Forms on Page 8

Sesquicentennial Co-chairs
 Roberta Halbert 607-783-2445
 Susan Drake 607-264-3069



Grange Scholarships

The DeNise Scholarship Fund

Awards for this scholarship place strong emphasis on the applicant being agriculturally oriented. This scholarship may be used in any recognized accredited institution of higher learning. Public and private institutions may be attended within or outside of New York State.

Courses of study must entail a major within the field of agriculture. The number of awards given and the amount of the award is determined annually based on available funds.

Applicants must be a resident of New York State. Applicants must show membership in Grange, FFA or 4-H. All applications must be returned to the New York State Grange, 100 Grange Place, Cortland, N.Y. 13045, no later than April 15th.

Susan W. Freestone Education Award

A candidate must have been a member of a Junior Grange in New York State and must presently be a member in good standing of a Subordinate (Community) Grange in New York State

This award is a \$1,000 grant. The candidate must graduate from high school and enroll in an approved two or four year college in New York State.

All applications must be returned to the New York State Grange, 100 Grange Place, Cortland, N.Y. 13045, no later than April 15th.

June Gill Nursing Scholarship

Up to two Grants for this scholarship will be awarded to students pursuing a Nursing Degree. The candidate must be enrolled in an accredited Nursing Program

A candidate must be a member in good standing of a Subordinate (Community) Grange. All applications must be returned to the New York State Grange, 100 Grange Place, Cortland, N.Y. 13045, no later than April 15th.

The Applications for these three scholarships are available at: <https://nysgrange.org/education-opportunities/> and are due by April 15th.

In addition to the above three scholarships, the Grange also awards:

The New York State Grange Cornell Fund
 Cornell Grange Scholarship is granted through Cornell University based on determined financial need. This scholarship was started with a grant from the New York State Grange. Forward a letter of request to the New York State Grange Office 100 Grange Place, Cortland, N.Y. 13045 by June 1st.

NYS Grange, 100 Grange Place, Cortland, N.Y. 13045, Phone: 607-756-7553

E-mail: nysgrange@nysgrange.org

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Legislative Column



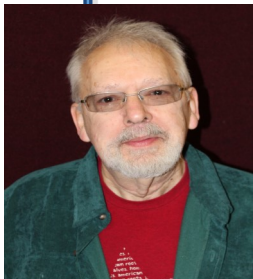
Cindy Benson-Pollard

Winter gives us the time to reflect on what are plans are for the coming year. We look ahead to warmer days and plan our activities. Now is the time to plan your Grange activities especially your legislative activities. This gives us the time to reach out to our communities and share what the Grange position is on issues that affect it.

Everyone should have received your 2022 Legislative Policy book. I hope that you have taken the time to review our legislative policies. You should have received a pamphlet that outlines the 10 priorities that we are addressing this year. These issues were selected by the delegates that attended the 2021 State Grange session. Please take a few minutes to review these two important pieces of information.

By the time you read this article, the state legislature will have been back in session. We will be working hard to address issues that are being introduced into the legislature. Are you part of our legislative email blast? By being a participant, it encourages grassroots participation in the legislative process and lets our legislators know that we are active and interested in improving our communities. I hope that if you are not included that you will forward your email address to headquarters to be included. Now is the time to start working on resolutions for the next State Grange session for consideration. If you need help, please ask. I am more than happy to help you in any way I can. This is an important way to help shape a good policy for our Grange.

Leadership Membership



Barton Snedaker

As I begin writing this column Thanksgiving is just about a week away with Christmas coming quickly on its heels. As the edition comes out after the New Year then we can deal with resolutions, too. When you get this in 2022 then just think about the holidays coming at the end of

this year. So how does all this go together for Membership/Leadership?

When I grew up I was taught that Thanksgiving is supposed to be a holiday about returning thanks to God for all our freedoms and blessings. Do we still? It seems to be a skipped-over holiday that can't be as highly merchandised in between Halloween and Christmas. Is it easy to be thankful when we are surrounded by so much hype? Then, are you thankful for your Grange and being a member? Being faithful and charitable are especially relevant. This may be a good holiday time to introduce your families, friends and neighbors to the Grange and the precepts in its Salutation.

Faith and hope are frequent Christmas season messages. Charity is fundamental at this time of year when we think of food pantries and programs such as Toys for Tots and similar local charities. Does your Grange assist in any of these ways? Sending cards and letters to servicemen and women is another way your Grange can be helpful. Many Granges have special Christmas/December lecturers' programs. What a great time to invite community members to your hall. How about putting on a meal for the elderly or people who may be alone?

You have a whole year to think about and plan events for the coming holidays.

As the days have ticked by, other ideas have been added. We are quickly approaching New Years and various pundits are beginning to publish their 10 Best Lists. What are the 10 best things your Grange did in 2021? With some Granges it simply may be that they are still here. Did yours begin a new community service project? Did you add a new member or two? Did you make donations to any area programs? Was there a spectacular Lecturer's Program? Your 10 best may not all be stupendous, some may be small things, too.

The other thing I'm beginning to hear is projections for 2022. Has your planning committee put together ideas for possible activities for this coming year?

With that in mind and in the meantime...WATCH THIS SPACE! (And the President's/Master's column, too.) We have been notified that National Grange is developing a new program for local Granges - Grange Growth Summit 2.0. New York State Grange has every intention of participating but at this time we are not sure of the who, what, when, where and how.

My questions for this article - Why are Granges losing membership? What do we do to stop it? How do we turn it

around? I am not on any social media platform - no Facebook, no Twitter, no Instagram. Please respond to these questions with the connection through State Grange email to Membership/Leadership. I would like to have some ideas to take to our planning process for the Growth Summit.

Resolutions and Covid notwithstanding - Happy New Year 2022.



Community Involvement



Melvin Phelps

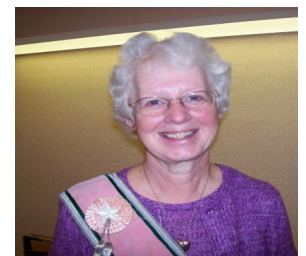
It is with great honor and enthusiasm that I was asked to serve New York State Grange as the State Director of Community Involvement. I want to thank Master/President Coye for the invitation and for his faith in me to take over for Sherri Taft who has done a wonderful job in this role. "Community service is wherever there is a need, and whatever you think that you can do." Glenn Davis. The goal of the Community Involvement Department is to make our local Grange communities a more vital and viable place by encouraging visible Grange projects and events that fulfill community needs and make the best use of the interests and abilities of the Grange members. It is an opportunity to not only make our communities better, but to make a connection with our communities.

My hope is to implement the Community Involvement Program that is outlined in our State and National Grange Handbook and recognize our Granges that are doing an exceptional job. I also want to provide ideas and resources for Granges to be successful and present in their communities in a way that is serving our communities and our members. I will do this by challenging you to do small specific acts that could have a large impact.

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE #1 As my first idea, anyone from across the state can take part. I want to challenge our Granges to reach out to schools in your communities by email, letter or in person and provide information about the **New York State Grange Scholarship Program**. We have a wonderful opportunity to help

our youth in our community financially. This can be done by contacting the school's guidance department and sharing the information about the application which has an April 15th deadline. I would ask that if you are able to do this please share this with myself so we can keep track of how many schools were notified of this resource. Please email myself at northerngracefarm@gmail.com or send a copy of the letter you sent or dropped off to Melvin Phelps, PO Box 493, Copenhagen NY 13626. I look forward to hearing from you.

Chaplain's Corner



Virginia L. Conner

LET THE LORD SHOW YOU

Have you ever had a bad day when nothing goes right? Everything you touch either falls, breaks or doesn't work the way it should or the way you want it to? Or a day filled with worry or decisions that have to be made? Yes, we all have those days! But it's how we handle those days and hours that's important. We can continue on our own human mentality or we can ask the Lord God for help. I have learned two important words that can make a huge difference in days that are filled with crises moments. The two words are: "Lord, help!"

The weight of worry can do bad things to our bodies. When we began coming to Florida twenty years ago, I would pack the cupboards with food for a month! Then the worry would set in - do I have enough? Have I remembered all the ingredients for the casseroles etc etc.? Then one year I made a huge discovery !!! There are grocery stores in Florida !!! I did not need to go to all the work and worry of packing that camper! Then there's the weight that that poor camper was hauling for 1300 miles!

So I not only lifted weight from the camper but from my own state of mind. This verse in Proverbs helps me greatly through each day: Chapter 3, verse 6: "Remember the Lord in everything you do and He will show you the right way." (GNT) His solution is always the best way. Let Him show you and you'll have a worry-free day.



(Continued from page 1)

duces crops in record amounts. At first blush it was thought that the gasoline rationing would hamper Grange activities, but the reverse turned out to be the case, as folks participated in close to home as traveling to distant places was not possible.

Following the war there were economic problems to be addressed, as inflation and price controls coupled with the public's demand for "cheap food" was resulting in farmers being paid less for their product than the cost of producing it. Goss also realized that agricultural education and research was more important than ever before, as the booming population was beginning and would continue to take hundreds of thousand acres of farmland out of production and into housing, while at the same time increasing the need for food.

It would be possible to continue with a lot more information, but space here makes that not possible. We trust that you will be intrigued enough to do some study on your own to learn more about this great leader, discover some of the parallels between his time and ours, what local Granges were willing to accomplish for the success of our Country, and the advancement of agriculture and their communities. Mr. Google can help you get started.

Near the completion of Charles M. Gardner's landmark book: "The Grange – Friend of the Farmer" published in 1949, there is an essay written by Albert Goss entitled "A Prophecy." While it was written some 70+ years ago the very first paragraph of it hits one squarely between the eyes. It reads:

"The Question has been asked: "How long will the Grange live?" I believe it will live as long as it continues to serve the welfare of agriculture and the nation. Whenever it becomes ingrown and selfish, and the members look on it only as a means of bringing them pleasure, entertainment or profit, it will fade away."

He then goes on for twelve paragraphs to develop his thesis, offer his glimpse of the future, and the aspect that there will never be a time to sit on our laurels, as the resolution of one problem will be followed by the appearance of another. He ends the essay this way:

"I believe the future holds promise of far greater progress for agriculture than anything we have imagined in the past; and that our Order, which has developed such sound principles throughout its existence, and has successfully met new problems as they have arisen, will find that its basic purposes of education, cooperation and

fraternity will equip it to meet the problems of "the future and to maintain that leadership in agriculture to which its accomplishments of the past entitle it."

I would encourage you to read and study the entire essay, it can be found starting on page 430 of the afore mentioned book, of which copies abound. Discussing this at a Grange meeting would be time well spent. It should help us to shape our thinking and focus for the year ahead.

State Lecturer



Jolene Pirrone

I hope all y'all (or you's guys if you prefer) have been able to take a look at the project book at this point. We will definitely have a contest event, at least as we have done the past two years, but possibly a full event depending on the health and political climates at the time. Honestly, it will be a very last minute decision as we just can't know.

I know a lot of Granges have adapted and have picked up the work again, but many are still struggling. You are not alone. I had contemplated Grange visits, but now I'm not so sure if that is going to work on a grand scale in light of recent developments. Many state officers are open to visiting your Grange and a happy to help out in any way.

In any case, this year's projects are simple enough to get done solo if need be, although it's my sincerest wish that these activities give inspiration for work to be done together with our brothers and sisters. The current categories are: Photography — Clouds
Fine Arts — Coloring Page
Performing Arts — Poetry Recital
Writing — Letter to a Representative
Promotion — Informational Poster

Also, please take a look at our featured topic this year, The Fire Service. New York is blessed with universal fire coverage -- even the smallest communities have their own fire company. Your local company is always in need of help and would be thrilled to interact with your Grange. My home Grange meets in our local fire house and shares a few members! Please consider planning a program around this topic. It can be as easy as inviting the local fire chief to a meeting to

give a little speech.

I am happy to answer direct questions individually, or to visit or Zoom in with your Grange. Let me know.

jolene@advancedwebdesign.com

State Grange Secretary



Ryan Orton

When I was installed as the new Secretary of the New York State Grange in October, I was reminded that "the duties of your office are the most arduous of all..." Emily Ormsby of Allegany County, our Installing Officer and Special Deputy of the New York State Grange, gave each State Officer a card with a single word on it from our installation charge for us to focus on during our term.

"Arduous" was the word on my card. As a teacher, I encourage my students every day to look up the definitions of words or answers to questions (this, quite often, can be very arduous!). According to Merriam-Webster, arduous is defined as "hard to accomplish or achieve; marked by great labor or effort." Having been both a Subordinate and Pomona Grange Secretary for over 13 years now, this definition rings true in many ways! But, rather than focusing on a negative interpretation of the definition, let's combine it with a small portion of the Master's installation charge: "You may encounter difficulties. Overcome them, remembering that difficulties are but opportunities to test our abilities." All of us can relate with this quotation as we all face challenges every day. Let's meet them head on both in and out of the Grange remembering that "...Nature's motto is onward; she never goes backward." I'm getting the hang of being your State Secretary, and I heartily thank Past Secretary Roger Halbert for always being available to answer the many questions I've had in the last few months!

At the request of the Executive Committee, the Quarterly Reports to State Grange have been updated and modernized starting with the March 2022 Report. Only a few slight additions have been inserted to help maintain a more complete record of our Granges and members. On the front, we've added space to include your Grange's meeting place with an address – whether it be a Grange Hall, Church, Library,

Community Center, or member's home – and whether you have wi-fi internet access. This will help us in planning regional or state events that could require the internet, especially for virtual attendees. On the back, we're asking for phone numbers and e-mail address for all new members. This will help keep our members in communication with the State Grange, especially in the form of legislative information and potential action that could result in immediate effects. Secretaries – if you could send me either physically or electronically the phone numbers and e-mail addresses for your members, that would also help us have complete contact information for all our Grange members across New York State.

In each column, I would like to recognize each Grange that welcomed new members. This is based on the Quarterly Reports I've received at the time of this writing (January 15th). I realize this is also in another section of our paper with the new members' names listed, but why not recognize the Granges themselves for growing our organization?! Congratulations to the following Granges who welcomed a total of 35 new members since State Grange in October:

5 New Members: Copake Grange #935 – Columbia County
Butternut Valley Grange #1533 – Otsego County
4 New Members: Cuyler Grange #449 – Cortland County
Putnam Valley Grange #841 – Putnam County
3 New Members: Stone Church Grange #1561 – Dutchess County
East Pembroke Grange #1157 – Genesee County
2 New Members: Cuba Grange #799 – Allegany County
Stanford Grange #808 – Dutchess County
Lamson Grange #588 – Onondaga County
Wide Awake Grange #747 – Ontario County
1 New Member: Pierstown Grange #793 – Otsego County
Hoosick Grange #1127 – Rensselaer County
North Barton Grange #45 – Tioga County



New Grange Members

Columbia Co.

Copake #935
Nicole Friedrich
Marilyn Grass
Kim Hausner
Gabrielli Tessler

Cortland Co.

Albright #440
Kaitlin Harris-Boyd

Cuyler #449
Karlee Dechick
Breanna Shelby
Layla Shelby
Sunshine Shelby

Dutchess Co.

Stanford #808
Leandra Costa
Patrick Cronin
Timothy Hughes
Robin Hughes
Carina Moore

Mount Hope #902

Anna Acquanita
Al CaSalla
Joseph Conaccia
Richard Dobbins
Sara Dobbins
Patrick Foote
Rosemarie Gioggia
Barbara Gutzler
Mary Johnson
Nancy Locicero
Jennette Madison
Sierra Madison
Joseph Paoloni
Patrick Paoloni
Contanse Smith
Charles Straley
Charlotte Walsh
Erica Walsh
Jay Walsh
Arianna Zerafa
Melissa Zerafa

Stone Church #1561

Margaret Chamberlain
Carol Grigliardi
Nicholas Grigliardi
Karen Lambdino
Brenda Slight
Earl Tomkkins

Genesee Co.

East Pembroke #1157
Helen Hanes
Colton Tarbell

Ontario Co.

Clifton Springs #1042
Heather Manns

Otsego Co.

Pierstown #793
Dr. Marilyn Orenstein
Dr. Michael Orenstein

Putnam Co.

Putnam Valley #841

Terry Raskyn
Gerard Zoehfeld

Rensselaer Co.

Brunswick #1337
Jeremy Kelly

State Grange Historian

Carol Bailey



DID YOU KNOW...

That New York State Grange was organized on November 6, 1873? Francis McDowell, a founder of the National Grange and from Wayne, NY, called the assembly together. Officers were duly installed with George Hinckley of Fredonia as master/president. A constitution and bylaws were drafted by a committee of three, presented and adopted. Members present show that they represented the state from Chautauqua to Manhattan and to the north country.

This account comes from the bound volume of the Journals of Proceedings which I have. As I have read these minutes in order to make a timeline of our state Grange history I have kept copious notes. I will be sharing these throughout the next couple of years as we approach our sesquicentennial.

The first annual session took place in Albany March 18-20, 1874 at the Agricultural and Geological Hall. At that time a committee of eleven women (most from central NY) was appointed to work on suggestions for the good of the order.*

Their report later had the following points: cooperation with the brothers, using the social recreation and intellectual culture of the Grange, beautify our home inexpensively, work with the brothers to bring forward clearer ideas and progress the work, only women with a farming background be granted membership, endorse temperance, and elevate the status of women in the household.

Next year found the annual meeting at Sumner Corps Hall in Syracuse from January 12-15, 1875. Mention is made of the troubles arising with Robert Farley, Jr. and the Manhattan Grange. This is the first year that counties began reporting.

The Academy of Music in Auburn hosted the next session. Equality of women in Grange was encouraged. Districts and county councils were being urged to form Pomona Granges. (These loosely organized groups proceeded Pomonas for many years and often served as the business body of the Order.) One Grange business agent for the state was suggested. The fifth degree was conferred on those present as counties did not do this degree until later. Music for opening and closing was approved. Regulations for organizing Pomonas was adopted at this meeting in 1876. At the session in Rochester at the Brackett House January 1877 life insurance was available to members. A committee was to visit Cornell and inspect the teaching methods for farmers. Pomona membership was established as masters and past masters of subordinate Granges. A survey was sent to masters to ascertain progressive methods, interesting meetings and general workings of the subordinate Grange.

Mrs. Laura Lymond of New York City was appointed as a purchasing agent for ladies interests in December 1873. Her position lasted until 1877 when she re-

signed for lack of business.

"The Husbandman" was an early publication of the Grange in Chemung County and became the official paper of the New York State Grange eventually.

Most of these early sessions consisted of an internal workings of the Order and finding the best way to do things.

*As an aside I often wonder with so many from central NY on that committee if that was still influence from the 1848 Seneca Falls convention and the strong temperance stance in the area at that time.

Here a couple of ideas from my handbook pages for some activities to tie into our sesquicentennial.

For a community service project Granges could donate books with an agricultural theme especially for children to their local library. In the late 1800s many Granges had a library for the benefit of their members.

Juniors could learn about a local dignitary from the past. Then make a drawing, mosaic, collage or puzzle of that person's likeness. That person could be a Granger or another who made an impact on your locality.

It would be great to have a copy of these and other ideas for each department contact me and I will send you a copy.

Youth



Katie Fallon

Hope everyone's holidays were happy and healthy!

The youth are excited to be able to resume activities again this year starting off with winter weekend in February! By the time you all read this we will have hosted it at Stanford Grange 808 and I'm sure had a blast!

I challenge all the youth to get involved in the Lecturer and FAC contests this year. The talent and public speaking are coming up this spring! Please get in touch with me to sign up, or contact me if you need help.

As we are all looking forward to warmer months ahead please keep in mind inviting your NYS young patron Danielle to your Grange. Contact me at 845 663 7778 or email kathleenef889@gmail.com.

Thank you all for your continued support of the youth program,

*Support Grange
Youth*

Junior Grange

Sherri Taft



Hello Junior Grangers! I am excited to be the next New York State Grange Junior Grange Director! I am looking forward to visiting the Junior Granges throughout New York State, either for a meeting or for a special event hosted by the Junior Grange. Please reach out to me and let me know when I can come and visit your Junior Grange. We will follow the 2022-2023 handbook for crafts and programming. If you have not seen it yet, visit nysgrange.org to find the Junior Grange handbook. It can be printed off for easier access. If your Junior Grange does any activities, make sure to send photos and a description of the activity to the Empire State Granger. This will allow other Granges around the state can see what your Junior Grange is doing. Not only will you be sharing what your Junior Grange is doing, you may also encourage other Granges to do a similar activity in their community.

Keep your fingers crossed that we can have Grange Camp this year. We are in the very early stages of planning camp. As soon as information is available, it will be mailed out to the Junior Leaders.

Have a great winter and be sure to do some fun winter activities with your Junior Grange!

Sports

Director

Bruce Dehner

Hello everyone I would like to introduce myself as the new Sports Director. My name is Bruce Dehner, a 50 year member of Cuyler Grange in Cortland County. We will be having our usual tournaments, dart ball, bowling, golf and this year we are hoping to add corn hole. There will be more information to follow in future issues. Dates for the events are as follows, dart ball April 24th at State Grange headquarters starting at 9:00 AM, bowling tournament June 5th at Cort Lanes in Cortland starting at 12 noon, and Golf July 10th. place and time to be announced. Hopefully we will have great turnouts and a very successful year with no Covid interruptions. My contact information is by email at bcd221@yahoo.com, message me on Facebook or mail me at PO Box 372 De Ruyter, NY 13052. Fraternaly Bruce Dehner



Be a star and add a few new members to your Grange.

The National Grange is pleased to announce the recognition of families for national recognition. Each family will receive a certificate and a feature in the National Convention. The deadline for nominations is September 10, 2004 and should be sent to the

National Grange News CORNER



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TBA

NYS Fair

Grange Building Superintendent

607-756-7553

Steve@nysgrange.org

Sherri Taft

Ryan Orton

Camp Directors

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rorton808@yahoo.com

[National Grange Urges Reconsideration of New Alzheimer's Drug](#)

The mortality rate for Alzheimer's and related dementias is higher in rural areas than urban centers. The Grange is urging HHS Secretary to allow access to the drug for rural residents.

[National Grange Urges the Senate to Vote for Postal Reform](#)

The House of Representatives passed The Postal Service Reform Act on a bipartisan vote of 342-192. The Senate expects to vote on their companion bill the week of February 14. The National Grange is urging its passage.

[National Grange Supports Postal Reform Efforts in the House](#)

The National Grange is championing postal reform initiatives to strengthen the United States Postal Service and assure continuation mail and package delivery to rural residents. Legislation, H.R. 3076, headed to the House floor for a vote incorporates most Grange priorities for postal reform.

[Betsy Huber of the National Grange Joins Alliance Board of Directors](#)

Washington, DC—The Alliance for Aviation Across America announced today that Betsy Huber, President of the National Grange, has joined its Board of Directors.

"We are thrilled that Betsy Huber has joined the Alliance Board of Directors," said Ed Bolen, President and CEO of the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) and the President of the Alliance's Board of Directors. "Betsy brings a wealth of invaluable experience and perspectives on behalf of rural communities and our agricultural sector, which rely extensively on general aviation, local airports, and our aviation infrastructure."

Huber has been President of the National Grange since 2015. Previously she was on the National Grange's executive committee from 2007-14. Huber also serves on the board of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's program Safety in Agriculture for Youth and as Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association. In 2017, she was appointed to the Federal Communications Commission's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee.

"I am honored to serve on the Board of Directors for the Alliance for Aviation Across America," Huber said. "General aviation is critical for agriculture, access to services like medical care and disaster relief, our nation's food supply, and the economy as a whole."

Many agricultural operators use general aviation to transport goods, personnel, and oversee and treat crops and land. There are about 5,000 public-use airports in towns across the country, yet the majority of airline traffic goes through 30 of them. All told, general aviation supports over 1.1 million jobs and over \$246 billion in economic impact, according to a 2018 PricewaterhouseCoopers study. Huber continued, "As our nation continues to recover, we are also pleased to support the commitments of the general aviation industry in critical areas of growth, such as the development and use of sustainable fuel and emerging technologies."

Recently, the Alliance for Aviation Across America, the Grange, and many other national and local groups partnered to launch futureofaviation.org, which highlights the importance of general aviation and the benefits of the development and use of sustainable fuel and potential new technologies, such as vertical and landing aircraft, which have the potential to transport goods and people between rural and urban areas in a more efficient manner.

The Grange strengthens individuals, families, and communities through grassroots action, service, education, advocacy, and agriculture awareness.

The Alliance for Aviation Across America (AAAA) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, national grassroots coalition of over 6,000 aviation and non-aviation groups and individuals across the country, including businesses, FBOs, small airports, elected officials, agricultural and charitable organizations, and leading industry and aviation groups. Formed in 2007, the organization is dedicated to spreading awareness and educating the public about the value of general aviation and local airports.

[National Grange Files Broadband Priorities With NTIA](#)

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will distribute \$43.5 billion in broadband grants to states. National Grange stresses funding priorities, oversight and accountability.

[Huber Broadband Needs To Be Part of Sustainability Conversation](#)

Story by [Glenn Vaagen](#), PNW Ag Network

As the Ag community works on improving sustainability and shrinking the industry's carbon footprint, Betsy Huber says ensuring the latest technology must be part of the conversation. The President of the National Grange said sustainability means both preserving and conserving the soil, the water, the land, as well as the economic stability of U.S. farmers. And she added while agriculture will play a big role in the climate change debate, farmers can't do it alone.

"Precision agriculture is part of that too, which also requires broadband, so we're hoping that the broadband funding will increase the use of precision agriculture which will then save the farmers money, and also save the land by enabling less use of pesticides and herbicides."

Huber said the Grange is also working to ensure that any legislative efforts to reduce greenhouse gasses is not penalizing or over-regulating for farmers nationwide.

[Rural Communities Need 5G](#)

Rural communities need 5G, the FAA needs to stop hindering their access to it

All Americans deserve access to high-speed broadband service and 5G wireless will play an important role in achieving this national imperative. Unfortunately, an ongoing dispute between two federal agencies could block the deployment of this crucial technology to the very people who need it the most.

Many rural communities across America are on the wrong side of a digital divide that separates them from everything from advanced health care to economic opportunity. Nearly 18 million rural residents across huge swaths of the nation lack access to reliable high-speed broadband.

Expanding rural broadband access is a top priority for the National Grange. We are dedicated advocates of not only funding for rural broadband infrastructure but also the elimination of burdensome regulations that stop projects attempting to bring new technologies like 5G to underserved areas. Unfortunately, just as we are on the cusp of seeing widespread 5G deployment become a reality, two federal agencies are locked in a dispute that could impede connectivity for people and employers in rural and urban areas alike.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is the expert regulator in the communications space, but recently the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) decided it would intervene in 5G deployment based off one industry-driven and well-debunked study that contends that deploying 5G wireless in the set of airwaves known as the C-band could interfere with altimeter function, thereby making it less safe for aircraft to fly and land. Altimeters are the devices that measure the distance between an airplane and the ground. But the FCC, the acknowledged expert in spectrum issues, has studied this issue for several years, with input from aviation stakeholders, and positively concluded that aviation and 5G wireless can safely share this space.

(Continued on page 7)

**Regional Coordinator, 2023 National Convention
Paula Turner**

Plans are well underway for hosting the National Grange Convention in Niagara Falls on November 14-18, 2023. This event happens every year, but to be here in NY is worth being very happy and excited about! We will be at The Conference & Event Center Niagara Falls which is connected to Sheraton at the Falls. It is just six tenths of a mile to the observation tower at Niagara Falls and the theme for the convention is "Flow Into The Future". Zoom meetings with the coordinators of the other northeast states began last May, as our budget is due to National Grange this May. The Northeast Region states are New York, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.

There were some major changes to the National Grange schedule in Kansas last November, which will probably be permanent changes. These are having the Youth and Adult tours on Friday instead of Thursday and the Junior tour on Saturday instead of Friday. Also, the Evening of Excellence moved from Friday night to Saturday night after the Banquet; and the National Grange Honors Night was Friday. This is awards for Distinguished Granges, Granges in Action, Legacy Families, Membership, Youth, Junior, Community Service, Legislative, Public Speaking and Lecturer Awards. There will be activities and workshops for all ages, in addition to seeing National Grange at work; and fellowship with old friends and meeting new ones.

We have found people to chair the committees and thank everyone who answered yes when asked! Look for a complete list of committee chairs in a later article. As the Convention gets closer, we will need help in many areas, such as the Hospitality Room and Registration on NY's day; trumpet girls and marching candidates for the 7th Degree; contributing to the Community Service Project; putting on the 6th Degree; and selling shirts or just purchasing one for yourself. Actually your first opportunity to get one of these awesome red themed shirts will be at the Lecturer/FAC Conference at State Grange Headquarters on April 23rd. There are T-shirts for \$11 and long sleeved shirts for \$16 in sizes M, L, XL, 2X and 3X. To guarantee your shirt in your size, pre-orders can be emailed to xraypaula@yahoo.com or call me @ 607-377-1736.

Thank you all for your support.



**NEW YORK STATE GRANGE
2022
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.

- February 24-26 Central NY Farm Show – State Fair Grounds
- March 9 Executive Committee – 4:00 p.m. Via ZOOM teleconference
- 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 20 Woodworking, Quilting, & Needlework due at HDQ for Judging
- April 22 Executive Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m. Hybrid
- April 23 Lecturer/FAC Conference – HDQ **
- April 23 Museum Full Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.
- April 24 State Dart Ball Tournament – HDQ **
- May 12-14 NYS FFA Convention, Syracuse
- May 15 Empire State Granger Copy Due

- May 21 Museum Clean Up Day 10:00 a.m.
- June 5 State Bowling Tournament – Cortlanes Bowling Alley, Cortland, 12:00 noon **
- June 30 Subordinate Dues to State Secretary
- June 30 Junior Grange Membership & Dues Report Due
- July 10 State Golf Tournament – Location TBA **
- July 15 Empire State Granger Copy Due
- July 16 Museum Full Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.
- August 2-4 Empire Farm Days, Pompey
- August 24 – Sept. 5 New York State Fair – Syracuse
- September 1 Community Service Reports due to Director
- September 1 National JG Report due
- September 3 Grange Day at the NYS Fair
- September 15 Empire State Granger Copy Due
- September 15 Lecturer's Reports due to State Lecturer
- Sept. 16 – Oct. 2 Eastern States Exposition (The Big E) – West Springfield, MA
- September 24 State Legislative Day – HDQ **
- September 25 Grange Day at the Big E – West Springfield, MA
- September 30 Subordinate Dues to State Secretary

**Family
Activities**



Brenda Noble

We will soon be having the Needlework and Craft Contest in April. The handbook is online on the New York State Grange website. Please make sure each item has the name, address, and Grange attached to the entry. The Northeast Exposition has made some size adjustments, so let me know if you have questions. The baking contest this year is gluten free no bake cookies. The baking contest will be in October at State Session.



For the 150th Anniversary Celebration, the Family Activities department will be doing a quilt block. Anyone may make one and send it to State Session in October this year. We will then take all of the blocks to create a quilt for the 150th Celebration in October 2023. A picture of the quilt block is shown here. If anyone needs directions, please let me know and I will get them to you.

I received a Thank You letter from the Shriners Children's Hospital for the donation from the quilt raffle at the Northeast Exposition. New York provided the quilt for the raffle. A copy of the letter can also be found in this paper.



November 17, 2021

New England Grange Building, Inc.
c/o Brenda Noble
7973 Telephone Rd.
Le Roy, NY 14482-8961

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$5,502.00 given 10/7/2021 to Shriners Hospitals for Children®, for its Erie Location, *In memory of James A. Siocum*. This gift will help touch the lives of countless children with orthopaedic conditions and other special health care needs.

Shriners Hospitals for Children provides specialized care to children with orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate, regardless of the families' ability to pay. Generally, care is provided until age 18, although, in some cases, it may be extended to age 21. All care and services are provided in a compassionate, family-centered environment. For more information, please visit shrinershospitalsforchildren.org.

We extend our sincere gratitude for your consideration of the Erie Shriners Medical Center and best wishes from the Board of Governors, children and staff. Due to the rapidly evolving protocols and guidelines regarding COVID-19, please contact us before planning a visit to our facility.

With much gratitude,

Mary Jane Antoon

Mary Jane Antoon
Administrator

David R. Schumacher
David R. Schumacher, CFRE
Development Officer

In accordance with IRS regulations we confirm that no goods or services were provided by Shriners Hospitals for Children® in return for this contribution.

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Whitehall Juniors get National Awards.

(Continued from page 5) National News



Paige Darling

- 1st Handy Craft
- Seed Art
- Also Best of show
- 1st National Art
- Paige Darling
- 3rd Handy Craft
- Seed Art
- Annabel Maring



Annabel Maring

Otsego County

The Gilbertsville Mount Upton School is teaming up with the Otsego County Conservation Association to promote the Otsego County Schools Plastic Film Recycling Challenge. The challenge promotes proper recycling of film plastic is open to all public and private k-12 schools located in Otsego County. Butternut Valley Grange members are taking on the challenge in helping to recycle For the GMU School. The program kicked off on November 15 and runs through April 15, 2022.

Grangers are collecting clean dry film plastic, including single-use grocery bags, Ziploc-style food bags, wood pellet bags, cereal bags, bread bags, produce bags and more.



Morgan Barnes a Butternut Valley Grange member and student at GMU is pictured with just some of the recycling that has been given to the school.

Grangers pictured with Morgan (front) Back Roger Halbert, Penny Klingman, Calvin Wilcox, Keith Klingman and Norman Ritchey.

At the January 8, 2022 meeting of Eureka and Newark Granges two guests were present for a hot roast beef sandwich lunch and the meeting. The guests were the Welcher brothers, Bill and Bob. Welcher is a well known farming name in the Newark area.

While renovating his house Bob found an old Bible inscribed to Newark Grange on March 8, 1911. It was given to Newark on the occasion of the dedication of the large new Grange hall that was built on East Union Street (torn down during urban renewal.)

It was presented by Mrs. G. W. VanAuken (a Welcher relative) to the Grange during the ceremony of dedication. However it was given by Marvin Welcher, who was ill at the time.

The Bible will now reside back in the Newark Grange hall after it was presented back to the Grange. How the Bible ended up back in the Welcher family remains a mystery.



Welcher Brothers with Allan Mallette, President of Newark Grange

There is plenty of evidence to support their position.

Dozens of European countries have deployed 5G safely in the same way, and they haven't experienced any problems. The FCC has done their homework and spent years developing the rules for using the C-Band and has put in place protective measures that go above and beyond what's been done internationally to protect against interference issues. This is not a typical Washington bureaucratic dispute. There's too much at stake. Six former FCC Chairmen on both sides of the aisle recently wrote a joint letter to current FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel and the Commerce Department, noting "the FAA position threatens to derail the reasoned conclusions reached by the FCC after years of technical analysis and study. We encourage all stakeholders to work together toward a speedy resolution of the issues in this band, and to ensure these surprises do not become a recurring feature of American spectrum management in the future."

The consequences of obstructing 5G are significant and would impact not rural broadband connectivity but also America's national security and our ability to compete economically, especially with China. Winning the global race to 5G and staying ahead of China will require close coordination between all levels of government and the private sector. This type of self-serving intervention plays right into China's stated ambitions to control new technologies.

The National Grange has been standing up for America's farmers and rural communities for over 150 years. Today, that support includes working to make sure rural residents are not denied access to important cutting-edge technologies like 5G. We urge the FAA to work in good faith with the FCC to ensure all Americans can have access to 21st century connectivity.

[National Grange Supports Medicare Coverage for more vaccines for infectious diseases](#)

Preventing infectious diseases with vaccines is critical to rural communities. Congress must remove financial barriers to vaccination for seniors under Medicare Part D. The more seniors must pay for their vaccines, the less likely they are to get vaccinated.

The National Grange expresses its support for the Cattle Market Price Discovery and Transparency Act, a bill which will increase fairness in cattle markets and hopefully increase sales prices for producers and decrease purchase prices for consumers.



[Quilts of Valor given to local veterans](#)

On Wednesday, November

10 the National Grange presented 13 Quilts of Valor at the 155th Annual Session, being held at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Wichita.

"What a fitting tribute to be able to hold this on Veterans Day Eve," said National Grange Lecturer Chris Hamp, who oversees this program. For the first time, non-Grangers were honored, including members of the local Augusta Memorial Post 6746 – Veterans of Foreign Wars and Augusta Leonard Whitehill American Legion Post 189, who presented the colors.

The youth of the National Grange assisted in escorting the veterans to the front of the room to receive their quilts.

Kimber Newman, daughter of National Young Patrons Molly and Vince Newman, assisted in giving the recipients thank you cards made by the fourth-grade class of her aunt, Mandy Bostwick, National Grange Youth Leadership Director.

Quilts of Valor are given to service members and veterans, to cover them with comfort and healing.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation was started in 2003 by Catherine Roberts when her son was deployed to Iraq. Roberts had vivid and haunting dreams of veterans being physically encapsulated by the horrors brought on by what they had experienced in their time of deployment. These dreams were what motivated Roberts start the Foundation.

The mission of the Quilts of Valor is to bring comfort and healing to those who have been touched by war. Over 286,000 Quilts of Valor have been awarded since the start of the foundation in 2003.

The National Grange is an official Under Our Wings partner of the Quilts of Valor Foundation. This partnership enables the National Grange to honor veterans in a tangible way. This partnership was formed by National Grange Lecturer/Program Director Christine Hamp in 2017, when the National Grange first presented quilts at their annual session in Spokane, Washington. Hamp gave thanks to all of those who helped coordinate the event including Lisa Conner, the Kansas State Coordinator for the Quilts of Valor.

The anthems of each military branch were played by John Noonan, with veterans standing up when the music of their branch was played to be recognized by the crowd.



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



A Treasured Tradition With The Future In Focus

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