

American Values, Hometown Roots

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- Our Vision!**
- Initiator of Community Action
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July-August 2022

President's Column

Stephen C. Coye



GRASSROOTS

The above title sets forth a word of which we are very familiar. No doubt it may have been part of the conversation when you were learning about the Grange, or being asked to join. The most obvious application of the word is that without roots, nothing grows. This is an important part of the concept, as it relates to the necessity of being rooted in our communities and in the principles of our organization so that the necessary nourishment can flow into the projects and activities. Back in 2018 *Historic New England* did a documentary on a couple of Granges in northern Vermont, entitled "Rooted, Cultivating Community in the Vermont Grange." It demonstrated in a very direct way how these folks were rooted in their communities, some for multiple generations, and through their efforts centered in and through the Grange, their communities are a better place to live and work. It goes without saying that the deeper the roots the more nourishment that can be supplied to the plant above. As a side illustration of perseverance, substantial areas of prairie grass were often completely decimated by wild fires, however as their

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East Pembroke Grange Members Outreach Program

East Pembroke Grange held a special meeting on June 28. There were two very important reasons for the meeting. Two Grange members, Denise Kelsey and Dana Phelps were presented with their Gold Sheaf awards by Past High Priest of Demeter Bruce Croucher. The Grange was opened in full form by a brand new set of officers. This was the first time they had opened a meeting. The officers were very happy for instruction from the Past High Priest and from Past National Master, Edward Luttrell. The two recipients were encircled at the altar by the members that were present and presented with their certificates. The Master's Charge at the close of the fourth degree was given as well as the charges at the altar circles from the third degree. Both Denise and Dana gave memories of their time at youth leadership school.

The second event was a financial presentation from Denise for the Peruvian Outreach Program spearheaded by an East Pembroke Grange Member. He is the son of East Pembroke Grange president Kathy Houlihan.

Kathy has provided the following regarding the program. "Thank you for attending our Grange the other night. We really appreciate your interest in the Peruvian Outreach Project established by our son, Cristian, after he volunteered for 8 months at the Aldea Infantil Virgen del Pilar Orphanage from which we adopted him in 2000. He saw the great need to improve the quality of life for the children and young people residing there. Cristian attended the East Pembroke Grange as a Junior Grange participant and continues to belong to the Grange today. I believe that our involvement in Grange has helped him to become the generous, dedicated young man and father that he is today. We are very proud of what he has accomplished."

"The Peruvian Outreach Project was established as a non-profit registered in New York State in February of 2020. In the past several years we have completed many projects at the Aldea and this spring we established a sewing workshop there. Also this year we started our ambitious Hogar Hermelinda Home

for Young Women Project. This is a safe home for young women who have finished high school, are highly recommended, and motivated. They will live in this home while continuing their post secondary education. These girls come from very poor families and could not possibly afford to continue their education without this opportunity. Four of the six girls start a three year program in nursing on July 4th. One girl is studying at a prep academy for the placement exam for the University of Tarapoto. She wants to complete a five year degree in nursing. The last girl, Elia, will study to be a primary school teacher. We are very excited about being able to empower these young women and we believe that they will become leaders in their communities."



Our Story Began...

Cristian Johnston, President of POP, was adopted at the age of four from the Aldea Infantil Virgen del Pilar, an orphanage in the San Martin Department of Peru, back in 2000. Eighteen years later, Cristian returned to explore his roots and was inspired to give back to his community of origin. The Peruvian Outreach Project, Inc., or POP, was created to do just that.

Cristian has spent time at the orphanage since that initial trip, teaching English, streamlining the filtration system to improve water quality, building flower beds, and revamping a shuttered bakery that now provides fresh bread.



Denise presenting donation to Cristian



Kathy Houlihan, president of East Pembroke Grange and mother of Cristian

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Legislative Column



Cindy Benson-Pollard

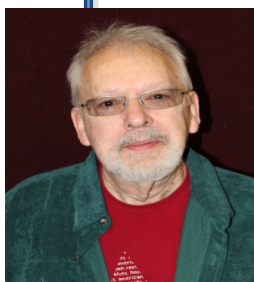
Summer is in full swing. The flowers are in bloom, the bees are buzzing around, and warm weather keeps us outside enjoying summer activities. Are you planning on activities with your community? This is a good way to share what we are doing to better our communities through our legislative work.

The State Legislature has ended its session for this year. We followed many issues this year. I hope that you responded to our email blasts for issues that we worked on. If you are not on our list, please send your email address to headquarters. This is a good way to let your representatives know the Grange's position on issues before them.

Please be sure to mark your calendars for our annual legislative conference. The conference will be held on September 24, 2022. The conference will start in the morning at 9:00 AM with coffee and donuts. The session speakers will start at 9:45 AM. A lunch will be provided, and the day will end around 2 PM. The day is still in the planning stages. If there is someone you would like to hear from, please let me know and I will be sure to reach out to them. Please watch for a mailing from me for further details.

Resolutions are starting to come in for consideration at State Grange this year, Do I have yours? Please remember that I need resolutions by September 1st if they are to be considered at State Grange this year. Remember to be sure to send all your background support information with your resolutions. If you would like to email them to me, please do but remember I still need the original with all background materials sent to me. If you need help with any legislative issues or writing a resolution, please let me know. I am always glad to help you.

Leadership Membership



Barton Snedaker

The first three days of April, along with two dozen excited Grangers from across the state,

I was pleased to take part in a truly challenging conference/training from National Grange. Our speaker/leader/facilitator was Amanda Brozana-Rios, National Grange Membership Director. The program was entitled "Grange Growth Summit 2.0" and looked at ways to grow NY State Grange and The Grange in general. I walked, actually drove, away with my mind going full steam. Many, many concepts and ideas were presented - each one more intriguing and interesting than the last. It will take some time for me to assimilate them and put them into use and these columns. One of the more important is that membership is not just about getting new members but is also about taking care of the ones you already have.

First, let me tell you about some of the materials and publications which are available and could prove beneficial to your local Grange or Pomona. The Grange theme for the next two years is Raised Right Here.

Each and every Grange should have (at least available to them) a "Digest of Laws of the National Grange." It also contains the Constitution, By-Laws and Code of the Grange. If you have questions on procedures and proper conduct the Digest is the place to start. It is a smallish, three-ring binder which can be updated easily when changes are made. Mine as Pomona president is maroon with gold printing on the cover. A Digest can be purchased from National Grange for \$20.

"The Grange Orientation Kit" is designed to help new members (and some older ones) grow into becoming Grangers. There are seven brochures - each with a different theme or topic - that explain various programs, meeting protocol, symbols and emblems, etc. Each of the 225 brochures is colorful and a very easy, quick read. The kit is available for a mere \$30 plus S/H. Go to the Grange Supply Store under brochures to purchase at least one kit for your community Grange and/or Pomona.

The Grange Resource Binder - also a three-ring binder, was assembled in 2019 by then Membership Director Joe Stefani. It contains The Digest along with sample pages of various forms, program guides and The Grange Ritual Handbook and much more. It comes with a jump drive. Again, purchase through the Grange store.

Another publication most of you should know is "Good DAY! the quarterly magazine of National Grange. An annual subscription is just \$16.00. In it you will find the latest information from national, articles of interest to Grangers, recipes and other resources. Look for a subscription form in this Empire

State Granger or go to the national website.

A new offering from National Grange is membership appreciation forms for 5, 10, and 15 years. Newer members need to have their time recognized before 25 years. It may be an incentive to keep them active and involved. Go to the National Grange website under member resources then Secretaries. There is nothing stopping a local Grange for recognition before that or maybe a certificate for perfect attendance at meetings for a year. Just a possible suggestion.

The ideas presented were challenging, insightful and "modern." I will be happy to discuss them with you in more detail. Contact me.

Community Involvement



Melvin Phelps

Summer fun and activities are in full swing and what a summer it has been so far. Maybe you are interacting at county fair or local festivals, either way summer is the perfect time to be engaged with your community.

As we are finishing up our year (which ends August 31st) I wanted to share a change for the year end report. I have decided to change the deadline from **received by** September 1st to **postmarked by** September 1st. Sometimes mail can be slow getting to Copenhagen NY so I wanted to make a change that was fair for everyone. It once took two weeks for a box of cheese to go from Cobleskill to Copenhagen, so as long the report is post marked September 1st I will accept it. In the last issue I discussed the parts of investigating your projects, which included Finding Your Team, Determine Your Need and Choosing Your Project. This issue I want to share the next step which is to PLAN. PLAN - When planning a service project, it is very easy to become activity-driven—focused on the tasks at hand rather than the overall outcome. Writing goals that are measurable will help guide the planning and give you the ability to measure success.

Develop SMART Goals:

- S**pecific – Who? What? Where? When? How?
- M**easurable – Can we measure progress?
- A**ction Oriented – Does it outline what we have to do?
- R**ealistic – Can we get it done in the timeframe?
- T**ime-bound – When will we accomplish this?

Here is a sample SMART Goal: The NYS Grange Community Involvement Department will have 25 local Granges submit a year end report by September 1st, 2022.

Brainstorm Community Partners:

What resources are available to help your team with the project? This activity can help you think about and locate the "people" resources in your community. Businesses, schools, churches, organizations and governmental bodies might be able to help you select a community need and provide resources to help.

Determine Action Steps and Materials:

This is where you list the steps that have to be taken care of and WHO is responsible for them and by when. Also have a check off for date completed to help keep communication flowing.

Youth



Katie Fallon

Happy summer! I hope you all had a successful school year, and I'm sure you are all happy the year is over.

This summer I challenge you all to get involved and help out your Granges at your local and county fairs.

This fall the youth weekend will be 9/23-9/25 at Newark Grange! They are very excited to host and I hope to see many of you there. Please RSVP by 9/1 so we can let them know how many people are coming.



(Continued from page 1) President

root systems were so deep its regeneration was undeterred.

The other aspect of grass-roots relates to the origination and flow of policy and government within our organization. While the Community Grange may be at the bottom of the hierarchical platform, it is the most important one, as it is the only place where membership exists. (While Pomona Granges have members, they are folks that are already members of the Community Grange, not separate from.) Thus it is the local Grange that chooses its leadership, and determines the direction they will take in service to their local and greater communities. It is also the Community Grange that determines the direction of the State Grange, as Delegates from these individual Granges gather annually to develop the legislative policy, determine the budget, and choose the Officers of the State Grange. In turn Delegates from the State Grange perform the same role at the annual National Grange session.

One of the very important afore mentioned “flow” aspects relates to policy. Grange history is alive with legislative accomplishments, the overwhelming majority of these having their roots in the Community Grange, which is the perfect forum to discuss issues and decide on a position in the form of a resolution. These resolutions are what shape State and National Grange policy, so it stands to reason that if there are no resolutions coming from Community Granges, then little can be done to update policy except to take out things no longer relevant. As important as this is “up the ladder” in the organization, it is equally important in the local Grange, as keeps members in tune to what the issues are, and stimulates good thinking to address the problems. Meetings will never be a waste of time.

As it is now June, and resolutions are due by September 1st so that they be properly prepared and vetted, I would encourage each Community Grange to put serious thought into local and not so local issues that can negatively affect the wellbeing of your community and its residents. Agriculture in particular is facing huge challenges, and as all of us have a stake in its wellbeing, it is incumbent on us to make our voices heard with sensible articulate policy to protect it, and our personal and societal wellbeing.

State Lecturer



Jolene Pirrone

With inflation and gas prices ever increasing, rents skyrocketing and baby needs disappearing from shelves, now more than ever, food pantries are needed in the community. Many foodbanks are having supply problems of their own. I wish I wasn't so prescient in choosing that as a featured topic for this year.

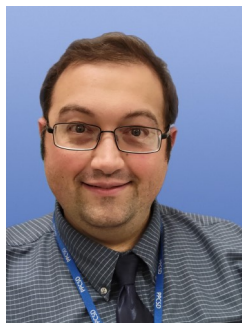
Please discuss with your Granges about how you can “dispense charity” by supporting your local food pantry or other emergency food operations. Community dinners are an old standby of the Grange.

Even if you don't have the people to man a free community dinner, you have two options, 1) get the manpower by recruiting new Grangers, or 2) team up with another local organization such as a fire company, church or The Salvation Army.

Consider a canned food drive or change drive to supply local pantries and food efforts. For several years, my Grange has been emptying our pockets of loose change and small bills and donating the funds each month.

Just as a reminder, we are now into 2023 projects now. Please get handbook info out to your Grangers. Don't forget to send me ideas for the NYS Fair. And please don't hesitate to ask me questions by email or text.

State Grange Secretary



Ryan Orton

It's time to begin planning for the Annual State Grange Session! By now, the following information has been received by each Pomona Grange in New York: The 150th Annual Session of the New York State Grange is to be hosted by Wayne County Pomona Grange #34. The Session will be held from October 21 – 25 at the Auburn Holiday Inn; 75 North Street; Auburn, NY 13021 (Cayuga County).

The room rate will be \$119 per night (plus 13% tax), and this rate includes breakfast. The reservation cut-off date is Wednesday, September 21st. Check in time is 3 p.m., and check out time is 11 a.m. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at (315) 253-4531 and asking for the room block under the name New York State Grange Meeting.

There will be one meal function for the entire Grange Family on Friday evening, October 21st. Those arrangements are pending and will be shared later from Elaine Smith, State Overseer, who will be handling notification and meal reservations. The Conferral of the Sixth Degree will be on Saturday, October 22nd at 7:30 p.m.

The Delegate selection process is outlined in the New York State Grange By-Laws – Article II, Section 2.2: “For each Pomona Grange, a Delegate-at-Large and one other Delegate and a pair of Delegates from the available Subordinates for every 100 members or major fraction thereof.” Delegates are eligible to serve only if their Grange is current in dues to State Grange with the submission of the March 2022 Quarterly Report and Dues. State Officers, Deputies, and Junior Deputies cannot serve as Delegates to State Session. Pomona Secretaries: Please return the Delegates Form by Monday, August 15th to me at my home address: 218 Attlebury Hill Road; Stanfordsville, NY 12581. Delegates are reminded that a registration fee of \$5 will be collected during registration upon arrival in Auburn on Friday, October 21st.

The Executive Committee invites Pomona Granges alphabetically from Albany to Lewis to provide an item that can be included on the Silent Auction Table for 2022. We appreciate the willingness of these Pomonas to participate in this Annual Fundraiser.

I am still accepting updated contact information for each Grange member in New York State through the Subordinate Secretaries. Your membership list on record at Headquarters was sent with your June Quarterly Report. Thank you to the following Granges who sent in phone numbers and/or e-mail addresses for your members so we can complete our State Grange Database:

Chautauqua County: Villenova Grange #604
Chenango County: Smithville Valley Grange #1397
Dutchess County: Stanford Grange #808
Freedom Plains Grange #857
Mount Hope Grange #902
Genesee County: East Pembroke Grange #1157
Oneida County: Floyd Grange #665
Ontario County: Clifton Springs Grange #1042

Oswego County: Sandy Creek Grange #127

Congratulations to the following Granges who took in new members since the last ESG:

9 New Associates: Fredonia Grange #1 (Chautauqua County)
7 New Members: Curriers Grange #1273 (Wyoming County)

6 New Members: Freedom Plains Grange #857 (Dutchess County)

5 New Members: Mount Hope Grange #902 (Dutchess County)

4 New Members: Stanford Grange #808 (Dutchess County)

2 New Members: Putnam Valley Grange #841 (Putnam County)

Plattekill Grange #923 (Ulster County)

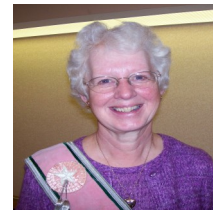
1 New Member: Sandy Creek Grange #127 (Oswego County)

Schenevus Valley Grange #1201 (Otsego County)

Butternut Valley Grange #1533 (Otsego County)

Brunswick Grange #1337 (Rensselaer County)

Chaplain's Corner



Virginia L. Conner

LOOKING BACK VS LOOKING AHEAD

Have you ever thought about why the rear view mirror is so small and the windshield is so big? Maybe it's because where you are headed is much more important than what you have left behind. Would that mean that it's important to look out the big windshield to what's ahead and observe and be prepared for what might be coming at us?

Let's think about this spiritually. We can learn many things by looking at scripture. In Genesis 15:5, the Lord God told Abram to look toward the heaven and the number of stars would be the number of Abram's seed (descendants). Lesson: In looking ahead, there is promise. In Genesis 19, there's the story of Lot's wife who disobeyed God by looking back and became a pillar of salt. Lesson: Heed the warning of looking back.

Sometimes by looking ahead we are surprised to see what's in front of us. Like Moses in Exodus 3:2-6 when an angel of the Lord appeared in a burning bush and yet the bush was not consumed. Lesson: Be alert and listen for the voice of the Lord God.

The Defensive Driving Course says we are to check the rear view mirror every 5-8 seconds. That tells me that we shouldn't spend too much time looking back but to spend more time looking out the windshield at the

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big picture of God's world ahead of us.

POMONA CHAPLAINS:

Please send to me the names of your deceased Sixth Degree members who have passed since October 1, 2021. I'd like to properly recognize them during the Memorial Service at State Session.

My sympathy to the Bailey family in Wayne County on the passing of Carolyn "Kay" Bailey on April 22, 2022. Sister Kay was a Past State Grange Lecturer.

Junior Grange

Sherri Taft



Are your Junior Grange or 1+ members busy making projects, performing community service, or promoting the Junior Grange programs? Are they doing a special activity or hosting an event? If so, please reach out to me and let me know about it. I would like to come and visit your Junior Grange, whether it is for a meeting, a special activity or event. Let us as an organization provide our Junior and 1+ members with as much positive adult support as we can to show the Juniors that they are important and deserving of our time and energy. This will give them a sense of worth and will help them have better social and emotional health as they grow up.

Do you have Junior members or 1+ members that are interested in applying for the Ambassador Program, Junior Historian Award, Junior Mentor, Awareness Award, or Cape of Honor? These are all programs that are sponsored through the National Junior Grange Program. The applications for these programs must be postmarked (or emailed when available) on or before August 15, 2022. For more information about these programs, feel free to reach out to me or check them out on the National Grange website under Junior Grange.

Junior Leaders, if you did not submit your Junior Grange Membership and Dues report by July 1, 2022, please send it in as soon as possible. Make three copies of the report, keep one copy for your records and submit two copies to: State Grange Secretary, 100 Grange Place, Cortland, NY 13045. This report helps us keep track of the number of Junior Grange

and 1+ members that we have in New York State. It also shows me how active our Junior Granges are, and gives me information on what Junior Granges may need some support to continue their program. The National Junior Leader report is due to National Grange Director Samantha Wilkins, 1616 H ST NW, Washington, DC 20006 by October 1, 2022. If you need a copy of this form, you may access it on the National Grange website or contact me and I will get a copy of it to you.

Thank you to all of the Junior Leaders for all that you do for your Junior and 1+ members. Your young members definitely benefit from your dedication to this program.

Family Activities



Brenda Noble

It was so good to see everyone at the Lectures/Family Activities conference. It was a smaller group but the entries for Art and Photo and Handiwork and Needlework contests. It is always great to see all the work everyone does. The speakers were from the Fire Department talking about fire safety and they were very interesting.

The winners of the contest were Woodworking: 1st Don Hamilton – Onondaga Co., 2nd Jack Turner – Steuben Co., Quilted Table Runner or Table Topper machine quilted: 1st Cathy Stark-Dutchess Co., 2nd Jackie Campbell- Wayne Co., 3rd Mindy Jo Eldred – Chenango Co., Honorable Mention Viola Horton – Steuben Co., Bed Size Quilt Machine done 1st Priscilla Marigliano – Otsego Co. Regular Afghan – 1st Roberta Hamilton – Onondaga Co., 2nd Cindy Benson Pollard – Onondaga Co., 3rd Pat VanLare – Wayne Co., Honorable Mention Julia Tarbell – Genesee Co., Baby Afghan: 1st Letitia Pickering - Monroe Co., 2nd Sandra Tabor-Hunkins – Otsego Co., 3rd Cindy Benson Pollard – Onondaga Co., Doilies: 1st Charlotte Brenon – Jefferson Co., 2nd Lois Kesby – Chatauqua Co., 3rd Cindy Benson Pollard – Onondaga Co., Honorable Mention Sherry Haggerty – Otsego Co. Latch Hook: 1st Pat VanLare – Wayne Co.,

2nd Lynn Conklin – Chenango Co., 3rd Kathy Betts – Rensselaer Co., Honorable Mention Carol Carpenter – Albany Co., 3 Piece Baby Set : 1st Cindy Benson Pollard – Onondaga Co., 2nd Joanne Sparrowk – Onondaga Co., Embroidery/Cross Stitch 1st Letitia Pickering – Monroe Co., 2nd Cathy Stark – Dutchess Co., 3rd Arlene Lewis – Otsego Co., Honorable Mention Karen Wilcox – Jefferson Co. Stuffed Toy: 1st Cathy Stark - Dutchess Co. 2nd Mindy Jo Eldred – Chenango Co., Elizabeth Morrin – Albany Co., Holiday Ornament: 1st Maryanne Campbell – Otsego Co., 2nd Roberta Hamilton – Onondaga Co., 3rd Helen Horth – Chatauqua Co., Honorable Mention Cathy Stark – Dutchess Co.

The entries for the Northeast Exposition are Afghan Cindy Benson Pollard – Onondaga Co., Doilies – Charlotte Brenon – Jefferson Co., Embroidery – Arlene Lewis – Otsego Co., 3Piece Baby Set – Cindy Benson Pollard – Onondaga Co., Counted Cross Stitch - Letitia Pickering – Monroe Co., Latch Hook – Lynn Conklin – Chenango Co., Stuffed Toy - Cathy Stark – Dutchess Co., Baby Afghan – Letitia Pickering – Monroe Co., Child or Adult Garment Sewn- Alyvia Fuchs – Wayne Co.

I have some items already for the store at the Northeast Exposition, which will be sent. I thank everyone who have worked so hard making them. All of the items help support the building and for the judging and prizes of the items in the contest.

The Family Activities Department will be participating with the 150th Anniversary with quilt blocks. Anyone can make a block and bring them to State Grange. The blocks will be made into a quilt for State Grange 2023 for the Anniversary celebration. The quilt will be raffled off at State Session. If anyone needs directions they are on the website or let me know and I can send them to you. The colors are blues and white. The pattern for the blocks is The Churn Dash.

NYS Grange Sesquicentennial

NYS Grange Sesquicentennial A Treasured Tradition with the Future in Focus

Exciting news!! The NYS Grange Sesquicentennial Committee now has a page on the New York State Grange website www.nysgrange.org! Click on Events in the main menu. The NYS Grange Sesquicentennial

(150th Anniversary) is the first listed. Click on that and you will see all the information that we have to date. New information will be added as it becomes available. A huge THANK YOU to State Grange President Steve Coye for all his work getting the page operational. As you scroll down through the page you will note that all forms can be downloaded and printed.

More exciting news!! The 150th Anniversary Committee has now added the opportunity to order Sesquicentennial Shirts. These shirts feature the Sesquicentennial logo and can be ordered in light blue or grey. Styles available are Tee Shirts short sleeved -\$16 or long sleeved \$18; Sweatshirts crew neck \$25 or hooded \$32. We are working with a company called Envision Tees that will enable us to provide the opportunity for shirts without the Committee or the State Grange buying many shirts in many sizes in advance. There is an order deadline of SEPTEMBER 1, 2022. There are two options.

Option 1: If you want your shirt delivered to your personal address you must order on line by **September 1, 2022**. The online address is <https://envisiontees.chipply.com/NewYorkStateGrange> If you have the paper order form there is a QR Code you can scan and it will take you to the website. The paper order form is printed near this article. If you have your shirt or shirts delivered to your personal address there will be a shipping charge. Your shirt order will be shipped to you by October 15, 2022. **YOU CANNOT USE THE PAPER ORDER FORM TO HAVE YOUR SHIRT ORDER SHIPPED TO YOUR PERSONAL ADDRESS. YOU MUST ORDER ONLINE.**

Option 2: If you would like to pick up your shirt order at the State Grange Session in Auburn, October 21-24 **you may use the paper order form**. There is no shipping charge for shirt orders that will be picked up at State Grange in Auburn in October. The form can be downloaded and printed from the nysgrange.org website, or the form that is printed in this paper can be used, or contact either Roberta Halbert, Susan Drake or Melvin Phelps for forms. All paper order forms should be **mailed to Melvin Phelps, PO Box 43, Copenhagen, NY 13626 with checks made out to NYS Grange** for the appropriate amount and postmarked by **September 1, 2022**. **IF YOU USE A PAPER ORDER FORM YOUR SHIRT OR SHIRTS WILL BE READY FOR PICK UP AT STATE GRANGE IN AUBURN, OCTOBER 21-24.**

Our traveling 150th Birthday Cake is beginning to glow with

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Contact Information

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 Grange News Corner. To be published in the News Corner, the deadline for nominations is September 10, 2004 and should be sent to the



Patent trolls threaten efforts to expand rural broadband and smart agriculture.

Insufficient access to high-speed broadband in rural America not only hurts rural residents but also undermines the U.S. food supply chain and the future of American farmers. Gaining access to high-speed broadband obviously requires strong infrastructure, but as important, it requires ready access to the smart devices that connect to it. We must support policies that ensure access to both of these critical pieces to the puzzle. Unfortunately, an obscure U.S. agency is throwing a major wrench in the works.

America's agricultural sector is rapidly changing as farmers embrace smart devices that help them increase yields, cut costs, and conserve energy and water. Modern farmers use technologies including drone-supported aerial imaging, temperature and moisture sensors, robots and GPS to help them feed the world's growing population. The value of "precision agriculture" made possible by online connectivity and high-tech devices is predicted to top \$43 billion by 2025.

Technology is a godsend, since farmers are under ever-increasing pressure to feed more people even as development eats up arable land and water supplies dwindle. Smart devices that access the vast resources of the internet boost farmers' capacity to keep food flowing through U.S. and international supply chains and sustain rural consumers and communities who are inextricably tied to agricultural output.

Farmers and ranchers clearly see the value of devices that support connectivity. A poll of attendees taken at the 2020 American Farm Bureau convention found that that "86% of respondents said mobile electronic devices or other connected technologies were either "Essential" or "Very Important."

Good progress has been made to connect rural America in recent years, but there's still a lot of work to do. Fortunately, most government leaders clearly recognize the importance of rural broadband and are taking action to address the "rural divide" (22.3 percent of Americans in rural areas and 27.7 percent of Americans in Tribal lands lack coverage from fixed terrestrial 25/3 Mbps broadband, as compared to only 1.5 percent of Americans in urban areas). Since 2018, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Congress have directed billions of dollars toward fixing rural internet infrastructure. In addition, the recent Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act earmarked an additional \$65 billion to improve broadband internet access with a major focus on rural areas.

Unfortunately, the effectiveness of efforts to expand rural broadband could be stymied by an ongoing problem at a small U.S. government agency, the International Trade Commission (ITC). This agency is supposed to focus on protecting American industries from unfair trading practices. Instead, it has become a popular venue for companies known as non-practicing entities (NPEs) or "patent trolls" and others who pursue dubious patent infringement allegations to threaten outright product bans – ITC exclusion orders – that deny manufacturers the opportunity to import their products into the U.S. Unfortunately, the patent trolls have been piling up cases against the kinds of smart devices farmers rely on.

One of the latest such cases before the ITC involves the Ireland-based NPE Arigna, pushing a weak patent infringement claim targeting a long list of major tech companies including Apple, Samsung, and Microsoft. The ITC exclusion order they are asking for would ban the importation of smartphones, tablets and laptops made by those companies, affecting about 93% of all smartphones. It would devastate the U.S. consumer market and severely impact rural broadband users, slowing the advancement of modern agriculture

And this is not an isolated situation. This latest case is reminiscent of the Neodron ITC case the National Grange wrote about in 2020. In fact, since January 2021, fifteen separate cases have been filed at the ITC featuring efforts to ban smartphones, computers and other connected devices. Even if an exclusion order does not issue, the cost of the incessant litigation and settlements negotiated under the threat of exclusion mean higher consumer prices and less innovation that hurt our farmers' future.

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The ITC must take a harder line against these claims. U.S. law says that the ITC should not issue a product ban if it would go against the public interest, for example, excluding 93% of smartphones on the U.S. market. But, the ITC has elevated patent rights over the public interest for the last several decades. As a result, this obscure agency's actions directly contradict – and damage – the united efforts of the rest of the U.S. government to bridge the rural digital divide.

Fortunately, Congress can help change this situation by passing the Advancing America's Interests Act, bipartisan legislation led by Congresswoman Suzan DelBene (D-WA) and Congressman David Schweikert (R-AZ). This bill would modernize the ITC and make it harder for trolls to cash in at the expense of productive companies deeply invested in the future of the U.S. economy.

It is essential that we fix the lack of adequate broadband access that impedes the success of farmers, ranchers and rural communities. But it is no less important that the high-tech devices rural residents depend on for connectivity remain available as well. Congress, the ITC and all other stakeholders must unite to address this important issue.



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**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.**

June 30 Subordinate Dues to
State Secretary

June 30 Junior Grange Mem-
bership & Dues Report Due

July 10 State Golf Tournament
– Winged Pheasant Golf Course,
Shortsville NY

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 Ser-
vice Reports due to Director

September 1 National JG Re-
port due

September 3 Grange Day at the
NYS Fair

September 15 Empire State
Granger Copy Due

September 15 Lecturer's Re-
ports 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

(Continued from page 4) Sesquicentennial

many candles recognizing
Grangers and Granges. We ap-
plaud the following for all they
have done for the Grange as
their candles have been added to
the cake: Veteran Grange #1108,
Eleanor Doty Veteran Grange
#1108, Jesse Kent Veteran
Grange #1108, Barbara
Balascio, Dennis Canham But-
ternut Valley, Union Vale
Grange #887, Doris Hill Oak
Grove #573, Sandy Creek
Grange #127, Chautauqua Po-
mona Grange #3, Helen Keller
Past State L.A.S. & Lecturer,
Lorraine & Earl Loucks Past Jr.
Director & Past State Deputies,
Fredonia Grange #1, In memory
of Rose Trask Evans Grange,
Garrett and Melvin Phelps, Mil-
licent Phelps, Frederick Phelps,
NYS Grange Growth Summit
2.0 Participants, Amanda Broza-
na Rios National Membership/
Leadership Director, Ruth &
Roger All and son Dale, Cuyler
Grange #449, Chenango Co. Po-
mona Grange #29, In memory of
Shirley Shamp, Corfu Grange.

The NYS Grange 150th Anni-

versary Committee is encouraging
you to participate in the “People’s
Choice Poster Project”. The post-
er size, no larger than 36x48 inch-
es. The two classes, 1. Use the
theme “A Treasured Tradition
with the Future in Focus” or 2.
Any poster focusing on Grange in
2073. Bring all posters to the
NYS Grange Annual Session in
October 2022 for display, judging,
and prizes. Download the infor-
mation from www.nysgrange.org
under Events/ NYS Grange Ses-
quicentennial.
Sesquicentennial Co-chairs
Roberta Halbert 607-783-2445
Susan Drake 607-264-3069

Sports

Director Bruce Dehner

Results of the dart ball tournament
that was held April 24th are as fol-
lows: 1st place Hamptonburgh
Grange, 2nd Cortland County Po-
mona, 3rd North Cameron Grange,
4th Stanford Grange. We had some
new interest in this event so hope-
fully we can add more teams next
year. Bowling will be the next
event on June 5th at Cort Lanes in
Cortland. Entry forms have been
mailed to all teams that have
bowled in the past. Anyone that
still needs a form, please contact
me and one will be sent out. Golf
will be July 10th. Plans to hold it at
the Pheasant Golf Course in
Shortsville, NY have been final-
ized. If anyone needs a entry form
please contact me, cost is \$30.00
per person which includes the cart
fee. As for Corn Hole, we are
holding a trial run on August 14th
at State Grange Headquarters. I
will be passing out rules at each
sporting event or if you would
like a copy mailed to you please
contact me. **We need to know
how many will be attending so
we have enough boards for eve-
ryone. Please let me know
ASAP if you have a team.** We
have 5 teams signed up so far.
Let’s have great turnouts for the
coming events. Have fun, Bruce



Cortland Pomona



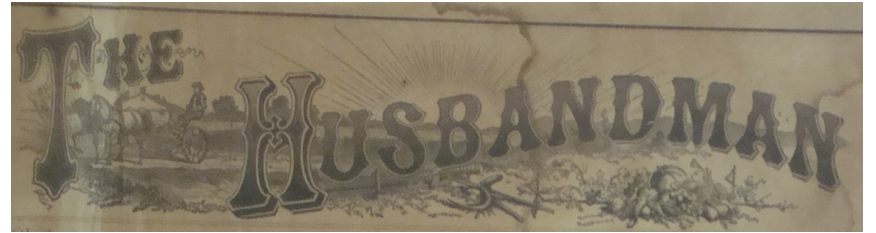
Stanford Grange



North Cameron Grange



TITLE: What’s this in the NYS Grange Museum?



Choices:

1. An early guide on how to farm published in 1884 by Cornell University.
2. A pamphlet on animal husbandry published by the USDA experimental horticulturalist and Grange founder, William Saunders in 1868.
3. A gentleman’s guide to being a better husband by Aaron Burt Grosh, Universalist minister and founder of the Grange.
4. The first NYS Grange newspaper published in 1874.

Answer on Page 7

Sesquicentennial T-Shirt Order Form

- This form is only to be used if you are picking up your order at the 2022 NYS Grange Session.
- **ALL** other orders must be placed online at <https://envisiotees.chipply.com/NewYorkStateGrange/>
 - o Online orders are accepted until September 1st
 - o Scan the QR Code to take you to the website
 - o Online Orders will be shipped by October 15th
- There are two color shirts available – light blue and sport grey
- Write the number of shirts ordering in the corresponding column
- This order form must be postmarked by September 1st
- Make checks payable to NYS Grange and mail to:
 - o Melvin Phelps, PO Box 43, Copenhagen NY 13626



Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Color: Light Blue – Order Form								
write how many of each size in the column								
	Price	Small	Medium	Large	XL	XXL +\$2	3XL +\$3	4XL +\$4
Short Sleeve	\$16							
Long Sleeve	\$18							
Crewneck Sweatshirt	\$25							
Hooded Sweatshirt	\$32							



Color: Sport Grey – Order Form								
write how many of each size in the column								
	Price	Small	Medium	Large	XL	XXL +\$2	3XL +\$3	4XL +\$4
Short Sleeve	\$16							
Long Sleeve	\$18							
Crewneck Sweatshirt	\$25							
Hooded Sweatshirt	\$32							

State FFA Convention



Some members of the Pine Plains FFA visited the NYS State Grange booth at the State FFA Convention in Syracuse. Pictured are from left to right: Addison Stapf, Hope Miller, Kaylee Cassinelli. State Grange President Stephen Coye is seated in the background.



Hamptonburgh Grange



ANSWER: to Museum ?

Choice 4 is correct. This is the Volume 1, No. 1, the first NYS Grange newspaper published on Wednesday, August 26, 1874 in Elmira, NY. Titles of articles on the front page included "The Genius of Our Order" and "A New Cycle of Abundance and Prosperity."

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

Members Enjoy Discounts, Information & Awards In addition to being more connected with their hometown, leaders and other Grangers throughout the nation, Grange members enjoy many other benefits. Members receive: Discounts on electricity, travel, cell phone services, prescription drugs, insurance, financial planning, just to name a few Publications that inform members of Grange events, advocacy efforts, legislative and regulatory successes and much more Members are eligible for scholarships, may enter contests for cash and other prizes and are invited to participate in social, advocacy-oriented and other events Members can attend leadership conferences, family events, retreats and state and national conventions The Grange helps every member develop to his or her fullest potential. In the Grange, the opportunities for leadership development, event and project management, and the bolstering of other skill sets are endless.

Learn more and join today! Speak to a member of your local Grange or find the Grange closest to you by visiting the National Grange website. If there's no Grange near you, contact our Membership Director by email at membership@nationalgrange.org to find out more about starting a Grange in your hometown.

To find a Grange near you visit the National Grange Website at www.nationalgrange.org

Grange Membership Application Name: Address: City: State: Zip: Phone Number E-mail For other family members, please add on second page. Date of Birth: I hereby apply for membership in Grange # I desire to unite with others in elevating and advancing the interest of the American family and community life, receiving in turn the benefits and advantages of those who belong to the Grange. I promise a faithful compliance with the By-laws of this Grange and the Constitution and Bylaws of the State and National Granges. I have not previously applied for membership in this or any other Grange during the past six months. Application Fee \$ Signature of applicant Date Recommended by and



Grange Happenings

Rensselaer County

Recently the Rensselaer County Legislature honored Leonard C. Roden; a Veteran and member of Brunswick Grange for 73 years. Leonard was presented the resolution and plaque to a room full of family and friends. This was to acknowledge the achievements and dedication to our community and country. Len was drafted in the U.S. Army in the 7th Infantry and served in the Korean War assigned to the Armored Infantry Division. Len's service and injury earned him a Purple Heart along with many other awards. In addition, he also received the National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with 3 bronze service stars, Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award and the United Nations Korean Service Medal. Len was honorably discharged on Sept. 13, 1952 from the United States Army with the rank of Sergeant. Len has devoted his life to helping others by being an active member of the community. He has belonged to N.Y. State Grange, Odd Fellows, Purple Heart of Troy, Korean War Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, Brunswick Historical Society, American Legion, Sullivan Jones VFW Post, and Society of Third Infantry Division. He is also a lifetime member of the First Presbyterian Church of Brunswick and is one of the oldest members. Len truly loves living and he sings "God Bless America" every night at bedtime. Len was acknowledged for the sacrifices this great man and his family have made and continue to make for the ideals for which this nation stands, fully confident that his achievements and contributions will live on to serve as a legacy for all.

Jefferson County

The Kirkland Junior Grange had fun working together to pick up litter around the playground, park, and nearby businesses in Redwood, NY. In half an hour on the warm evening of April 25, they cleaned up 8 bags of trash, making a difference for Earth Day, and for Grange Month. This activity is a fitting example of the words of the Junior Grange Chaplain: "Youth is the springtime of life, and habits formed in youth, like seed sown in the spring, will bear fruit, for good or ill, though all the years of life."



From left to right are: Jonathan Peck, Hunter Slate, Jonah Peck, Steven Frost, Nathan Frost, Caden Slate, Jon Slate, and Katelyn White

Lewis County

On May 16, Beaver Falls Grange #554 held a special meeting to honor members for their years of service to the Grange. NYS Grange Special Deputy David Brass presented the awards and congratulated them for their service to the grange. The Lowville Journal & Republican covered the meeting for the newspaper.

25 years - Bruce & Sylvia Woodhouse, 50 years - Robert Wollabar (a former NYS Grange Chaplin), 55 years - Lindsey Marolf, 60 years - Ashley Marolf, Dorothy Gordon, Linda O'Leary, 75 years - Barbara Martin, 85 years - Lucille Sauter



In the photo - from left, seated - Linda O'Leary, Lucille Sauter, Sylvia Woodhouse - standing - Cindy Williams, David Brass, Ashley Marolf, Bruce Woodhouse and Ralph Williams.

"Photo Used by permission of the Journal & Republican"

Otsego County

GILBERTSVILLE – The Butternut Valley Grange #1533 of Gilbertsville held its monthly meeting May 9, 2022 at the Unadilla Valley Central School in New Berlin, NY. Thirty-one Grangers and 7 FFA Chapters attended the meeting. Prior to the meeting the Grangers and FFA members toured the STEM wing of the school. The wing includes the engineering computer lab, technology project classroom, agri-science/lifeskills room, welding and manufacturing lab and the environmentally controlled greenhouse. The tour was led by Jessica DeVries, Ag and Applied Science teacher and FFA advisor.

The Grange conducted a business format meeting to show the over 20 FFA members and their advisors the similarities between the two organizations.

The Grange held its " No Bake Gluten Free Cookie " contest. Jay Waltz , Sidney FFA advisor and Brady Rogers, Afton FFA advisor were the judges. First place winner was Helen Ritchey.

Victoria Gregory, former Afton Ag Teacher and FFA advisor spearheaded the very successful event. Each chapter was introduced by its advisor and several members gave brief presentations about their chapter.

The seven chapters and their advisors were: Afton – Brady Rogers advisor, Bainbridge - Guilford – Emily Anderson advisor, Otselic Valley – Alison Parrot Advisor, Oxford – Renee Johnson advisor, Sherburne-Earlville – Nicole Chip-petta advisor, Sidney – Jay Waltz Advisor and Unadilla Valley - Jessica DeVries advisor.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Keith Klingman, Master of Butternut Valley Grange presented each chapter present with a \$100 gift.



Keith Klingman , President of the Butternut Valley Grange presented a donation of \$100 to each of the seven FFA chapters attending. Pictured left , Keith with the advisors/Ag teachers and students attending.

Pierstown Grange

Members of the International Student Organization of the State University at Oneonta paused for a photo after working hard at Pierstown Grange as part of the "Into the Streets" program. Pierstown Grange's major foundation repair necessitated taking everything from the downstairs to the upstairs two and a half years ago. The students carried all the dishes, pots, pans, etc. downstairs to the dining room and kitchen. They swept, mopped, polished, sorted, raked, and generally helped restore order to the hall and grounds. Grangers provided lunch and thanks for all their help.

