

American Values, Hometown Roots

Empire State Granger
100 Grange Place
Cortland, NY 13045
Change Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cortland, NY
Permit #57

THE EMPIRE STATE GRANGER



Our Vision!

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



November-December 2022

President's Column

Stephen C. Coye



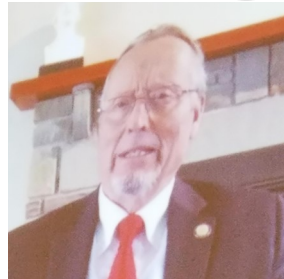
By the time you are reading this both the State and National Grange Sessions will be in the books, and a new Grange year will be underway. We were very pleased about the variety, number, and quality of the resolutions that were forwarded to the State Grange this year for consideration. Of those that were passed, 21 dealt with National Issues and were forwarded for their action. (At this writing the National Grange Session is still in the future.) We are hopeful that our resolutions will assist in strengthening the National Legislative priorities as work is being done on our behalf.

We were indeed honored to have Jeff Winton, founder and CEO of Rural Minds at our Session for an address on Sunday afternoon. If there was ever a cause in which the Grange should get involved it is this one. The incidents of suicide are 64% greater in rural areas, right where we mostly are and operate, than in larger metro areas. This is a stunning statistic. Their website (ruralminds.org) goes into great detail with both written and podcast information as to the reasons why, for which no small part is related to the inability to recognize and deal with the situations. The important thing is to work to increase the awareness of the situation in our communities, and

(Continued on page 3)

Commissioner Ball Addresses State Grange

Brother Ball, an Associate Grange Member, has held this position since 2014, is a native New Yorker, and is a 3rd generation farmer in Schoharie County. He thanked the Grange for the invitation to speak at our State Session. His family has been in the Grange for generations, and his mother was pleased to hear he was speaking to the Grange today.



All State Commissioners of Agriculture from across the country, as well as Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, attended a national meeting in Saratoga Springs where New York agriculture was highlighted. It was an honor to host this meeting.

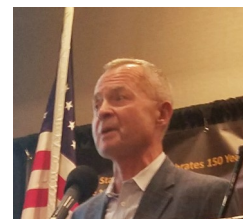
Our food system needs to be transformed. COVID helped bring this issue to our attention. There are many concerns in Washington including farm labor, immigration, and the Farm Worker Modernization Act. These could have significant impacts on the agriculture industry. More young people need to enter the workforce who can think with their heads and work with their hands. The skillsets needed for these positions are also lacking. There are many factors why there is a dearth of people for this. Programs like BOCES can help train young people for jobs such as these. The shortages of food during the COVID pandemic were also alarming. The USDA has allotted money for an Ag Business Distribution Center, and the White House held a conference on hunger and food policy for the first time in 60 years. There are also 600 urban farms in New York City.

Climate is also a concern. New York State has some of the most aggressive climate legislation in the country. We have a mission to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce our carbon footprint to protect the environment.

There is a lot of uncertainty today. Globally, we're worried about our world. Nationally, we are worried about wildfires in the west, flooding in the Midwest, and still have concerns with COVID. 60% of the farmland in New York is leased. New York State must have a food system that's responsive with food grown and transported within our state. But, we have tremendously resilient farmers who make great things happen to curtail this uncertainty in our food system. We have many challenges to face, but we will get through it together. A question was asked regarding potential legislation removing the Grange member (and also Farm Bureau member) from the State and County Soil & Water Conservation Boards. The Commissioner is completely opposed to this potential legislation. Soil & Water Conservation Districts have accomplished so much in the past, especially after the devastation of Hurricane Irene a decade ago. He is constantly asking for more funding for Districts so they can continue their great work, and he supports keeping the Grange representation on their Boards. His thoughts have been made known to Governor Hochul.

The Commissioner answered other questions from the floor including the shortages of baby foods and formulas in the supply chain for nutrition, connections between the agriculture department and the department of health regarding mental health issues and suicide rates, the food distribution through Nourish New York during the COVID pandemic, promoting whole milk in schools, urban farming and the amount of food produced by them, the use of controlled-environment agriculture, solar farming replacing other types of farming in the State, and other questions regarding the Soil & Water Conservation Boards configuration.

Rural Minds



Jeff Winton, Founder of "Rural Minds" and a native of Chautauqua County addressed the delegate body and visitors to the New York State Grange annual meeting. "Rural Minds" has partnered with National Grange to bring awareness to the rural health crisis across the country. Mr. Winton was made aware of this problem by the tragic suicide of his nephew at the age of 38. The mission of "Rural Minds" is to serve as the informed voice for mental health in rural America and to provide mental health information and resources. Grange with its presence in communities across rural America is an excellent partner.

People living in rural areas have higher depression and suicide rates but are less likely to access services. The rural suicide rate is 64% to 68% higher than in urban areas. Much of this can be attributed to rural lifestyle. The small communities are close knit where everyone knows everyone. However as individuals they are very independent and resist the stigma attached to a mental illness diagnosis. The crisis is compounded by the scarcity of mental health professional services. The nearest services are several hours away from the farm. Internet access for telemedicine is also unreliable.

A survey of 1,000 rural voters conducted by "Morning Consult" found that 85% strongly support providing educational materials and programs for rural residents to access resources and services available that address rural mental health challenges.

Through its partnership with Granges "Rural Minds" will encourage open conversations about mental illness and work to connect people with the help and resources they may need.

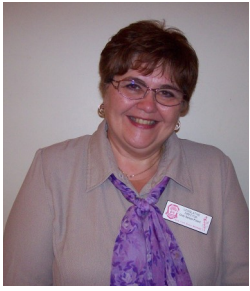
For Further information visit their website at

www.ruralminds.org



What's Inside

Legislative	Pg. 2
Secretary, Chaplain, Family Activities	Pg. 3
Junior Grange	Pg. 4
Leadership/Membership, Youth,	Pg. 5
Sports, Genesee County Awards Sesquicentennial	Pg. 6
Bethlehem, Lamson Marcellus and Otsego Pomona	Pg. 7
State Grange 2022, Sesquicentennial Regional Schedule	Pg. 8



Legislative Column

Cindy Benson-Pollard

State Grange is now completed. It was a very busy few days. It is always a wonderful chance to meet up with old friends and catch up but it also gives us the opportunity to make new friends as well. It is also a wonderful time to recharge and get ready for a new year of Grange work.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members who agreed to be chairpersons for the session committees at State Grange. These members took this responsibility on and did a wonderful job. Each was well prepared for their meetings and their reports during the State Grange session. I also want to be sure to thank all the delegates. It is your deliberations that shape the Grange's legislative work for the coming year.

Below you will find the resolved sections of the resolutions that were adopted at this year's State Grange meeting. Take a few minutes to review them and see what the delegates approved. There were more resolutions this year than we have had in the recent past. Thank you to those of you who took time to write and submit them.

Please be on the lookout for your updated policy book. It should be out to members sometime after the new year. Please be sure that you have a change to look and see what resolutions were adopted at National Grange. These policies will be in bold italics print in the book.

Here is wishing you and yours a joyous holiday season.

AGRICULTURE/ENVIRONMENT

WATER OF THE UNITED STATES (WOTUS) REGULATIONS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange is opposed to revising the current "Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR)," taking the term "navigable" out of Clean Water Act regulations.

ONE-STOP FARMING HOTLINE

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation for the development of a farmer hotline under the guidance of Cornell Cooperative Extension that would provide farmers with access to essential and valuable information on all aspects of farming including topics such as tax credit programs, beginning farmer loans and sustainable practices.

PERISHABLE AND PACKAGED FOOD

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would help reduce consumer food waste by mandating clear labels that express when food is at its best quality and safest to eat, easing confusion by consumers.

KEEP FOOD CONTAINERS SAFE FROM PFAS ACT OF 2021

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports passage of the Keep Food Containers Safe from PFAS Act of 2021.

NATURAL GAS AND FERTILIZER MANUFACTURING

RESOLVED that New York State Grange urges the United States Department of Energy to reverse their policies on natural gas production and transportation until proven effective alternative solutions are achieved and affordable.

SOLAR ENERGY VERSUS AGRICULTURAL NEEDS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports the development of solar energy that balances private property rights and the current and future land needs of agriculture in the state. Whenever possible, prime soils and actively farmed lands should be avoided in favor of previously disturbed or unsuitable for agriculture and rooftop development for distributed generation.

CARBON-BASED CRYPTO MINING

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation for the banning of carbon-based crypto mining.

OVERTIME FOR FARM LABORERS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports keeping the threshold at 60 hours for overtime for agricultural laborers.

RIGHT TO FARM PERMANENT FORM

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports changes to the Agriculture and Market law, Section 310 that would require the right to farm statement that home purchasers must sign when purchasing a home in an agricultural district be added to the deed, title and/or mortgage in perpetuity that the homeowner understands that farming operations can be noisy, dusty and cause odors that may not agree with them. This would provide the farmer protection against frivolous lawsuits that interfere with normal farming operations when trying to meet state and federal regulations.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

RESOLVED that the New York State Grange is opposed to any legislation that would change the 2022 make-up of the state and local/county soil and water conservation boards from their current structure and that would change its original scope of work.

EDUCATION

PRIVATE SCHOOL CONCUSSION PROTOCOLS

RESOLVED that the New York State Grange supports legislation that would require private schools to follow the same rules and regulations as established for public schools in the Concussion Management and Awareness Act as it pertains to concussion protocols for students involved in athletic activities.

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS

RESOLVED that the New York State Grange supports the importance of agriculture education in schools to prepare our youth to take the reins and guide the agricultural industry, and be it further RESOLVED that the New York State Grange supports any and all current or proposed legislation to ensure state and local budgets adequately fund agricultural programs in schools.

KEEP KIDS FED ACT

RESOLVED that the New York State Grange supports the continued extension of the Keep Kids Fed Act.

SAFE SCHOOL SCIENCE LABORATORIES

RESOLVED that the New York State Grange supports legislation that would require the New York State Education Department establish standard guidelines for elementary and secondary school science laboratories to ensure the safety of faculty and students when conducting scientific experiments.

FEDERAL ISSUES

HOT CARS ACT OF 2021

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports current or similar legislation such as the "Hot Cars Act of 2021" that would require all new passenger motor vehicles to be equipped with a system that detects the presence of unattended occupants and engages a warning to reduce death and injuries to children and/or animals.

EXPANSION OF UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

RESOLVED that the New York State Grange supports the continuation of nine justices on the Supreme Court of the United States.

ROLL OVER PROTECTION DEVICES FOR 4-WHEELERS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation requiring all manufacturers to install a rollover device on all new recreational off-road vehicles.

OCEAN SHIPPING REFORM ACT OF 2021

RESOLVED that the New York State Grange supports passage of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021 or similar legislation.

UNFAIR PERSONALIZED PRICING

RESOLVED that New York State Grange opposes the use of personalized pricing without consumer and public awareness.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR TERMINALLY ILL

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports proposed legislation for expediting Social Security benefits by eliminating the five-month waiting period for patients with terminal illnesses.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would direct the Department of Defense to ensure the next National Cemetery provides full military honors and leaves unchanged the current eligibility requirements earned through military service.

MILITARY SPOUSE ACT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation such as Senate Bill 9237 that would amend the general business laws, the insurance laws, and the real property laws that would enable the transfer of valid professional licenses of military spouses from out-of-state enabling them to seek employment in his/her chosen career in their new home state.

OFFICE OF RURAL PROSPERITY

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports the formation of an Office of Rural Prosperity to be housed in the Executive Branch of the President of the United States, and be it further

RESOLVED that the purpose of The Office of Rural Prosperity is to coordinate and streamline Federal investments and foster public-private partnerships that strengthen communities and improve the quality of life and well-being of persons living and working in rural communities.

HEALTH

FAIR PLAY AMBULANCE COST RECOVERY ACT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports passage of the Fair Play Ambulance Recovery Act or similar legislation that would allow volunteer emergency services the opportunity to bill for their work in order to sustain a budget to continue to provide this critical service, particularly in those areas where such services are provided by volunteer departments.

NURSING HOME OPERATION INVESTIGATIONS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would authorize the Attorney General to investigate and take appropriate action that would seek to protect the interests of the public or occupants of nursing home/long term care facilities that may be operating at less than the standard as established by the Commissioner of Health.

(Continued from page 1) President

work to secure the necessary services and mechanism's to deal with it, before tragedy strikes. Human nature being what it is, mental illness, unlike most other physical malfunctions, is stigmatized to the point of the individual being ostracized from the general activities of society as well as becoming the subject of gossip. Thus there is little or no community help – in fact it is likely to be the opposite. This is definitely not a “go it alone” type of program, but it is one where the Grange, with our deep longstanding roots in local communities, can take the initiative. Elsewhere in this publication you will find information relation to this important situation, and we would encourage you to visit the website mentioned above for a better understanding of this critical situation. Let's see what we can do to address the situation.

Within the past few weeks a legislative proposal has surfaced which would completely restructure Soil & Water Conservation Boards across our State. Among the specifics of the proposal is the removal of the Grange and Farm Bureau representatives from the boards, replacing them with those more sensitive to organic farming, climate change, and equity. We need to bear in mind that at this point it is just a proposal, along with around 10,000 other proposals that will be filed during the course of the Legislative Session next year, most of which will never be considered at all. However, this is one that merits close scrutiny, as SWCD's have done a masterful job of doing what they are supposed to do with tremendous results for a long time. Steps can be taken and programs modified to better serve farm operations considered to be underserved without changing a structure that has been proved to be effective. Also in the proposal are provisions relating to land ownership versus stewardship. We will be watching this closely, and we trust you will be as well.

We wish to take the opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and may we all resolve to make this year leading up to our 150th Anniversary a profoundly productive year.



State Grange Secretary



Ryan Orton

What a great State Session in Auburn! There's something about being in a room with 150 Grangers with the same purpose and objectives that reenergizes and reinvigorates you to go home and continue the important work of our organization! It was also a real treat to meet and talk with Debbie Campbell, National Grange Secretary, and her husband, Wayne! They are awesome people, full of knowledge, and an inspiration!

I was absolutely thrilled beyond belief at the tremendous turnout for the Secretary's Workshop on the Sunday evening of State Grange! We had about 50 people present, including about 10 participating via Zoom! We reviewed important terms and definitions, went over how to fill out important secretarial forms including quarterly reports and membership award forms, and how to make dues notices for your Grange. A “Secretary's Guide” was distributed with this pertinent information. It was e-mailed to all Secretaries that have e-mail, too, and can be sent to any Secretary who would like to receive it. It was a very informational and enjoyable meeting – so much so that we displaced the Delegates-at-Large, and they had to meet in another location because the discussion was lively, the questions numerous, and the interest truly great! The motto of the meeting was “If you have any questions or concerns – JUST ASK!”

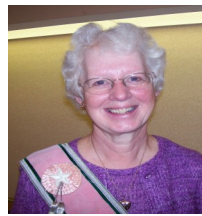
I would like to thank the many, many Grangers who supported me during State Session – from simply making sure I was doing OK to asking if I had something to eat or drink to asking if I needed any supplies to asking if I needed help getting things out of my room on Tuesday! I am so grateful for your encouragement, assistance, and love. I really appreciate it, and it made my job as State Secretary much easier at Session! Thank you to all who donated “C” and “G” Bills for our respective causes. However, I do have a simple request: Please write a check for your “C” and “G” Bills for next year's State Session. It will help me in counting all of the money taken in at State Session for the various fundraisers, and it will get me some extra sleep so I'm not up until 2 a.m. counting single dollar bills plus proofreading my

minutes for the next day!

We are 1 – 2 members per Grange away from a net gain in membership in New York. Closing Granges doesn't help us with this mission, but there are Granges taking in new members. Congratulations to the following Granges for helping us achieve this task (this list was compiled before State Grange):

9 New Members: Dexter Grange #724 (Jefferson County)
7 New Members: East Chatham Grange #1066 (Columbia County)
5 New Members: Sandy Creek Grange #127 (Oswego County)
4 New Members: Yorktown Grange #862 (Westchester County)
3 New Members: Bethlehem Grange #137 (Albany County)
1 New Member: Cuba Grange #799 (Allegany County)
Stanford Grange #808 (Dutchess County)
Hamptonburgh Grange #950 (Orange County)
Pierstown Grange #793 (Otsego County)
Putnam Valley Grange #841 (Putnam County)
North Cameron Grange #355 (Steuben County)
Kendrew Grange #891 (St. Lawrence County)

Chaplain's Corner



Virginia L. Conner

THANKS LIVING

During the next two seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas, being thankful should be an everyday occurrence in our lives. Do we really remember to truly live a thankful life? There are many times when we offer thanks such as: when we receive a gift; we have food to eat; a warm home; family members; to have Jesus forgiveness; good health; friends; answer to prayers and many other times you can add.

To whom should we give thanks? The answer is in the Bible: I Chronicles 16:8 “Give thanks to the Lord”; Psalm 100:4 “Give thanks to Him”; Psalm 107:1 “Give thanks to the Lord”; Psalm 136:1 “Give thanks to the Lord” and I'm sure you can find more verses. Then there is the song that tells us how: “Give thanks with a grateful heart”.

In I Thessalonians 5:18, it says “to give thanks in all circumstances”. Ow, that is hard to do when we receive an answer to prayer that is not what we want or expected. But in accepting the answer and giving thanks, we accept God's Will and He will bless us.

Let's live a life of Thanks Living.

Family Activities

Brenda Noble



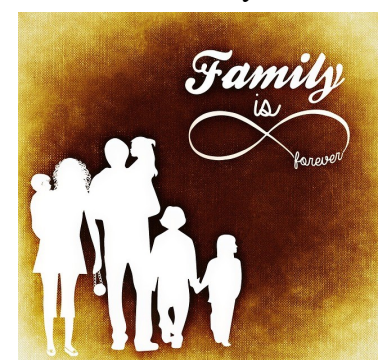
It was so good to see everyone at State Session. The nine entries that were sent to the Northeast Exposition all came back with an award. The winners were Afghan Cindy Benson-Pollard Onondaga Co. 2nd place, Doilies Charlotte Brennon Jefferson Co. 1st place, Embroidery Arlene Lewis Otsego Co. 2nd Place, Three piece baby set Cindy Benson-Pollard Onondaga Co. 3rd Place, Counted Cross Stitch Letitia Pickering Monroe Co. 1st Place and Best of Show, Latch Hook Lynn Conklin Chenango Co. 1st Place, Stuffed Toy Cathy Stark Dutchess Co. 1st Place, Baby Afghan Letitia Pickering Monroe Co. 1st Place, Child or Adult Garment Sewn Garment Alyvia Fuchs Wayne Co. 3rd Place. There will be a few changes in requirements for some entries. I will send them out as soon as I get them. There will be a new craft for the Northeast Exposition a decorated Tea Cup.

The Baking contest had 17 entries and one diabetic for No Bake Gluten Free cookies 1st place Diabetic John Buchanan – Cortland Co., Regular Cookies 1st Mary Shaw Albany Co., 2nd Alexander Pirrone – Columbia Co., 3rd Cathy Stark- Dutchess Co., Honorable Mention- Nicholas Argyres – Ren. Co., Sherri Horner- Onondaga Co., Virginia Dehner- Cortland Co., Paula Turner- Steuben Co., Barbara Lawton – Chenango Co., Noel Clawson – Seneca Co., Jackie Campbell – Wayne Co. Next year the baking contest will be Apple Pie.

The Needlework and Craft Contest will have Quilted Wall Hanging, baby size quilt, and plastic canvas. If anyone has any items for The Northeast Exposition send it and one will be selected to go to the Exposition.

This coming Grange year there is a change to the Lecturers/Family Activities Weekend in April. It will be Saturday April 29, 2023 which is 1 week earlier than what is in the Handbook. The baking contest will be Apple Pie Regular and Diabetic.

We are looking forward to another wonderful year.



*(Continued from page 2)***AFFORDABLE INSULIN BILL**

RESOLVED that New York State Grange encourages the United States Senate to pass the Affordable Insulin Now Act, that would cap out of pocket costs of insulin products at \$35 per month for people with private insurance, Medicare Part D plan (including Medicare Advantage drug plan), and for diabetic patients without insurance coverage. For commercial plans, this applies to one of each dosage form (vial, pump, inhaler) of each different type of insulin (rapid acting, short-acting, intermediate-acting, long acting, ultra-long-acting and premixed).

“Q” FEVER

RESOLVED that the New York State Grange work with the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health and the New York State Department of Health to create and disseminate information that would inform medical providers and the at large agricultural community with the signs, symptoms, treatment, and causes of the infection known as “Q” Fever which results from the exposure to infected animal feces, urine and birthing by-products, and be it further RESOLVED that New York State Grange work with National Grange to encourage the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to do further research on “Q” fever that will develop effective treatments for this illness, and be it further

RESOLVED that New York State Grange and National Grange publish this information through our own publications, such as the Empire State Granger and National Grange magazine, “Good Day,” and work with other agricultural organizations to publish information to inform their members about “Q” Fever.

TITANIUM DIOXIDE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

RESOLVED that New York State Grange opposes the use of TiO₂, Titanium Dioxide, in any food products made or sold in the United States regardless of FDA approval as a food additive until further research has been completed to determine its safety for human consumption in United States.

HOSPITAL CLOSURES/HEALTH CARE GAP

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would require maintaining full access to health care in spite of closures of community hospitals that causes health care gaps in New York State.

KEEPING FOREIGN BABY FORMULA MAKERS ON THE UNITED STATES MARKETS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would allow foreign made baby formula, as long as it meets the Food and Drug Administration regulations, to be marketed in the United States to ensure the long-term supply chain of infant formula.

LIMIT NICOTINE IN CIGARETTES

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would limit nicotine in cigarettes and tobacco products.

HEALTH CARE PRICE TRANSPARENCY

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation to achieve meaningful price transparency for charges for hospital health care.

BAN ON ELECTRIC SHOCK TREATMENT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would ban the use of electric shock treatments, and be it further RESOLVED that New York Grange supports the further investigation into alternate, less severe treatments for any individuals.

STATE ISSUES**9-8-8 SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS ACT**

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports the 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Act which includes a hotline system providing crisis intervention services and care coordination to individuals in need.

RIGHT TO REPAIR

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports Right to Repair legislation that would make it necessary for manufacturers to provide the schematics of their equipment, giving the ability to local businesses to purchase needed parts or technology that would repair the item or product locally at the owner’s discretion, and be it further RESOLVED those state and federal legislators address the practice of manufacturers prohibiting local dealers from repairing a product that is in need of servicing or significant repair to resume operations.

TAXATION/FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**FUNDING FOR FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTION CENTERS**

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports increasing available funding for food bank distribution centers.

REMOVING MEDICAL DEBT FROM CREDIT BUREAU REPORTS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports the removal of medical debt from credit bureau reports which could make loan approval, employment opportunities, housing, and lower interest rates easier to obtain.

CARBON FARMING TAX CREDIT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would establish a tax credit for farmers who maximize carbon sequestration potential through a “carbon farming” land management strategy; directs the DEC to develop regulations related to certifying the amount of carbon sequestered or emission reduced and be it further RESOLVED that we support the creation of a new financial incentive for land management practices undertaken by farmers which help improve soil health and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

FUEL SURCHARGE FOR MILK PRODUCERS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange recommends that the Federal Milk Order for the Northeast assess a \$.20/cwt fuel surcharge on all milk when the price per gallon of any fuel goes above \$3.50.

Junior Grange

Sherri Taft



How can you get your Junior Grange name out into the public and make people ask, “What is the Junior Grange? How can I learn more about it?” With the holidays coming up, what can your Junior Grange do to help the less fortunate in your community? Perhaps reach out to your local school and see if they have a Christmas Bureau that helps families purchase gifts for their children. As a Junior Grange, you could offer to collect necessary items or make a financial donation to the Bureau to make Christmas more enjoyable for local families.

Does your Junior Grange ring the bell for the Salvation Army? That is a good time to have some information about your Junior Grange available for people to look at or take home to read at their convenience. Perhaps make a display showing some of the fun activities that your Junior Grange does that will entice people to ask questions about Junior Grange. Make sure to include the contact information for the Junior Grange leader if the public has any questions about Junior Grange.

As a Community Grange with a Junior Grange, what are you doing to support your Junior Grange? Do the members of the Community Grange support the activities of the Junior Grange? Do you invite the Junior members to take part in your Grange activities? Now is the time to interact with and help the Junior members feel like they could be a part of your Community Grange so that they will want to join when they reach the age of fourteen.

At the New York State Grange Session in October, I challenged each Grange in New York State is to try and get at least one new Junior Grange member or 1+ member. The goal is to increase the Junior Grange/1+ membership faster than the spider plant that I brought to State Session grows. Let us make a goal of increasing our Junior Grange membership across the state this

Grange year!

Here are the results of the 2022 Junior Grange Crafts:

Apple Muffin

Age 5 – 8 years

1st Place – Aaliyah Gladney, Albany County

Age 9 – 11 years

1st Place – Hannah Sands, Albany CountyAirplane Craft

Age 5 – 8 years

1st Place – Paige Darling, Washington County

Age 9 – 11 years

1st Place – Hannah Sands, Albany County

Age 12 – 14 years

1st Place – Brayton Hubbard, Lewis CountyWine Cork Craft

Age 5 – 8 years

1st Place – Aaliyah Gladney, Albany County2nd Place – Paige Darling, Washington County3rd Place – Jonah Peck, Jefferson County

Age 9 – 11 years

1st Place – Jonathan Peck, Jefferson County

Age 12 – 14 years

1st Place – Cody Bolton, Washington County2nd Place – Steven Frost, Jefferson CountyPlaque/Stone Art

Age 5 – 8 years

1st Place – Paige Darling, Washington County2nd Place – Jonah Peck, Jefferson County3rd Place – Lucas Barber, Columbia County

Ages 9 – 11 years

1st Place – Jonathan Peck, Jefferson County

Ages 12 – 14 years

1st Place – Gabby Hubbard, Lewis CountyWreath

Ages 5 – 8 years

1st Place – Jonah Peck, Jefferson County2nd Place – Don Sands, Albany County

Ages 9 – 11 years

1st Place – Hannah Sands, Albany County2nd Place – Jonathan Peck, Jefferson County

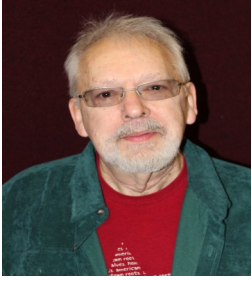
Ages 12 – 14 years

1st Place – Nathan Frost, Jefferson CountyOJAY1st Place – Steven Frost, Jefferson County**2023 Junior Grange Craft Projects**

All projects will be judged in groups as follows: Ages under 5-

(Continued on page 5)

Leadership Membership



Barton Snedaker

For 155 years the Grange has been woven into the fabric of American agriculture. Its importance in the regrowth of America after the Civil War can never be denied. What started as a movement to help farmers collectively benefit from their labor became a way to provide their produce as an important part of the growing economy. America's economic growth began with small, family farms. Those farms and farmers were assisted by the inception of the Grange.

That paragraph was written as the opening of a letter/posting for the community surrounding a Grange which we are hoping to revive. Then in a non-Grange publication I read the following:

THE JOURNEY AHEAD

"When you're on a journey, it's a good idea to have a destination and a trustworthy map, to know where you're going and how you're going to get there."

At this point I could go a few different ways. Perhaps a map is just what I need. When you have the idea of a destination it would also be good to know when you have arrived at it. I have also heard and read many times that it is not the destination that is important but the journey itself.

Is your Grange on a journey? If so, do you have a trustworthy map? Did the Grange founders have anything other than an idea and a plan? This has brought me around to asking if your Grange has a Mission Statement. That mission statement should be your Grange's trustworthy map. Just as in politics, Grange membership drives are all local. Pomona, state and national Grange may have membership development ideas but they cannot implement them in your community Grange. That is totally up to the local Grange and it's membership.

A mission statement may help your Grange develop community service projects. It may help you determine just who in your community should be invited to become part of your Grange, perhaps as an associate member.

Journeys do not happen by accident (usually) but require planning and getting ready. Some journeys need experienced guides and leaders. Does your Grange have a plan for recruiting new members? A journey also may require the right

provisions - and enough of them. Do you have brochures, membership applications and mentors? Some important provisions are our Digest, our degree manuals and our ritual.

It is extremely disheartening to read Executive Committee minutes month after month with a list of Granges that have closed or are deciding if they will. I was told that we are reaping the consequence of not encouraging new members twenty to twenty-five years ago when many Granges had many members and may not have thought they needed to. Either way it is totally up to you and your local Grange to plan now for your continuing presence in your community. Remember you need to take care of your current members as well as seeking new ones.

So, determine your journey, pack your provisions, and go!

At this year's session it became abundantly clear that we need to focus on Leadership Development at least as much as membership. I will be looking into that more as we forge ahead. I am thinking about Leadership School in conjunction with the Youth Department sometime in the not too distant future. Keep an eye out.

Youth

Katie Fallon



What an amazing time at State convention the Youth had this past October! They had fun going to Wegmans and gathering food for the local community. They made 2 teams and competed to see which team could get the most of all the items on the list for \$50 in 20 mins.

Thank you to Wayne County for helping secure enough youth and young patrons to put on a beautiful drill and opening. Alyvia Fuchs made us all proud not only being youth master but memorizing her parts!

Congratulations to our new Youth ambassadors Alyvia Fuchs and Garrett Phelps! Please reach out to them and invite them to your Grange to help them prepare for Nationals next year. They are both very driven young individuals with new ideas to bring to the table to help grow our program.

Unfortunately none of the youth will be attending Nationals this year due to the high cost of airfare.

This year's winter youth weekend will be held at Cuba Grange January 13, 14 and 15th. Please reach out if you have any questions and to RSVP! They are planning a very fun weekend in conjunction with juniors!

State Lecturer



Jolene Pirrone

Another session is over. This is a fun and rewarding experience. If you haven't had a chance to go to State Session. You're missing out.

There was a lot of discussion about membership and how Granges can grow their membership. I designed the Lecturer's projects for this year with that in mind.

Opportunity #1 -- Painting Party. You can grow your Grange by several people in one shot by hosting a well thought-out painting party, popularly known as a Paint and Sip. The sip can be hot cocoa, apple cider, etc. Google providers in your area. I am going to do just that and reach out to whoever sent in their reports for the last year. Really folks. This is a fun one!

Opportunity #2 -- Special Speaker. Another way for your Grange to get more exposure is to feature speakers. This year's topic is Food Pantries. Sponsor a food drive in the community, book your local food pantry representative to speak, and invite the whole community. Your members can provide light refreshments. You'll need to plan ahead and advertise with all the civic groups, churches, the town hall, libraries, etc. Use your community partners to get the word out. Contact me if you need flyers.

Opportunity #3 -- Rural Minds. I didn't come up with this one, but... We heard Jeff Winton at session talk about his new organization to raise awareness about mental health in rural communities. His organization is "Rural Minds" and he is eager to speak at your Grange. Even if you don't have a Grange hall, it is worth finding a public meeting place to host this man's presentation. His message is so important, and your promotion will find many eager ears. Check it out: <https://www.ruralminds.org/>

That's three months worth of easily-run, impactful projects your Grange. -- ANY GRANGE -- can run. Contact me if you need help. I get a lot of spam calls and emails, so I may not answer right away, but I do return messages and/or respond to requests.

Email: jolene@advancedwebdesign.com
Call: 518-929-1279

Remember, program books were not mailed out. Call me

for a paper copy, I am happy to send you one. I emailed several to people who reported they didn't have one. State is no longer mailing them out. You have to download one. Or ask me. Or download one here:

<https://nysgrange.org/lecture/>
Lecturer's/FAC Conference is April 29th. Mark your calendars!

(Continued from page 4)

8; 9-11; and 12-14 Birthdate as of Jan. 1

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

Note: Each Junior Grange is allowed to send a total of 15 craft projects to States Grange for state-level judging. Plus OJAY crafts. You may send one for each age group for all five projects. Junior dues MUST be up to date/current.

Alternative Sugar Baking

Using your own recipe, make any item such as muffin (6), cookie, (doz.), cake (8x8), quick bread (loaf), granola (2 cups) etc., that has NO white, brown, confectioner or artificial sweetener; but uses an alternative or Natural sweetener like honey, applesauce, agave, maple syrup, or molasses. May also use nuts, chips, spices, dried fruit, etc. Use disposable container for judging. Must include recipe. JUDGING: Flavor – 40% Appearance – 30% Texture – 30%

Egg Craft

Using anything egg-shaped as a base whether it be natural, blown, hand-made, bought (plastic, wooden etc.) Decorate in any manner using any median such as paint, yarn, sequins, buttons, beads, stickers, etc. Make a craft. Finished size not to exceed 8"x8"x8".

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

Junk Metal Craft

Make a person, animal, critter, etc. using a combination of anything metal like nuts, bolts, screws, keys, small springs, strainers, zipper pulls, paper clips pop top tabs, etc. Go out to your garage junk drawer, May be painted. Size not to exceed 6"x6"x6".

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

Pounded Nature Print

Using thick paper or white cotton cloth, Take a nature hike and gather leaves, flowers, etc. Place items between paper or cloth on a hard surface and with a hammer pound and push and push. Makes a beautiful picture, bookmark, etc. No larger than 8" x 10"

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

Creative Writing

Topic: What do you envision

(Continued on page 6)

Sports

Director Bruce Dehner

The first ever cornhole tournament was held on Aug. 14th with 7 teams participating. The team from Albright Grange came in first place and the team from Cuyler Grange came in 2nd place. Next year we are moving this date to the first Saturday in August to see if we can get more teams from around the state to participate. This event completes the sports schedule for the year. We hope everyone had a good time and look forward to more fun next year. Thanks everyone for your support as this was my first year running this department.



Genesee County Pomona Grange #10 held a Grange Membership Recognition day on Saturday September 24th, 2022. We celebrated and presented 25, 40, 50, 60, 65, 70 and 75

years of continues years of Grange Membership throughout Genesee County.

The Grange Members that were honored were members of the former Stafford Grange, Corfu Grange Elba Grange and Bergen Grange. The members receiving Membership Recognition are as follows: Ruth McCracken Jerald McCracken (Posthumous), Elizabeth Weber, Paul Alonzo, Connie Alonzo, Richard Bergman, Bernadett Bergman, Marjorie Godfrey, Heather Reynold, Jennifer Lewis, Katie Miller, Kristie Miller, Roger Miller, Leon Perry, Becky Perry, James Slusarczyk, Roxanne Slusarczyk, Marissa odhi, Stan Barringer, Katie Barringer, Betty Monagon, Phill Naas, Judy Naas., Suzanne Schmidt, Joyce Schultz, Judy Underhill, David Underhill (Posthumous), Robert Call, Jacqueline Mullen, Helen Muller, Rober Mullen (Posthumous), Robert Mullen II and Regina Mulleln. Ryan Orton, NY St. Grange Secretary, was present to join in the celebration and present the Membership Awards. The day was indeed a special one and was enjoyed by all who were present. The program was opened with a Welcome by the Pomona President - Joan Phelps. A musical number followed by Mikayla Stringham (Granddaughter of Dennis and Joan Phelps). The Pomona Officers were recognized and Ryan Orton was introduced to the body present. Ryan presented the Membership awards to those present. There was a very special Membership Award that he was honored to be able to present. His Maternal Grandmother, Elizabeth Weber, received her 75th continuous Membership Award. Ryan's comment was, "how many Grandson's get to present to his Grandmother a 75 continuous Membership Award". This indeed was a very special ending to a very special day of celebration. The program was followed with a light dinner and a lot of conversation. Many of the members present had not seen each other in quite a while and were able to catch up on many months of conversation.

A GOOD DAY!!!!



(Continued from page 5) Lecturer

(think) the Junior Grange will look like in the Future? May be any length. as little as 3 sentences or longer (as your thoughts flow). May be a story, a song, or a poem.

JUDGING: Up to the judges and to age of entrant.

* OJAY (Older Junior and Youth) Project

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

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



NYS Grange Sesquicentennial

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

NYS Grange Sesquicentennial

A Treasured Tradition With The Future in Focus

The Sesquicentennial Committee thanks everyone who made the first celebration event for the 150th Anniversary of the New York State Grange a success. The "Kick Off" program began with inspiring remarks by State Grange Master Stephen C. Coye. Then all joined in singing "This Old Grange" with a special added second verse by Roger Halbert. It is #19 in the brown Grange Songbook lets sing it in every Grange this year. The second verse is: This great Grange is celebrating, This great Grange is one, five, 0. This great Grange speaks out for rural life, This great Grange is on the go!

If you want to help your neighbors, If you want to have some fun, Come and join the Grange and you will see your life has just begun.

Oh the Grange helps towns and country, yes the Grange helps you and me, Work and play for all our neighbors building our community.

Yes, the Grange goes right on working for a better life for all For we all love the Grange today, be sure to heed the call!

Sincere thanks to Butternut Valley Grange Singers who next entertained with three songs. Then State Grange Jeopardy was played by Sandra Green, Roger Halbert, and Lois Kesby with Host Ryan Orton who was interrupted by The Ghost of Grange Past (Calvin Wilcox) delivering little known facts of Grange history. Thanks to all of them! Congratulations to Lois Kesby, Chautauqua Co. for winning Jeopardy. Special thanks go to Laura Magrum who did all the technical work to bring Jeopardy to life on the big screen at the session. The Butternut Valley Singers then sang "I Love the Grange Today" inspiring all of us to remember why we have committed ourselves to this special organization. The 150th Committee passed out "Poppin' into 2023" microwave popcorn packets to all present.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the New York State Grange History book covering the time period from 1973 to 2017 did not get printed as anticipated for the 2022 State Grange Session. It will be printed in 2023. Announcement will be made in this column when it is printed and where copies will be available.

Sesquicentennial shirts and banners can be ordered by calling or texting Melvin Phelps at 315-778-6712 by Dec. 1, 2022 or very soon thereafter.

People's Choice Poster winners were as follows: in the Sesquicentennial Theme Class, first place winner was Mary Anne Campbell, Butternut Valley Grange #1533 and in the Grange in 2073 Class the first place winner was Marcellus Grange #464. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to The State Youth Committee and State Grange Historian Carol Bailey for your participation.

Congratulations to all who have been honored with a candle on our fundraising, traveling 150th Birthday Cake. Those honored since the last Empire State Granger include: Harrison/Gay/Denison, Marcellus Grange #464, Ontario County Pomona Grange #11, Donald and Thelma Croucher, Clinton and Bertha Smith, Peter and Ida Craine, Tri County Fair Society (3 candles), Helen Augusta Schroeder, So Trenton Grange, Constance Ann Schroeder Johnson, Floyd Grange, Cattaraugus County Pomona Grange #21, In memory of Kay Bailey, In Memory of Jerry Batsford, forever in my heart – Linda, Wally & Ida Roll, Ken and Wilma Bray. Paul and Catherine Calteaux, Clayton Andrus, Remembering Dewittville Grange #480, Cayuga County Granges, The Riester Family - Cayu-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6) *Sesquicentennial*

ga County, In Memory of The Pickering Family Grangers, Grover and Charlotte Brenon - Star Grange #9. Forms for ordering candles have been in past Empire State Granger papers and can be downloaded from <https://nysgrange.org> under Events/ NYS Grange Sesquicentennial. Also you can call Roberta Halbert at the number listed below and she will send an order form.

The Committee wants you to join in celebrating the Sesquicentennial of the NYS Grange. You are invited and encouraged to attend one of the Regional Celebrations listed elsewhere in this paper. Our ornaments and designer bags will be on sale at these celebrations. Especially plan on bringing candidates to the Degree Day on Saturday September 30, 2023 at the NYS Grange Headquarters in Cortland.

**Sesquicentennial
Poster
Contest**

The Moon Colony is set up as a mini nation. Each blue circle represents a small community. Each community has a member on the Governing Council. The leaders are put in place through voting. What makes it work so well is that they live full time in the Communities they represent. The Grange, as it always has, helps to keep their communities well and moving forward through their legislative policies.

Hydroponics is the agriculture of the moon and so the Grange also makes sure that that is also well cared for.

Neighbor nights have been re-established in order for other colonies to come together and share what is working well in their colonies and what they might bring from other neighbors to make their colonies better.



Above: Jeanette Moore and Shelby Moore, Poster Marcellus Grange

Below: Mary Anne Campbell Poster and Roger Halbert, Ticket Winner. Both of Butternut Valley Grange



**Marcellus Grange
The Grange in 2073**



Bethlehem Grange

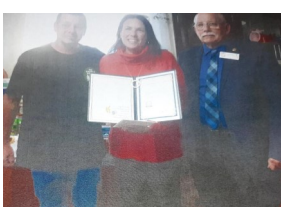
Bethlehem Grange #137 honors a local family for their community service

Tucked in the quiet community neighborhood of Selkirk, N.Y. there sits a locally owned food pantry. Ray and Lisa Janike, saw the need and decided to start their "Kindness Cabinet". They purchased a small shed, stocked it with shelving and a refrigerator and loaded it up with canned goods, fresh produce, eggs, bread, baby food and diapers, and some cleaning supplies. Oh, and pet food, as if the people were short on food so must their pets be. "Kindness starts at home", Lisa is quoted as saying. Themselves and with the help of, a few other dedicated friends and family donating items, they have kept this pantry going. Not always easy, as the need continues to grow. They have about ten families and a few stop-ins that use their pantry.

Ray is a truck driver for a local trucking company and Lisa is a registered nurse. They have three children of their own and much pride in their community. They started their food pantry in 2020, just before the Covid pandemic hit. Good timing for sure.

Proud of this couple's devotion and generosity, Bethlehem Grange # 137's Community Service Chairman, Charles Ryan, Jr, brought forth the idea to recognize the Janike's with a Community Service Award. With the National Grange award, and with State President, Stephen Coye presenting, the honor was bestowed on October 23rd at the Bethlehem Grange. Along with the award, a few gift cards from local grocery stores and a generous donation of food items from the community were given to help the pantry.

The mission statement of this family, which is, "kindness begins at home", is a lesson that we all can practice.



Ray and Lisa Janike with State Grange President Stephen Coye



Celebration Cake

Lamson Grange

Lamson Grange #588, Onondaga County, participated in a back to school BBQ sponsored by the Cato-Meridian Central School PTO. The BBQ gave families a chance to meet classmates, parents and staff face to face. Canned goods were collected to fill the new Blessing Box in town. Lamson Grange was one of several outside organizations that set up a display to inform the attendees about their organizations. Many people stopped to look at the display and ask questions about the Grange. What a privilege it was to be able to talk to so many people about the Grange and all the good that we do for the local communities.



**Marcellus Grangers
Recieve Gold Sheaf**



On August 13th Past High Priest of Demeter Bruce Croucher presented 50 Year Certificates to Marcellus Grangers: Roberta Severson, Dan Woolley and Cindy Pollard

**Otsego Pomona
130 Years**



Otsego Pomona celebrated 130 years: Pictured are Barton Snedaker, Stephen Coye and Roger Halbert

State Grange 2022



Photo Center: State Grange Musician Irene Fassett honored for 40 years in that position.

Starting at lower left and going Clockwise: Wayne County host of State Session, VanLare Family at State Session, Lois Kesby Jeopardy Winner, Backpack Donations to Cato-Meridian School, Sesquicentennial Birthday Cake, Historian Carol Baily Sesquicentennial Poster, Youth Display, Sandy Green Jeopardy Contestant.



It's a party!! It's a celebration!! You're invited!! Put it on your calendar!! Plan to attend!!!!

All Grange members and friends are invited to any Regional 150th Celebration!! Counties listed are just suggested for that area. Programs at each celebration will vary but each one will have birthday cake and ice cream!!

Region #1 – at Curriers Grange #1273 (Wyoming County) on June 17, 2023. Hosts: Tom Hebeisen and Laura Magram – Counties - Alleghany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Wyoming

Region #2 – at Wide Awake Grange #747 (Ontario County) on Saturday July 29, 2023 starting at noon with a potluck lunch. Hosts: Sharon Croucher and Bobbie Severson - Counties – Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Yates

Region #3 – Location and date to be announced. Hosts: Barb Lavier & Ryan Orton Counties- Chemung, Tioga, Schuyler, Steuben

Region #4 – at Kirkland Grange #684 (Jefferson County) located at 43658 County Route 11, Redwood NY 13679-date to be announced. Host: Melvin Phelps - Counties – Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, St. Lawrence

Region #5 – at Brunswick Grange #1337 (Rensselaer County) Saturday July 22, 2023 Hosts: Alice Grimsley & Sue Drake – Counties – Albany, Essex, Fulton, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Washington

Region #6 – at Freedom Plains Grange #857 (Dutchess

County) May date to be announced Host: Ryan Orton - Counties – Columbia, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester
Region #7 – at Butternut Valley Grange # 1533 (Otsego County) located at 7 Bloom St., Gilbertsville on Saturday August 26, 2023. Hosts: Sue Drake & Roberta Halbert - Counties - Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego

Region #8 – at New York State Grange Headquarters (Cortland County) May 21, 2023. Hosts: Bobbie Severson & Barb Lavier-Counties – Cortland, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Tompkins

DEGREE DAY – at NEW YORK STATE GRANGE HEAD-QUARTERS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

FIRST THROUGH FIFTH DEGREES WILL BE GIVEN

Bring your candidates, new members, and those who have not seen the degrees.

The Empire State Granger, Published 6 times annually by **The New York State Grange**, 100 Grange Place, Cortland, NY 13045

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

Third class postage paid at Cortland, (#57). Subscription Rate a portion of member dues is paid as a subscription to the Empire State Granger.

Editor Bruce M. Croucher

Executive Committee: Richard Church, Chair, Stephen Coye, President, Ryan Orton, Grange Secretary, Elaine Smith, Vice President, Bruce Croucher, Executive Committee Secretary, Barbara Lavier, Daniel Woolley.

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