

American Values, Hometown Roots

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Our Vision!

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



January February 2023

President's Column

Stephen C. Coye



A NEW YEAR A NEW BEGINNING

A section of an autobiography we're presently reading details the writer's decision to go to law school following college graduation, with that decision of course hinging on passing the admissions test. In spite of meticulous preparation for the exam, it did not turn out as hoped for the author, and alternate career plans had to be pursued. Sometime later a good friend was suggesting rather emphatically that the test should be retaken, to which there was an equally emphatic "NO, I'm afraid of failing again." After a few moments of what I suspect would have been deafening silence, the friend asked: "Isn't courage being afraid, and going on ahead anyway?" The author goes on to relate how that simple question changed his entire outlook.

I'm sure Oliver Hudson Kelley was afraid – probably more so than the rest of the Founders, as he, unlike the others, was out there where the rubber meets the road. I'm just as sure that countless others that have stepped up to the leadership plate have been very afraid as, confidence has a way evaporating when faced with what seems to be unrelenting unknown, with the suspicion that it will contain nothing but adversity. This is where courage

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NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Historic 191st Annual Forum Focuses on Disruption!

(January 20, 2022) Each January, industry leaders gather at the NYS Agricultural Society Annual Meeting & Forum to discuss priority issues and to recognize peers for outstanding achievement. At the historic 191st Annual Forum on Thursday, January 12th, stakeholders met at the Syracuse OnCenter to discuss how worldwide events, new technology, consumer buying trends and other disrupters are impacting the ag and food system and natural resource industries, and how stakeholders are pivoting to strengthen their foothold. Also featured at the 2023 Forum was a surprise appearance to the crowd of 400 attendees by Governor Kathy Hochul and the traditional State of Agriculture Address presented by NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard Ball.

NY FFA Chapter of the Year – Penn Yan FFA was recognized for their successful track record of developing talent for the agricultural industry and contributing time and treasure to their Yates County community.



The photograph below shows the members of the chapter and State Grange President Stephen C. Coye. The New York State Grange sponsors this award annually.

Distinguished Service Citation – Retired from a long career at Cornell University, Richard Church was honored for his service to improve agriculture's image among the non-farming community and fostering support, progress, and success in NY's diverse agricultural arena.

Richard "Dick" Church has been no stranger to agriculture over the last seven decades. His deep involvement in community and the agricultural industry started in his high school years and progressed steadily throughout his multi-faceted career working with farmers, students, and Cornell administration, often wearing many hats simultaneously. Dick could not say "NO" to his many invitations to lead industry organizations, enhancing agriculture's image, and serving agriculturists in New York State and beyond. The number of farm and agricultural groups he has been involved with is lengthy. Even today at age 81, Dick remains active. His service to the NYS Ag Society has been valued, having served as a board member, treasurer, and committee volunteer. As NYS FFA President from 1959-60, Dick had a memorable first experience with the Ag Society. He sat with and made a presentation to then Governor Nelson Rockefeller



Photo Above: From L to R: Richard Church and Hans Kunze, committee chair.

at the Annual Forum. Dick's outstanding commitment to agriculture started with a meaningful upbringing on a Guernsey dairy farm. His early involvement with 4-H, FFA, and Junior Grange opened many doors. He became a Cornell Trustee representing the Grange. He spent 20 years on the Alpha Zeta Corporation Board and served as faculty advisor. Dick's Cornell career spanned 50 years. He was especially well known for being Director of CALS Admissions for 12 years. He retired in 2021 as Director of Alumni Affairs. Dick probably knows more people in agriculture and CALS alumni than anyone due to his many years of service to the University and to numerous agricultural affiliations. Dick is not only well

known for his dedicated service but also for his kindness and remarkable reputation as "friend to all." He continues to actively serve in several organizations in the Freeville/ Dryden area including the Methodist Church. Dick and his lovely supportive wife, Joyce, have three grown children and have been married 58 years. We congratulate and thank Dick for his lifelong service to agriculture and the meaningful impact that he has made on so many lives that continue to revolve around agriculture

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Legislative State Grange Column Secretary

Cindy Benson-Pollard



A new year has begun. The holidays are over, the decorations have been put away and the long sleepy time of winter has begun. Now is a good time to start your legislative research to write resolutions for this year's State Grange consideration.

The 2023 Legislative manual has been mailed to your Grange. This now includes the policies adopted and renewed by delegates to last year's State Grange. I hope that you will take the time to review this important publication for the legislative work of the Grange. Please note the bold and italics entries. These were our resolutions that were forwarded and adopted by National Grange. Also included in this mailing was our top ten legislative priorities for 2023. This pamphlet is available to you from our headquarters. It is a good way to let your community know what we, as an organization, are working on to help improve the lives of our communities and rural residents across New York state. I hope that you will include sharing it at open meetings your Grange may be having this year.

The New York State legislature is back in session. I urge you to take a few minutes and review the Governor's State of the State address. This will give you a good summation of what she hopes to achieve this year. I also encourage you to take part in our grassroots efforts communicating the Grange position on issues important to our rural communities. Please watch for our email blasts asking for your participation in contacting the Governor and legislators asking for their support or opposition to bills that Grange has policy on. If we do not have your email address, please let us know. We will be happy to add your address to our list.

One very important issue that we will be working on this year will be the new Farm Bill on a federal level. Many hearings have already been held regarding issues to be considered for funding in this important piece of legislation. We will be following the negotiations and will be asking for your support on this. We will be asking for your help to let our representatives know our positions on this issue.

If you have any questions or need my help with your legisla-



Ryan Orton

2023 is Our Year!

I'm sure many of us were ecstatic at the great news revealed at the National Grange Convention in Nevada in November - the National Grange had a net gain in membership for the first time in almost 70 years! Bucking the membership decrease has been a constant challenge for almost ¾ of a century, and the National Grange finally did it! I was over the moon when I first heard this exciting news! But (there's always a "but"), New York was not part of this net gain in membership. While the Grange did achieve a net gain in membership nationwide, New York State fell short. In fact, after calculating the 3rd quarter membership numbers for New York for my National Report, we fell short of a net gain in membership for the quarter by 12...a dozen people - that's all. We were so close; so close, in fact, that a net gain in membership *IS* within reach! I can see it, and many other Grange leaders across the Empire State can see it just beyond our grasp! That's where you come in, my fellow Grangers! We need your help to achieve a net gain in New York in 2023! Every Grange needs to take part whether you are big or small, rural or suburban, or have a membership of more seasoned Grangers or in the young adult category. With your help, this goal can be accomplished! 2023 is our year for a net gain in membership!

We are heartened to hear of tremendous success stories across New York recently! Granges across the State are requesting assistance with revitalization, especially in Chautauqua, Genesee, Monroe, Saratoga, Schuyler, and Sullivan Counties. Two Granges have been revitalized - Salisbury Center Grange #624 in Herkimer County and Ausable Valley Grange #973 in Essex/Clinton County. Twenty-five Granges had a net gain in membership for 2022, and two Granges in New York had a net gain of 8 members for the year - Dexter Grange #724 in Jefferson County and Putnam Valley Grange #841 in Putnam County. From the Mohawk Valley to the Northern Adirondacks near the Canadian Border to an hour north of New York City, people are learning of the value, influence, and achievement of the

Grange, and they're joining our organization. Therefore, anyone who tells me that "no one wants to join the Grange" or "we can't get anyone to join" will meet a reply similar to what my students in my class hear when they say "I can't do it" or "I don't understand it." Together, we have to figure out how to get people to join the Grange in your area. Your State Grange is committed to this effort, especially in our 150th Anniversary Year! All you need to do is *ASK!*

Congratulations to the following Granges for welcoming new members since the last writing:

5 New Members

Walton Grange #1454
(Delaware County)

3 New Members

Lamson Grange #588 Onondaga County)

2 New Members

Bethlehem Grange #137
(Albany County)
Pierstown Grange #793
(Otsego County)
Putnam Valley Grange #841
(Putnam County)

1 New Member

Almond Grange #1102
Allegany County)
Rhinebeck Grange #896
Dutchess County)
Taft Settlement Grange #473
(Onondaga County)
Kendrew Grange #891
(St. Lawrence County)

Family Activities

Brenda Noble



Hello everyone! It is the start of another busy year. I hope everyone is ready for April. Items for the Craft and Needlework contests are due to Cortland by April 20, 2023. The Lecturers and Family Activities Conference will be Saturday April 29, 2023. This year we will have Quilted Wall Hanging along with the Baby size Quilt. Also, this year we will have Plastic Canvas as a category. If anyone has a latch hook, it may be sent and we will select one to be sent to the Northeast Exposition. The Northeast Exposition has also added a new craft contest: teacup and saucer glued together then decorated as you would like. There have also been some size adjustments for items. I have sent the updated brochures out to those who have requested them. If you would like to receive one, please let me know.

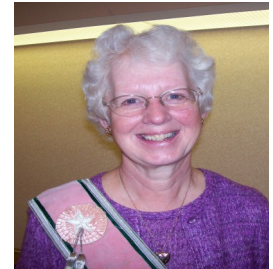
Also, don't forget to check the National Grange website for the National Grange Contests for Garden Design; the Quilt Block - Nine Patch with half square corners; and the photo contest.

If anyone has a quilt block for New York's 150th anniversary

quilt for Family Activities, it needs to be sent as soon as possible. The quilt will be completed by October for State Session for a raffle. The baking contest this year is Apple Pie and will be judged at State Session.

I will also take items to be sent to the Northeast Exposition to be sold at the store. The items support running of the building and help with the contests for judging and prize awards. Thank you so much for your help!

Chaplain's Corner



Virginia L. Conner

Tribute to ALLAN HENDERSON

Allan Henderson was a kind, gentle soul. He was generous with his time, talents and finances. He was one of those people who made every minute count for something worthwhile and filled every minute and hour with good deeds for others. His job at the feed mill was an occupation that he loved and he did it very well for the forty years he was employed there.

While I was State Secretary, Allan walked in one day covered in feed dust! He was using his lunch time to come directly from the feed mill to Headquarters to purchase secretarial supplies for Baldwinsville Grange. At first I hardly recognized this person all in white until he spoke and said "Hi Ginnie"! After we took care of the supply transaction and he was on his way back to work, I noticed the white feed dust footprints on the office carpet! After vacuuming the carpet, I realized that Allan certainly loved the Grange to use his precious lunch time to serve his Grange rather than himself.

And so another attribute appears - Allan was a considerate man. He deeply cared for his wife Nancy and daughter Heidi and their needs. He always put the comfort of others as a priority. I have witnessed him helping other Grangers at State Sessions with whatever was needed. He had an especially loving spirit for the elderly and handicapped.

State Grange truly has a missing link in our circle. May we be willing to infuse Allan's spirit of kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity into our own lives.

Allan: Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant!



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comes into play – the courage to accept failure as a path to the next success. Kelley’s failure to organize in a number of locations is well documented, and I suspect, odds are that he failed in more instances than he succeeded. The subsequent expedient growth of the Order at that time was the result of many taking up the mantle to organize, with all of those individuals failing to organize along the way in spite of their best efforts.

No leader finds it personally rewarding when a project that has consumed a lot of personal thought and effort doesn’t gain acceptance by the membership. No one likes being told “no” by a prospective member after putting their heart and soul into trying to convince them that they should. However success in the long run depends on putting the failures aside, learning from them, and having the courage to try again as opposed to saying I’m done, it’s no use.

As a new year is underway, it would be my hope that all of us would take the opportunity to reflect on our personal courage, and not be afraid to make any adjustments necessary to fine tune this aspect of our lives. This alone will help us to move our Fraternity into the future, be it with events and programs, or just asking a friend or neighbor to join with us. After all, concerning ourselves with this important aspect of life is a much superior “resolution” than the usual mindset when it comes to this sort of thing, one that can make a significant difference in our lives, as opposed to one that is trivial in nature and will most likely be discarded shortly, if not by now.

A New Year, a new beginning, with the courage to be afraid, but going ahead anyway.

Junior Grange



Sherri Taft

2023 Junior Grange Craft Projects

All projects will be judged in groups as follows: Ages 5-8, 9-11, and 12-14, the group that the projects will be judged in will be based on the entrant’s age as of January 1 of the current year.

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

Note: Each Junior Grange is allowed to send a total of 15 craft projects to State Grange for state

-level judging, along with any OJAY* crafts. Please send one entry per age group for each of the five projects, Junior dues MUST be up to date.

Homemade Crackers

Use your own recipe to make homemade crackers. Seasonings may be added to the cracker (sesame seeds, poppy seeds, etc). Each contestant must enter six (6) crackers on a disposable plate. The recipe must be included with the entry.

JUDGING – Flavor – 40%
Appearance – 30%
Texture – 30%

Door Stopper

Using any material you choose, make a door stopper to prop a door open. May decorate and/or paint in any manner. Finished size not to exceed 12”x12”x12”.

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

Decorated Easter Egg

Using an empty egg shell, decorate the egg to be used as an Easter Egg Decoration. May decorate using any material of choice.

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

Candle Holder

Using any material you choose (no glass), make a candle holder to hold a candle. Make the candle holder to fit a candle of your choice.

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

Pottery Projects

Using play dough (homemade or store bought), clay, salt dough or plaster of Paris, create a pottery project of your choice. This can include, but is not limited to, animals, leaves, bowls, vases, and jewelry.

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

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

Older Junior Grange members (ages 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. The item must have been completed in the last year. This project 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 the State Grange Session.

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

State Lecturer



Jolene Pirrone

I just got off Zoom, talking to the NE regional Lecturers about the Regional Leadership Conference on the weekend of April 15th in the Mystic, CT area. Each State Lecturer will be presenting about 10 minutes during a team workshop. I’m in charge of putting together everyone’s contributions into a finished Program Book, so I’m pretty excited about that.

We meet again for final details on Sunday, February 5th at 2:20pm. Since details are still somewhat unclear, I will send out a letter as soon as I know everything.

Don’t forget about the State FAC/Lecturer’s Contest. It’s not too late to hold programs in your grange to get involved. The event is April 29th at 10am at NYS Grange Headquarters in Cortland. You will also receive a letter about that. Last year we had cool guest speakers, got to see a firetruck up close, and learned some new crafts. Turn out for a fun time!

The thing to remember is that entries need to arrive at HQ before the event. See the handbook here:
<https://nysgrange.org/lecture/>

Youth

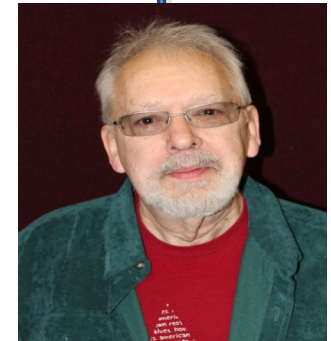


Johannah Stewart

Greetings fellow Grangers. I am honored to be chosen as the New York State Youth Director. Many of you know me personally from my many years as an active Junior Granger and Youth Department member. For those who don’t, let me tell you a bit about myself. I grew up in a family of Grangers in Genesee County. My parents each had grown up in the Grange in the Southern tier and Central New York. They have encouraged and supported my love of this organization from when I first joined Stafford Junior Grange until today. They were my first teachers, but they introduced me to others along the way. Under the leadership of former Master Oliver Orton, I learned the meaning of our Ritual and served as Outstanding Junior Member in the late ‘90’s. Under past Youth Directors Gail Cham-

berlain, and Steve and Debbie Fuchs, I learned leadership skills and was encouraged serve my community. All these leaders also emphasized improving my skills and abilities by competing in contests such as Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song (both of which I performed at the National Level). The many Youth Directors after the Fuchs encouraged me to pass on all I had learned as a young adult to those younger than me in the program. In this way, I became the youth ambassador in 2006 and one of only 2 national ambassador mentors the following year. Today, I live in Wayne County and it has been a pleasure to get to know all the wonderful Grangers here in this part of the state. This walk down memory lane is largely to say that I would not be who I am without the care and guidance of those who came before me. I only hope that I can assist today’s youth in their growth as Grangers and as people, the way I have been helped each step of the way. I look forward to discussing the direction of the program with the committee at the Winter Weekend in Cuba. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, feel free to contact me.

Leadership Membership



Barton Snedaker

Welcome 2023! I am at the age where I have started saying, "Can you believe how fast time is going?" And mean it! Even though we are still under the specter of COVID, life has returned to normal - somewhat. We are hearing that many Granges have resumed! a relatively normal schedule of meetings. Congratulations!

2023 is also going to be a year for change and leadership. In October our delegates will be acting as the legislative body of New York State Grange at our annual convention. Will we be ready with our leadership suggestions? Delegates will be electing a full slate of officers from Master/President to Chaplain to Graces to Gatekeeper, etc. Are you thinking about putting your name out there for any of those positions? Do you know someone you think should consider running? Have you asked or suggested it to them? Because the Grange is a grassroots organization it means that our leadership must also rise from those same grassroots.

At last year's convention the

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Grange Issues Committee was presented with two resolutions on term limits. As a member of that committee I argued that term limits can only really apply if we have members who want to be able to step into positions of leadership. "Who are they?" I asked the other members of the committee. The replies were less than stunning to say the least.

At the risk of turning this whole column into a downer... The same issue was brought before the Delegates-at-Large. The response was very similar. One morning at breakfast with Steve Coye I remarked on both those meetings and the resolutions. He replied "We do have term limits - we get to vote every two years". I know I can safely say without contradiction that Steve does NOT want to be reelected as Master/President. Yes it is a difficult position, and yes he has done a great job. But he is ready to be out of it. So who out there is ready, willing and able to assume that mantle?

2023 has to be the year of Leadership. If you, or someone you know, desires a position at the state level the path is through your Delegate-at-Large. Let him or her know of your interest. You will need to provide a short bio/resume showing you are interested and your background.

If the first of the year is truly a time for resolutions then maybe yours should be trying to find new leadership for our New York State Grange in your local Grange or Pomona.

Best of luck!

Sports

Director Bruce Dehner

We are starting our new year in Grange activities so I will give you the Sports Dept. tournaments for the year. We start the year off with Dart ball at State Headquarters on April 30th, June 4th is bowling at Cort lanes in Cortland NY, July 9th is golf at Shortsville NY, August 5th is corn hole at State Headquarters. I hope we can get more people involved in sports so I am encouraging all community granges to get teams to attend these events. If anyone needs more information on any Sports Dept. activities please contact me. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at this year's events.



Community Involvement



Melvin Phelps

I hope everyone has been enjoying the winter weather – where ever you may be embrace it and enjoy it, this will make it go by faster. I wanted to take a minute to acknowledge a group of Granges that received a score of more then 90 points on their state reports. I think is important to recognize the great work and efforts put into their stories.

- Beaver Falls #554 Lewis County
- Butternut Valley #1533 Otsego County
- Clifton Springs #1042 Ontario County
- Colonel Harper #1508 Delaware County
- Corfu #142 Genesee County
- Marcellus #464 Onondaga County
- Rhinebeck #896 Dutchess County
- Stanford #808 Dutchess County

I think its important to note that not all of these Granges are doing extraordinary service projects, but they did a great job of telling and explaining what they are doing and how they did them. If your Grange did not make the list this year I encourage you to strive to compete against yourself and make the list of 90% Granges in 2023.

In following up with some of the Granges after State Session many wanted to know what they could improve on with their reports and I wanted to share some ideas as you are planning for 2023 events and projects.

- Keep Records – what was your impact, how many people attended, how many meals served, how much money raised
- Keep track and report the number of hours multiplied by the number of volunteers. (6 hours times 10 Grangers is 60 hours).
- Include preparation time for projects in your calculations.
- Take Pictures and lots of them. Pictures of Grangers interacting with the community or doing something.
- Quality over Quantity – tell

your story and develop a report that you can have on display for open meetings and gatherings so your community and other Grangers know what you are doing. If you switch your focus from "Winning a Contest" to developing a useful tool – you will be a winner no matter what.

• Only include activities where Grangers are representatives of the Grange. It is great that we have Grangers volunteering but if they are not serving as a Grange member it should not be counted in your report. For example a Grange member that serves on the county fair board would not count unless they are there as a repetitive of the Grange. **It may be acceptable to have a section of how your members are active in their community in other ways – but this should not be a major project in your report.**

I hope this helps in preparing for 2023 and I am hoping to maybe provide some assistance through a workshop or zoom training on ways to prepare and host service projects in the future. I will discuss those options in the next issue.

State Grange Historian

Carol Bailey



DID YOU KNOW...

That the deputies association was formed in 1907? This group continued until the deputies were dispensed with in 2008. Officers were elected each year and they assisted at state sessions. Their main function all those years was to assist the community Granges. Deputies were the local connection to the state Grange.

Beginning in 1922 Miss Natalie Barns of Orange County was in charge of the then juvenile Granges across the state. In 1929 junior deputies were appointed for each county by President Freestone.

In 1921 all the presidents pictured were framed and exhibited at the Grange building at the State Fair. Also that year there was an active committee (not just Grangers) working on various educational problems in the schools. They met regularly and reported to Albany.

J. Wallace Darrow served for several years as a Grange correspondent until his death in 1916. There seemed to be no one until Leonard Allen was appointed in 1921. He continued until 1933.

John S. Bardwell, Allegany County was appointed the first Grange historian in 1923. This year marks one hundred years of having a historian. Others who

have served in this position include Elizabeth Arthur, L. Ray Alexander, Fern Palmer and Stephen Coye. There maybe others as I have not researched topic.

Bardwell got off to a busy start by collecting the yearly badges and obtaining a complete set of journals. Wonder where the badges ended up?

In 1927 a gavel, made of fifty native NY woods, was presented to the Grange by Elizabeth Arthur. It became known as the Magic Gavel and traveled around New York for five years. Its travels benefited the Revolving Scholarship Fund.

The first lecturers' school was held at Cornell in 1929. At about the same time NY became part of Middle Atlantic Lecturers Conference. NY was moved to the New England Lecturers Conference in 2008 by National Grange. In 1930 the NYS Association of Pomona Lecturers was organized.

1930 was a remarkable year for degrees. The largest class to take the sixth degree in Syracuse numbered 1,435. When National Grange was held later that year in Rochester a record 11,125 candidates received the degree of Ceres. Master Freestone led 29 special sessions for the sixth around the state to achieve these records. How many candidates will there be for seventh in Niagara Falls this coming November? Each Grange needs to encourage members to take the fifth, sixth and seventh degrees. They are all beautiful and meaningful.

It is interesting to note the change in names of committees as time went by. The Woman's Work Committee began in 1889 and continued until 1917. Then it became known as the Home Economics Committee. The name was changed to the Service and Hospitality Committee in 1932. This continued for many years and is now known as the Family Activities Committee.

The bicentennial of George Washington's birth was celebrated with a pageant at the 1932 session.

NYS Grange has had various papers that provided Grange news through the years. The Husbandman which began in Chemung County was the first. When that was suspended the Utica Press had a Grange Department conducted by George Sanders and was sent to each Grange in the state. Around 1902 a paper called the Grange Review was edited by J. Wallace Darrow of Columbia County. He also sent publicity about Grange to many newspapers around the state. Leonard L. Allen became the Grange correspondent in 1922 and was followed by L. B. Skiffington in 1933. There have been several editors of our Grange paper whatever its name. Currently Bruce Croucher is editor of the

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Empire State Granger.

To tie in with our sesquicentennial have a game night and play some of the old board games and have snacks available. In the spring or summer you could have a picnic and play croquet. Check the historian's page in the handbook on the website or contact me for other ideas.

All Grange members and friends are invited to any Regional 150th Celebration!! Come to the one most convenient for you. Counties listed are just suggested for that area. Programs at each celebration will vary but each one will have birthday cake and ice cream!! Please bring a photograph of your Grange Hall, an activity at your Grange, or both for the 150th NY State Grange Photo Album.

Region #1 – at Freedom Plains Grange #857 (Dutchess County) on Saturday May 13, 2023 at 2pm. Host: Ryan Orton (phone 845-868-7869) - Counties – Columbia, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester

Region #2 – at New York State Grange Headquarters, (Cortland County) located at 100 Grange Place, Cortland on Sunday May 21, 2023. Hosts: Barbara Lavier (phone 315-729-1787) and Bobbie Severson (phone 315-673-9927) - Counties – Chemung, Cortland, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Schuyler, Tioga, Tompkins

Region #3 – tentatively at Kirkland Grange #684 (Jefferson County) located at 43658 County Route 11, Redwood NY 13679-tentative date Sunday June 4, 2023 Host: Melvin Phelps (phone 315-778-6712) - Counties – Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, St. Lawrence

Region #4 – at Curriers Grange #1273 (Wyoming County) on Saturday June 17, 2023. Hosts: Laura Magram (phone 585-813-8238) and Tom Hebeisen (phone 716-680-2211) – Counties - Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Steuben, Wyoming,

Region #5 – at Wide Awake Grange #747 (Ontario County) on Saturday July 29, 2023 starting at noon with a potluck lunch. Hosts: Sharon Croucher (phone 315-573-3097) and Bobbie Severson (phone 315-673-9927) - Counties – Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Yates

Region #6 – at Brunswick Grange #1337 (Rensselaer County) Saturday July 22, 2023 Hosts: Alice Grimsley (phone 518-279-9113) and Sue Drake (phone 607-264-3069) –Counties – Albany, Essex, Fulton, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Washington

Region #7 – at Butternut Valley Grange # 1533 (Otsego County) located at 7 Bloom St., Gilbertsville on Saturday August 26, 2023. Hosts: Roberta Halbert

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NYS Grange Sesquicentennial
A Treasured Tradition With The Future in Focus
Here we are 2023 with a history reaching back to 1873. Its hard to imagine the conditions that existed when The New York State Grange was first organized. Many obstacles stood in the way of building a successful rural organization - no electricity, telephones, computers, paved roads, motorized vehicles to name but a few. Our first State Grange leaders persisted and through hard work built The New York State Grange into a thriving presence in New York State. As we "Focus on the Future" we must have this same type of persistence. We must focus on inviting and welcoming others into our Grange family. Following the time of isolation and lack of community gatherings due to the covid pandemic, our Granges and Grange members can take the lead in organizing community events and asking our friends and neighbors to join us in helping to solve the problems and address issues in our local communities. As you engage others in helping with your Grange activities, make membership applications readily available. Programs open to the public, participation in some of the Family Activities Contests open to nonmembers, assisting with Community Service projects, and helping with fundraisers to support your local Grange are all opportunities for membership promotion. A simple offer of a membership application is so easy at any type of event. As our part in promoting and celebrating Grange membership, the Sesquicentennial Committee has scheduled a Degree Day at the State Grange Headquarters in Cortland for Saturday September 30, 2023. The First through Fifth Degrees will be given that day. We hope this event will inspire you to invite someone to join the Grange. Many members have not seen the Degrees presented and this will be a chance for them, as well as new members, to hear the beautiful language and reflect on the important lessons of these Degrees. This year is special because members will be able to receive the Sixth Degree (State Degree) and Seventh Degree (National Degree) in New York State. The last time this was possible was in 2004 in Rochester. You are encouraged to make inviting others to become Grange members a priority this year. Our future depends on it.

More candles have been added to our fundraising traveling 150th Birthday cake. Can we reach our goal of 150 candles on the cake? That is up to you. The following have been recognized with a candle on the cake: David F. and Sandra K. Stoy, In memory of Allan Henderson by Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Germain, Allan Henderson, Dutchess County Pomona Grange #32. Forms for ordering candles can be downloaded from the New York State Grange web site at <https://nysgrange.org> under Events/ NYS Grange Sesquicentennial. Also, you can call Roberta Halbert at 607-783-2445 and she will send an order form.

The Sesquicentennial Committee wants you to join in celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the NYS Grange. Rather than just having one celebration at the State Grange Annual Meeting there are eight Regional Celebrations scheduled at various locations around New York State. You are invited and encouraged to attend one or all of these Regional Celebrations. The complete schedule is listed elsewhere in this paper. The programs at these gatherings will vary but most important, we want you to feel that you are a part of and have enjoyed celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the New York State Grange.
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, if they could, would mail YOU a special invitation inviting YOU to attend one of our Regional 150th Celebrations. We hope that this invitation will be a good alternative. Please come to one of these first gatherings to help celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the New York State Grange. Although we have listed what counties will be involved, all are welcome to come to any of the Celebrations. Remember to bring photographs for the 150th NYS Grange Photo Album.

Our first 150th Regional Celebration will be held on Saturday May 13, 2023 at Freedom Plains Grange #857 in Dutchess County at 2pm. The Sesquicentennial Committee member hosting is Ryan Orton – phone 845-868-7869. Members and friends are especially invited to attend from the following counties - Columbia, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester. Remember, all are welcome no matter what county you are from.

Also in May a 150th Regional Celebration will be held on Sunday May 21, 2023 at the State Grange Headquarters in Cortland. Sesquicentennial Committee members hosting are Barbara Lavier-phone 315-662-7758 and Roberta Severson – phone 315-673-9927. Please call them with any questions you may have about this event. We hope members and friends from the following counties will attend: Chemung, Cortland, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Tioga, Tompkins, and Schuyler. Those from other counties are encouraged and welcome to attend also.

The next 150th Regional Celebration is tentatively scheduled to be held at Kirkland Grange #684 located at 43658 County Route 11, Redwood, NY 13679 in Jefferson County. The tentative date is Sunday June 4, 2023. Please call Sesquicentennial Committee member Melvin Phelps- phone 315-778-6712 to confirm location and date. Grangers and friends are cordially invited from the following counties: Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, and St. Lawrence.

Later in June the Regional Celebration will be held at Curriers Grange #1273 in Wyoming County on Saturday June 17, 2023. Sesquicentennial Committee members hosting are Laura Magram – phone 585-813-8238 – and Tom Hebeisen – phone 716-680-2211. Grangers and friends from Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Steuben, and Wyoming Counties are especially invited but all are welcome.

We will be putting together a photo album of the 150th Regional Celebrations as well as the other Sesquicentennial events. It is our hope that every Grange will have a photo of their hall or Grange activity in this album. It will be a place for those in the future to see what Granges and Grangers were doing in 2023. To make this a reality we are asking that someone from each Grange represented at one of the Regional Celebrations bring a photograph with accompanying caption of their Grange Hall, Grange event/activity, or both. No Grange should be left out. Make sure your Grange is represented in the 150th State Grange Photo Album.

The full 150th Regional Celebration

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New Grange Members

Albany Co.

Bethlehem#137

Kathleen Allmond-Glywa
Alan Columbus Jr.
Gretchen Ingerdoll

Allegany Co.

Almond #1102

Alexandra Ormsby

Columbia Co.

East Chatham#1066

Mary Gates
Heather Graham
Marian Pirrone
Raphaela Seward-Mayer
Elizabeth Ciesielczyk
Christa MacDonald
Robin MacDonald

Copake #935

Frederique Abramocici

Amy Clifford

Benedict Gedaminski

Victor Goode

Nancy Keness

Judith Meiselman

Catherine Mikic

Norma Ramos

Monique Rinere

Cathy Robertson

Delaware Co.

Walton# 1454

Nikki Gransbury

DeLaura Manzer

Savannah Reynolds

Nichole Reynolds

Samantha Wong

Dutchess Co.

Stanford #808

Robert Hudson

Genesee Co.

East Pembroke #1157

Brooke Harman

Jefferson Co.

Dexter#724

James Babcock

Steven Bates

James Gould

Chad King

Rachel King

Maurice Mitchell

Bethany Shanahan

Michael Shanahan II

Jeffrey Timerman

Orange Co.

Hamptonburgh #950

Christopher Whitney

Owego Co.

Sandy Creek #127

Michele Alagna

Amanda Auringer

Daniel Sue

Leah Washburn

Steffin Washburn

Otsego Co.

Pierstown # 793

Prudence Jackson

Butternut Valley #1533

Lois Kellas

Putnam Co.

Putnam Valley #841

Laura Sansone

Steuben Co.

North Cameron #355

Patricia Warner

Tompkins Co.

Enfield Valley #295

Daniel Kidney

LisbetRattenborg

Linda VanNederynen

Westchester Co.

Yorktown #862

Cynthia Clark

Elanore Clark

Timothy Clark

Bri Hart

The National Grange is pleased to announce the Recognition Program. This program is designed to recognize and honor the families of Grange members who have made significant contributions to their communities and the State of New York. Each family nominated for national recognition. Each family nominated will receive a certificate and a featured article in the National Convention. More about the families will also be published in the National Grange magazine. Nominations is September 10, 2024 and should be sent to the

USDA Funds Processing Capacity Expansion

Projects in 21 states are set to receive funding to expand the number of processing facilities available to livestock producers. The \$223 million from the American Rescue Plan will be distributed in the form of loans, grants and technical assistance for small to mid-size plants to expand beef, pork and mixed processing capacity at the local level. The National Grange has long advocated for local processing capacity expansion.

Major Food Companies Commit to Regenerative Agriculture

A consortium of twelve food companies including PepsiCo, Mars, and McDonalds will promote practices that encompass regenerative agriculture as a climate change mitigation tool. Converting to regenerative practices is a financial risk for farmers and ranchers who may have to buy new equipment and additional seed, fuel and labor. The current commodity market does not provide incentives to incur that cost. The consortium is looking at buying, perhaps at a premium, only commodities that have been grown using sustainable production practices such as cover crops, no-till and other carbon-capture methods.

Carbon Capture Pipeline

Several companies are planning thousands of miles of pipelines to transport liquid carbon dioxide throughout the Midwest to carbon sequestration sites. Companies report steady progress in obtaining voluntary easements, but the projects still face fierce opposition from many property owners along the proposed routes. In Iowa, 80% of the state's residents oppose the use of eminent domain for carbon dioxide pipelines. An Iowa State University study last year indicated yields on pipeline ground were down 25% for soybeans and 15% for corn during the first two seasons compared to undisturbed fields.

You Want to Tax What?

Farmers across New Zealand have taken to the streets to protest government plans to tax the methane gas and nitrous oxide coming from both ends of 10 million beef and dairy cows, 26 million sheep and other ruminants. The new "burp tax" is part of the New Zealand government's plan to tackle climate change. The prime minister said money collected from the levy would fund research, new technology and incentive payments to farmers.

New Antibiotics Needed

The National Grange joined patient groups and the medical community to urge Congress to pass the PASTEUR Act in an end of year legislative package. Under PASTEUR, the federal government would enter into contracts with innovators to develop a reliable supply of novel antimicrobials to counter antibiotic resistance. The government would only pay for development of successful FDA approved treatments to combat super bugs. For several years, the medical community has been concerned with the growing crisis of antibiotic resistance. New antibiotics are urgently needed to counter resistance.

Extend Telehealth Benefits

A popular provision in the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act expires at the end of this year. It allows employers and health plans to offer telehealth services pre-deductible. The National Grange, employers, patient advocates, health care companies and consumer groups are asking Congress to extend this benefit in a year-end legislative package. An impressive total of 358 groups have joined this effort.

National Rural Health Day

The National Grange celebrated National Rural Health Day November 17 at its annual convention in Sparks, Nevada. Events included interviews with NBC and Fox News, and a presentation by Jeff Winton, founder and CEO of Rural Minds on rural suicide prevention and rural mental health awareness. The Biden administration reaffirmed its commitment to helping those in rural, Tribal and geographically isolated regions get access to high-quality, equitable medical care

New Protection for Honeybees

The USDA has approved a conditional license for a vaccine to protect honeybees from the deadly American foulbrood disease. The vaccine, developed by Dolan Animal Health, could serve as a breakthrough to protect bee colonies. American foulbrood disease is highly contagious and has no cure. The vaccine contains an inactive version of the bacteria that causes foulbrood and is incorporated into a royal jelly feed given to the queen bee by worker bees. This gives her offspring, the young bee larvae, immunity to the disease as they hatch.

Smuggled Eggs in Your Pan

U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel are reporting a rise in attempted egg smuggling at the Mexican border. They attribute the increase in smuggling to a 59.9% spike in U.S. egg prices over the past year. U.S. egg production is down sharply as the result of the massive outbreak of deadly avian flu among American flocks. Eggs must be inspected and originate from disease free flocks to enter the U.S.

Farm Bill Process Begins

The new chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, G.T. Thompson (R-PA), and several bipartisan members of his committee held a farm bill listening session at the recent Pennsylvania Farm Show. Afterwards Chairman Thompson said that, in addition to the commodity title, his committee would focus on crop insurance, cost inflation, nutritional assistance, rural broadband, and agriculture research.

FCC Guidance Needed for Rural Broadband

Barriers such as rights-of-way, poll attachment fees, slow permitting and other bar-

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Junior members receive awards at National Session



Paige Darling in age group 5-7 received first place in the National Junior Art Contest and third place in the National Junior Handy Craft-String Art.

Cody Bolton, age 11-14 received first place in National Junior Photo-



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riers are slowing rural broadband deployment projects. The National Grange wrote Federal Communications Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel in late January to urge the Commission to issue its long-awaited guidance document addressing these barriers. Until these barriers are mitigated, rural broadband is at risk of falling behind for the funding provided in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

New Broadband Coverage Maps Challenged

The Federal Communications Commission spent most of the past year creating its own country-wide maps of locations deemed to have access to high speed broadband. Once the new maps were released, the FCC asked for challenges to the accuracy of the new data by January 13. Almost 350,000 challenges were received. So, if you or your neighbors do not currently have high-speed internet, contact your state broadband agency to be sure you are listed correctly on the new map of your area. For example, in Vermont the FCC says about 59,000 people are unserved or underserved. But the Vermont Community Broadband Board says it's well over 10,000 addresses that are unserved or underserved. Several lawmakers have called for a 60 day extension to the challenge process to give states more time to verify and submit accurate data. Similar feedback is coming from Georgia, Kansas, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, West Virginia and others.

Post Office Improves Ballot Delivery

The 2022 midterm elections saw 98.6 percent of the 54.4 million ballots delivered within three days according to U.S.P.S. Postmaster General DeJoy. Extra collections and deliveries were made, special pick-ups were established, processing facilities expanded their hours, and expedited deliveries were made to boards of elections.

John Deere Takes a Step

The John Deere Company and the American Farm Bureau have signed a memorandum of understanding that could enable farmers and ranchers to repair their own equipment. Though the MOU has no legal standing, it agrees to provide access to parts, tools, software and documentation to perform repair and maintenance by equipment owners and their independent mechanics. Time will tell if additional equipment manufacturers will follow suit to support owner repair and maintenance.

The Electric Vehicle Debate

Farmers, ranchers and rural Americans in general seem to be skeptical about electric vehicles. Americans, and rural residents more specifically, are leery of EV milage range. Despite rapid improvements in battery capacity, internal combustion engines are the only practical choice for country people at this time. Recharging stations for EVs are scarce and will be built last in rural locations. Electrification is not practical yet for large equipment like farm equipment. The price of EVs is tempering sales, especially in a down economy. It may be a decade or several before EVs outnumber internal combustion engine vehicles on the road.

"When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around." ~ **Willie Nelson**

"A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues." ~ **Cicero**

"Thank you is the best prayer anyone could say." ~ **Alice Walker**

"We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives." ~ **John F. Kennedy**

(Continued from page 5)

schedule is listed elsewhere in this paper.

Anniversary or birthday celebrations usually include gifts. Have you considered giving the gift of Grange membership? What a gift for the New York State Grange and your own local Grange if you could give the gift of Grange membership to someone this year. What a gift if we could have the auditorium of the State Grange Headquarters in Cortland overflowing with candidates and those who have not seen the first five degrees on Saturday September 30, 2023.

2023 marks the 150th year that the New York State Grange has existed. The organizational meeting of the New York State Grange was held on November 6, 1873 in Syracuse. The culmination of the 150th Regional Celebrations and Degree Day will be the Sesquicentennial themed events at the New York State Grange Annual Meeting in October of this year. Plan on attending and celebrating this milestone achievement!

There is still room on our traveling fundraising 150th Birthday Cake for more candles recognizing Granges and Grangers. Red candles are \$10, blue candles are \$25, green candles are \$50, and pink candles are

\$100. Forms for ordering candles can be downloaded from the New York State Grange web site at <https://nysgrange.org> under Events/ NYS Grange Sesquicentennial. Also, you can call Roberta Halbert at 607-783-2445 and she will send an order form. Sesquicentennial Co-chairs Roberta Halbert 607-783-2445, Susan Drake 607-264-3069

(Continued from page 5) Sesquicentennial Regionals

(phone 607-783-2445) and Sue Drake (phone 607-264-3069) - Counties - Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego

DEGREE DAY – at NEW YORK STATE GRANGE HEADQUARTERS SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 FIRST THROUGH FIFTH DEGREES WILL BE GIVEN Bring your candidates, new members, and those who have not seen the degrees.

Education Aid

The following are Financial Aid opportunities for members of the Grange:

- DeNise Agriculture Scholarship is available to Grange, FFA and 4-H members who are pursuing a career in an agriculture related field
- The June Gill Nursing Scholarship - trust established by a Grange member for Grangers pursuing a career in nursing
- The Caroline Kark Award—trust fund established by Grange for Grangers interested in a career in working with deaf or hearing impaired people
- Susan Freestone Award—established for Junior Grangers seeking higher education in New York State
- Grange Student Loan Fund—established for Grange members as college financial aid. Low interest loans to be repaid after graduation.
- Cornell Grange Scholarship is granted through Cornell University based on determined financial need. This scholarship was started with a grant from the New York State Grange, and is for students accepted into the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, preferably for students who are members of the Grange, or whose family members are or have been Grange members. Forward letter of request to New York State Grange Office by June 1st (see page 4 for address)
Applications for all awards are available from the New York State Grange Headquarters.

Application Deadline is April 15

National Grange

The National Grange convened in Sparks, Nevada for the second time in its history. The *Biggest News* was the announcement that the National Grange had achieved a net gain in membership. It has been 67 years since the last net gain had occurred. This was due to a number of states achieving membership gains. It is possible.

There were 16 new delegates to the National Session this year. It is good that states are electing new leadership. Interest in the Grange is growing and new ideas abound.

One of the highlights of the previous several conventions is the presentation of "Quilts of Valor". Veterans of all of the armed services are eligible to receive this recognition. Eleven were awarded at this session. If any Grange is interested in this program the National Lecturer will be happy to assist. If you google "Quilts of Valor", I am sure you will find local contacts.

The annual "Salute to Agriculture" luncheon gave the delegates interesting information about agriculture in the state of Nevada from the Dean of the college of Agriculture, Bio-Technology and Natural Resources for the State of Nevada. Dr. Payne recently moved from Ethiopia where he collaborated with International Centers for Agriculture Research. Dr. Payne was originally from the state of Indiana. He has a great deal of experience in working in dry areas. Nevada is the driest state in the United States. One example is that 100,000 acres is required to raise 400 head of cattle in a grazing operation.

Dudley W. Adams and Mortimer Whitehead were this year's inductees in the National Grange Hall of Fame. Adams was the second Master of the National Grange. During his tenure as Mater of the Iowa State Grange there was a hundred fold increase in the number of Granges in the state. Mortimer Whitehead served as National Lecturer from 1877-1879 and from 1886—1893. He was a prolific writer and did

several pamphlets and articles for the Grange. He was also very involved in the Granges push for Rural Free Delivery.

Jeff Winton presented a workshop on his foundation "Rural Minds". Rural Minds is on a mission to be the informed voice for mental health in rural America and seeks to provide mental health information and resources. Roughly 65 million Americans live in rural America. Rural Minds' vision is a rural America with no more silence, suffering or stigma around mental health. Who better for him to partner with than the Grange whose roots are in the heart of America?

The youth of the Grange were also involved in the National Grange session. Youth officers opened the Grange on Friday and did an excellent job. Members from five different state filled the chairs.

Autumn Whitaker of Booneville, North Carolina and Gail Switzer of West Chester, Pennsylvania were the newly selected as Outstanding Young Patrons. Nettie Hartley of North Scituate, Rhode Island was selected as Junior Ambassador.

The awards night saw many Grangers receiving awards. Several Families were recognized as "Legacy Families". This recognition is given to families with five or more generations of Grange members. The Campbell family, PA; Clack Family, OR; The Driscoll/Foster/Barber/Tucker Family, CA; Pensinger Family, PA; Shaffer Family, PA; and Vetter Family, WA all had five generations. The Trupp Family, OR had six generations. The National Grange Communications director presented "Connector" awards, given for spreading the news about Grange. Sharon Croucher, NY, Tricia Eidesmoe, MI, The Illinois State Grange, Lois Allen VT and Molly Newman, KS were this year's winners. Distinguished State Grange Awards were presented to Maryland, Oregon, and Pennsylvania.

Rural Minds

Rural Minds is on a mission to be the informed voice for mental health in rural America and seeks to provide mental health information and resources. Roughly 65 million Americans live in rural America. Rural Minds' vision is a rural America with no more silence, suffering or stigma around mental health. Who better for him to partner with than the Grange whose roots are in the heart of America?

Jeff Winton, the founder of Rural Minds is a New York citizen from Chautauqua County. It seems that the Granges of New York should do all they can to help him achieve his mission as described above. He is already partnering with the National Grange and with "Farm-Net" which has a similar mission for farmers. Farm-Net is working out of Cornell University.

There has been a good amount of activity so far. Jeff presented at the New York State Grange session this past October. He also presented to the recent Youth Weekend at Cuba Grange.

At this time there is a presentation scheduled at Falcon's Nest Banquet Hall, 2001 East Main Street, Falconer, NY This is the former Ross Grange Hall. The date is March 13, at 1:30 PM. The meeting is open to all and no advance reg-

istration is needed.

On March 31, at 8:00 PM, Clifton Springs Grange is sponsoring a presentation at the Clifton Springs Library, 4 Railroad Avenue, Clifton Springs NY. The seating is limited to 100 people. Jeff will also be part of a panel discussion at the Radio Station at WXXI in Rochester, NY Please think about getting involved.

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

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

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