

# THE EMPIRE STATE GRANGER



**Our Vision!**

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



July August 2023

## President's Column

Stephen C. Coye



In progress, as we write, is the year-long celebration of the Sesquicentennial of the New York State Grange. The regional Birthday Parties are underway, and the culminating event will be held at the annual State Grange Session in October. This is truly a remarkable time in the life of Grange in this state. One can only wonder if the Founders had any idea at all that their efforts would result in the longevity that we are witnessing today. During the past 150 years we have seen a wide array of societal changes, which are moving at a greater pace today than in previous generations. One thing that will not change however, is the need for food, the land on which to produce it, and manpower needed to produce, process, and deliver it. The technologies to do all of this have and will continue to change, most of the time for the better, but the basics remain the same. Though our membership presently does not consist of as high of a percentage of those actively engaged in agricultural production as in previous times, it nonetheless continues to develop solid agricultural policy for the benefit of all.

We would encourage you to make is a point to attend one of the regional Birthday Parties and reflect with others the things that we did as an organization that brought us to where we are to-

day, 150 years removed from the group of 20+ members that gathered together in Syracuse on November 6, 1873 to institute in the State of New York the statewide body that would carry policies developed from local Granges to the seats of power in this state. By the time the first annual session rolled around in February of 1874, its influence was already being felt, though the membership was not large. I think what we need to take from these historical accounts is that common everyday folks that were leading the State Grange, as well as the local subordinate units, were looking ahead and suggesting policies that would advance their lot in life, and thus by extension make their communities and greater communities a better place to live. These folks didn't have the luxury of history, to help them determine what works and/or doesn't work. We have that luxury, but we need to be careful not to live in it. Perhaps at least one of the reasons we are at this point in our organization's life is because we haven't done that as a general rule, though the temptation is always there, and always strong.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Sesquicentennial Committee, Co-Chaired by Sue Drake and Roberta Halbert, for their hours of hard work and monthly meetings to put together these very fitting celebration year events. The dates/times of the remaining birthday parties can be found in this publication, as well as on our website. (<https://nysgrange.org>) The Committees chosen theme: *A treasured tradition with the future in focus* could not be more appropriate. The culminating celebratory event will take place at the State Session in October. We hope that many of you can join us along the way and possibly at Session to participate in this memorable occasion. Some relate that the Grange has stood the test of time, however it would be better to view ourselves as standing the test of time, as it is always good to remember, that the Grange, or any other organization for that matter, is never more than one generation from extinction. Let us continue to stand – with the future in focus.

## Scholarships

### Elizabeth Delletta Schieferstine

Elizabeth Schieferstine resides in Vernon, New York and is the daughter of Jacob and Stephanie Schieferstine. She has two siblings, Rebecca and Alexander. Elizabeth attended Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Central School and graduated with honors. She was a member of the National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, and achieved High Honor Roll throughout her high school career.

Elizabeth received many awards including Rotary Club Award, Discovery Degree, Star Greenhand Award, Star Chapter Award and Empire Degree.

Elizabeth was a member of Country Kids 4-H where she served as Club Officer. She learned parliamentary procedure skills, developed leadership skills, and advanced her public speaking knowledge.

Elizabeth is a member of the New York State Future Farmers Association, State Office. She serves as Treasurer. Her duties include facilitating workshops, delivering keynote speeches and assisting staff with running the organization. Elizabeth is also a member of the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill FFA Chapter Office holding the offices of Secretary and President. As Secretary, she prepares and transmits chapter meeting minutes and correspondence and mentors FFA members. As President Elizabeth runs officer and chapter meetings, manages chapter projects and assists with preparing news releases and social media posts.

Elizabeth served as a Learn to Play Coach with Rome Youth Hockey. She coached peers and beginners, learned child development characteristics and enhanced personal intercommunication skills.

Elizabeth is known for her maturity, honesty and being a hardworking, responsible individual. She is both a leader and mentor.

Elizabeth will attend college in the fall pursuing a degree in Animal Science and Business.

### Mila Elizabeth Flynn Berg

Mila Berg resides in Beacon, New York and is the daughter of Christopher and Erin Berg. She has one brother, Finn. Mila attended Oakwood Friends School and graduated with a GPA of 3.95. This achievement earned her Independent Status, an award given to students with high GAPs.

Mila has had a "longstanding curiosity about animals." She has been surrounded by animals her entire life. She became fascinated with chickens at a young age and later became interested in working with equine, sheep and cattle. She visited Cornell for Dairy Discovery where she learned about dairy genetics, economics, hoof trimming, and artificial insemination. This experience reinforced her excitement for studying Animal Science.

Mila has served in many roles and groups with Stony Ground 4-H Group, serving as President for the past four years. These groups include the 4-H Chicken Group, 4-H Sheep Group, 4-H Canine Group as well as serving as 4-H Teen Ambassador for the past year. She enjoys being involved in her community as it helps to broaden knowledge about other people's experiences and cultures and allows her to share her passion with others.

Mila attended the Fresh Air Fund Sumer Camp at Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill, New York. There she was a Junior Camper and Education Assistant. This is a camp that allows underserved New York City children to attend a free sleepaway camp and learn about things like animals, gardening, and agriculture. Mila enjoyed teaching and mentoring children who had never experienced life outside the city.

Mila has been referred to as being "intelligent, dedicated and enthusiastic, with a work ethic that is unparalleled in someone her age," "a capable and knowledgeable role model and mentor," having "both people and animals benefit from her calming and peaceful approach." While serving in the Stony Ground 4-H, she has won numerous awards for her knowledge and showmanship abilities with poultry, sheep and canines. She was the Elite Showmanship Champion at the Dutchess County Fair.

Mila will attend Cornell University in the fall where she will pursue a degree in Animal Science with a Pre-Vet concentration.

### Colin Jeffrey Phelps

Colin Phelps resides in Callicoon, New York and is the son of Kirt and Jenny Phelps. He has one sister, Maylee. Colin attended Sullivan West Central High School where his main interests were Social Studies, English and Algebra. He was a member of the Ski Club, Ski Team, and Golf Team. Colin also attended the Sullivan County Career and Technical Education



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# Legislative State Grange Secretary

## Column

Cindy Benson-Pollard

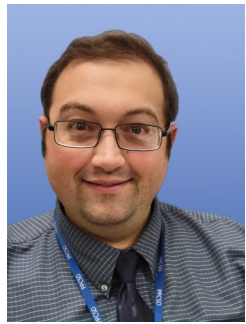


Summer is finally here. The warm weather brings us out of our houses to enjoy the sunshine and fresh air. Our Grange activities pick up this time of year. Why not share what your Grange is doing legislatively to help your community.

The State Legislature has completed its work this year. At least for now. It was an interesting term. We had a few issues that we worked on. Only a few made it through to the Governor's desk. We were successful if gaining support for regulation of solar use on farmland, eligibility for Seniors for the EPIC insurance program and right to repair legislation. As of this writing, there is one more bill that we are waiting to be sent to the Governor. Please be on the lookout for an email blast asking for your support of our legislative efforts.

Over the summer months, we will be following the negotiations regarding the new farm bills. Many organizations have made their suggestions known to those members of Congress who will be directly involved in the negotiations. Most of them agree that there needs to be some change to the federal milk marketing system and the maintaining of the nutrition programs. The Grange has a strong policy on issues that will be addressed in the farm bill negotiations. I ask that you contact your local representative and let him know what our position is. If you need help writing a letter, please let me know, I will be glad to help. Please be sure to mark your calendar for our annual legislative day. This will be held on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at our headquarters in Cortland. I will be sending a letter to Granges to remind everyone of the date and who may be speaking.

A reminder to be sure that resolutions are sent to me by September 1<sup>st</sup>. This allows me time to get them typed and ready for distribution. Thank you to those who have forwarded some to me already.



Ryan Orton

It's time to begin planning for the Annual State Grange Session! By now, the following information has been received by each Pomona Grange in New York: The 151<sup>st</sup> Annual Session of the New York State Grange is to be hosted by Onondaga County Pomona Grange #12 & Wayne County Pomona Grange #34. The Session will be held from October 13 – 17 at the Auburn Holiday Inn; 75 North Street; Auburn, NY 13021 (Cayuga County).

The room rate will be \$129 per night (plus 13% tax), and this rate includes breakfast. The reservation cut-off date is Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Check in time is 3 p.m., and check out time is 11 a.m. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at (315) 253-4531 and asking for the room block under the name New York State Grange Meeting.

There will be one meal function for the entire Grange Family on Friday evening, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Those arrangements are pending and will be shared later from Elaine Smith, State Overseer, who will be handling notification and meal reservations. The Conferral of the Sixth Degree will be on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

The Delegate selection process is outlined in the New York State Grange By-Laws – Article II, Section 2.2: "For each Pomona Grange, a Delegate-at-Large and one other Delegate and a pair of Delegates from the available Subordinates for every 100 members or major fraction thereof." Delegates are eligible to serve only if their Grange is current in dues to State Grange with the submission of the March 2023 Quarterly Report and Dues. State Officers, Deputies, and Junior Deputies cannot serve as Delegates to State Session.

Pomona Secretaries: Please return the Delegates Form by Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> to me at my home address: 218 Attlebury Hill Road; Stanfordville, NY 12581. The forms now ask for phone numbers and e-mail addresses for all Delegates. This is for potential virtual Committee Meetings prior to State Session. Also, please note if any of your Delegates are first time Delegates to State Grange. All Delegates are reminded that

a registration fee of \$5 will be collected during registration upon arrival in Auburn on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Executive Committee invites Pomona Granges alphabetically from Livingston to Wyoming to provide an item that can be included on the Silent Auction Table for 2023. We appreciate the willingness of these Pomonas to participate in this Annual Fundraiser.

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

4 New Members: Mount Hope Grange #902 (Dutchess County) Millers Mills Grange #581 (Herkimer County)  
3 New Members; Corinth Grange #823 (Saratoga County)  
2 New Members: Smithville Valley Grange #1397 (Chenango County) Cuyler Grange #449 (Cortland County)  
1 New Member: Freedom Plains Grange #857 (Dutchess County)  
Kirkland Grange #684 (Jefferson County)  
Ricard Grange #993 (Oswego County)  
Yorktown Grange #862 (Westchester County)

## Chaplain's Corner



Virginia L. Conner

### FAITHFUL

I get such a kick out of watching our four barn cats. They have a routine that never changes. Each morning when the cats see the cellar entrance light come on, they leave the barn and approach the cellar door. When Roger goes out, the cats are waiting to greet him with tails in the air like flags waving that say, "Good morning, I'm ready for food!". Roger speaks to each one by name and then they lead him to the shop door where they know their kitty food is stored. They patiently wait outside and when he emerges, they lead him to the next stop which is to start the tractor in the shed. Again they patiently wait till he emerges to proceed to the next building where they are fed. At this point they are running and zip into the building, once again leading Roger to their food dishes!

Recently while watching this every day routine, it made me think of my relationship with the Lord. Am I that faithful in running/approaching the Lord each and every day to get my "food" for the day? I have to be honest and admit that other distractions

interrupt that routine and before I realize it, I am into the day without proper spiritual nourishment. A day begun like this typically does not go well.

We humans need spiritual food and how do we get it? By reading God's Word, the Bible. As it says in I Peter 2:2, "As newborn babes, we long for the spiritual milk of the Word so that we may grow". Psalm 119:103, "God's Word is sweeter than honey to my mouth". Also His Word is a source of joy, restraint, guide and so much more.

Are you faithful in reading God's Word? Let the spiritual food lead and guide you through each day.

Our Grange Family sends sympathy to Nelson Eddy and family, Jefferson County on the passing of Mary.



## Family Activities

Brenda Noble



We had a great Lecturers/Family Activities Weekend. There were more entries in Crafts and Needlework than last year. I thank everyone for their entries. Results of judging are as follows: *Woodworking* 1<sup>st</sup> Donald Hamilton – Onondaga Co., 2<sup>nd</sup> Viola Horton – Steuben Co., 3<sup>rd</sup> Brian Campbell – Wayne Co., HM Donna Drorack – Otsego Co.; *Quilted Wall Hanging* 1<sup>st</sup> Cathy Stark – Dutchess Co., 2<sup>nd</sup> Lori White – Otsego Co., 3<sup>rd</sup> Jackie Campbell – Wayne Co., HM Rhonda Davis – Jefferson Co.; *Baby Quilt Machine Done* 1<sup>st</sup> Mary Gates – Columbia Co., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sharon Burdick – Jefferson Co.; *Baby Quilt Hand Done* 1<sup>st</sup> Anna Ritchey – Otsego Co.; *Regular Afghan* 1<sup>st</sup> Roberta Hamilton – Onondaga Co., 2<sup>nd</sup> Pat VanLare – Wayne Co., 3<sup>rd</sup> Julia Tarbell – Genesee Co, HM Marlene Stanton – Albany Co.; *Baby Afghan* 1<sup>st</sup> Letitia Pickering – Monroe Co., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sara Dobbins – Dutchess Co., 3<sup>rd</sup> Sandra Tabor-Hunkins – Otsego Co., HM Pat VanLare – Wayne Co.; *Doilies* 1<sup>st</sup> Helen Horth – Chautauqua Co., 2<sup>nd</sup> Charlotte Brenon – Jefferson Co., 3<sup>rd</sup> Cindy Pollard – Onondaga Co., HM Mary Bolio – Dutchess Co.; *Plastic Canvas* 1<sup>st</sup> Linda Pile – Wyoming Co., 2<sup>nd</sup> Marlene Stanton – Albany Co., 3<sup>rd</sup> Lynn Conklin – Chenango Co.; *Baby Set* 1<sup>st</sup> Cindy Pollard – Onondaga Co.; *Embroidery/Cross Stitch* 1<sup>st</sup> Letitia

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2) Family Activities

Pickering – Monroe Co., 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Cathy Stark – Dutchess Co., 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Mindy Eldred - Chenango Co.,  
 HM Karen Wilcox – Jefferson  
 Co. *Stuffed Toy* 1<sup>st</sup> Charlotte  
 Brenon – Jefferson Co., 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Cathy Stark – Dutchess Co., 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Mindy Jo Eldred – Chenango  
 Co., HM Christie Adams – Lew-  
 is Co. *Holiday Ornament* Barba-  
 ra Lawton – Chenango Co., 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Maryanne Campbell – Otsego  
 Co., 3<sup>rd</sup> Charlotte Brenon – Jef-  
 ferson Co., HM Cathy Stark –  
 Dutchess Co., Junior 1<sup>st</sup> Gabby  
 Hubbard, Lewis Co.; *Tea Cup* 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Cindy Williams – Lewis Co., 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Lynne Conklin – Chenango Co.,  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Linda Pilc – Wyoming Co.,  
 HM Aleasha Fuchs – Wayne  
 Co., Junior 1<sup>st</sup> Gabby Hubbard –  
 Lewis Co.

I thank everyone who has submitted items to be sold for the Northeast Exposition. They are all appreciated and help with the running of the building. I hope everyone has a good Summer.

## Youth

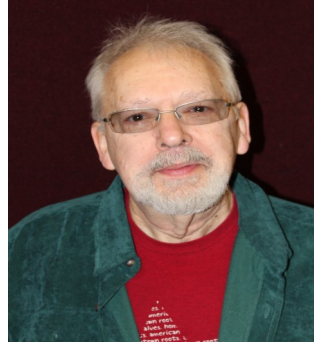
Johannah Stewart



The Youth are excited for summer! We are attending this year's North Eastern Youth Leadership Conference in Vermont July 15 and 16. It should be a great time of fun and fellowship. We are also planning to represent our state in the drill competition. This is a tradition which many of you participated in throughout the years. If you close your eyes I'm sure you can picture pinwheels and spirals, grand squares and the youth's signature move the box step. This program is particularly close to my heart since it brings together several of the key values of the Grange: teamwork, tradition, communication, education and fun. At this point, it's a tradition that has been lost in most of the country; we are the last region that still has this competition. For these reasons, and others, it is one of the pillars of the youth program. We work together to compete against our friends and rivals in other states. We work together to bring you, the Worthy Patrons of New York an opening drill you can be proud of each year at State Session. We also work together to build our own skills. We, the youth department, would be really excited to see this program expand. So, we challenge you, build a Junior, Subordinate or Pomona drill team. Learn some new moves. Work together as a team to defeat a neighboring team, the youth team or the State

officers. Let's get this state so on fire with this program that other states, or even the National Grange want to copy us. Contact me if you want to hear more about what we are doing or how you can write a drill today.

## Leadership Membership



Barton Snedaker

While observing our sheep getting their annual haircuts I was reminded of the time when I thought it would be a good DIY project for me. It wasn't! There was trauma and blood for all involved and I learned I was not a sheep shearer. Lest I be labeled a quitter, I did try it again the next year. It went slightly better but I still felt very sorry for the poor sheep. So I found a professional. When she was done - in two shakes of a lamb's tail - there was no blood and the sheep were not traumatized. That is a very good thing. She definitely knew what she was doing, I figured it must have taken her some time to become so confident, proficient and quick. I'm sure she did not start out as competent shearing as she was that day. As I watched the way the shearer worked it became clear that there was a correlation with leadership development in the Grange. I had discovered through my own two-year attempt that I was no good at it. But I had tried.

I thought - When it comes to leadership in the Grange much of that story is applicable. Rather than sit back thinking "I can't be that!" - especially without any attempt to try, I say "Put yourself out there." Will you have all the skills you'll need right away? No. Will there be other Grangers there to help you learn and develop? Yes. Will practice help you? Is it possible you will find out you can't do it? Yes, but it is also very possible you will find out that you can! What is the worst that could happen?

Most Granges hold election of officers every two years. If you truly believe you were not cut out for the office then you can choose not to run again. The experience, good or not, may help your development as a Granger. No Grange office is without merit and no Granger is unimportant. Do not take an office just because "it has nothing to do, but we need someone to be at the station." Could you find a better fit for yourself in your Grange or Pomona?

Starting somewhere around page 86 (at last in mine) of the

Manual are the installation ceremonies for all the elected officers in the Grange from President to the Executive Committee. Read through them and see what each officer is called upon to perform. Do any of the duties match your skills? Maybe that is the office for you. Perhaps one would be more suitable than another. I know many Grangers do not want to seek an office and instead let the office seek them. Knowing what an office's function is may help you decide how to go about attaining it. You are not going to get it if no one knows you want it. A delicate balance perhaps? At least you will know about an office and its duties, if it seeks you and you are asked to take it. If you are the person responsible for seeking candidates for office knowing the duties outlined in the installations may be beneficial for you, too.

The demands of an office are probably going to be different for each Grange and Grange level. Being a community Grange President is certainly different from being State President. The Assistant Stewards may have more responsibilities at each level, also.

You may determine that you are happy being a Granger in the fold. That is also an important role to fill. Helping plan a fundraiser or a community service project has its own leadership potential. Baking a pie or bringing a dish to a potluck is as important a responsibility as being an officer. Anything that you can do to assist your Grange and keep it viable in your community.

All you can ask of yourself is - Am I willing to give it a try? We can ask nothing more.

Over the last few weeks I had found myself thinking in single words that formed a list. The word list started as the formation of an idea for the Pomona booth at our county fair. Then I got an email from headquarters about the 2023 - 2024 handbook with the idea of "Rooted in the Future" as a possible theme. I found that a very forward thinking idea. Lo and behold my mental word list can be exactly connected to that theme. When we think about the history of Grange it keeps our minds in the past. That history is important but I strongly believe we need to be constantly considering the Grange in the present AND in the future. What it can and will be is up to each of us. The other possibility of a theme was the same as National Grange - "Raised. Right. Here". Either one would be an excellent option for the handbook theme. As of this writing I do not know which was chosen.

So here is my list, in no specific order and certainly not exhaustive:

You can start reading the list by adding an introduction.

Grange is: Grange can be: Grange should be: My Grange is: and so on.

Civility. Respect. Cooperation. Spirit. Faith. Reverent. Humanitarian. Service. Patriotic. Individualistic. Historic. Fraternal. Connected. Grass roots. Creative. Mindful. Democratic (with a lowercase d). Inclusive. Supportive. Community. Important. Community based. Rural advocacy. Politically active (non-partisan). Beneficial. Rewarding. Non-sectarian. Educational. Attractive. Valued. Inter-generational. Ritual. Neighborly. Relevant. Vision. Vibrant. Charitable. Worthwhile. Special. Robust. Note-worthy. Able. Fidelity. Exciting

I think I can add Right and Here, too. Those words certainly reflect a continuation of my thought process.

Now, think about your own Community Grange. How many of those words can you apply to your Grange? Remember to think of them as current descriptions or actions of your Grange. You can also consider them as what you would like your Grange to be. Are there words you can add? I certainly hope so! Can any of them be used to form a mission statement for your Grange?

Now, think of ways you can use these words to present your Grange to possible new members in your community. Could some of them be used to encourage new leadership? Perhaps using these words - as well as some of your own - will help you firmly root your Grange in its own future. Good luck!

## Sports



Director Bruce Dehmer

We held the dart ball tournament April 30<sup>th</sup> and the results were very interesting. Going into the final game all 4 teams were tied at 4 and 4. This meant we had to hold one game playoffs for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place. Final results:

I will have signup sheets for corn hole at all sporting events and we do need to know how many teams we have so sign up as soon as possible by giving me an email bcd221@yahoo.com or call 315-852-6460. Want to tell everyone to have fun and get some teams signed up.



Dutchess Co. Pomona 1<sup>st</sup>

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## Junior Grange



The end of the school year is near. Children of all ages will be looking for things to do this summer. Has your Junior Grange planned activities over the summer to help get these children into your Grange Hall or meeting facility? One thing that you could do is have an event to teach about Deaf/Hard of Hearing Awareness. This is the Focus Point for the National Junior Grange Program. Two parts to this program are the Creative Art Contest and the Deaf Awareness Service Project. Here is the information on each of these programs:

### CREATIVE ART POSTER CONTEST

**THEME:** Deaf Awareness  
The National Junior Grange is working to help bring awareness about the deaf and hard of hearing community to your community by creating a poster on deaf/hard of hearing awareness.

#### Rules:

- 1) Must be a Junior Grange Member
- 2) Maximum Art size is 8.5 x 11
- 3) May use any medium they choose (i.e., crayons, pencil, markers, paint, etc.)
- 4) Each entry must be labeled on the back with an index card stating, in clear handwriting or typed, the following information:
  - a. Name
  - b. Age (and birthdate)
  - c. State
  - d. Grange name and number
  - e. Mailing address

Submissions must be post-marked by September 1st of current year to be entered into National Competition.

AGE: Will be broken down into 3 age categories:

Group 1: 5-7, Group 2: 8-10, Group 3: 11-14

Judging will be based on creativity, originality, and use of theme.

### Deaf Awareness Service Project

Through the deaf awareness service project your Grange/Junior Grange will have the opportunity to choose one or more of the following events to support the deaf community and serve as a committee to help bring awareness to deaf culture within your own communities.

You may work together with your Subordinate and/or Junior

Grange to host one of the following events.

Start a Sign-Language Club in your school/Grange/Community to teach children about sign-language and encourage them to learn the language.

Host a silent dinner where the patrons are only allowed to sign and there is no talking allowed without sign during the dinner.

Host a deaf movie night- there are several ASL films all in sign-language or other movies about deaf culture. Gather to watch these movies with only closed captioning and no sound.

Host a deaf coffee chat at a local coffee shop, restaurant, or Grange Hall and invite the deaf to come and have a sign-language social.

Host a fund-raiser event to raise funds for the Grange Foundation Deaf Activities fund  
If your Junior Grange is interested in doing any of these activities and would like some help, please reach out to me. I am very excited to help your Junior Grange embark with this very important program.

Another opportunity for the Junior Grange members to have fun together and to spend time with other children from the community is the New York State Grange Camp's "Kids Day Out" events happening this summer. If you have not received the information about this program, please check the New York State Grange website or reach out to me for more information. Ryan Orton and I are looking forward to seeing all of our Junior Grange and Youth members at these events around New York State.

As always, if I can help you in any way or attend an event that your Grange is putting on, please let me know. I would love the opportunity to come and participate in any event that your Junior Grange is hosting.

## Kids Days Out

Sponsored by the New York State Grange  
Camp Program

For Children aged 7 – 17 years  
(5 – 6 years old if parent attends with child)  
**\$10.00 per child**

Allegany County

**July 8, 2023** – Wide Awake Grange, 1004 NY-88, Phelps, NY 14532

Ontario County

**July 13, 2023** – East Chatham Grange (to be held at the East Chatham Fire Department), 14 Frisbee St, East Chatham, NY 12060

Columbia County

**July 18, 2023** – Smithville Valley Grange, 5285 NY-41, Greene, NY 13778

Chenango County

**August 10, 2023** – Champion Grange, 20323 County Route 47, Carthage, NY 13619

Jefferson County

**August 11, 2023** – East Pembroke Grange, 2610 School St, East Pembroke, NY 14056, Genesee County

Please fill out the registration form which can be found on the New York State Grange website. Send the form along with a check or money order payable to New York State Grange Camp to:  
Sherri Horner, Co-Camp Director  
New York State Grange  
164 County Route 14  
Fulton, NY 13069

**Registrations are due by:  
June 15, 2023**

## State Lecturer



Jolene Pirone

The L/FAC Conference is over, songs have been sung, speakers will have spoken, and we will be looking ahead to the new program year. Here are the contest results:

### Photography

First - Ginny Bush, Jefferson  
Second - Patricia Hornbeck, Delaware  
Third - Martha Babbitt, Rensselaer (tied) Third - David Hornell, Rensselaer (tied) HM - Kendra Campbell, Otsego

### Fine Art

First - Cindy Williams, Lewis  
Second - Anna Ritchey, Otsego  
Third - Kelly Frost, Jefferson  
HM - George Reed, Onondaga

### Writing

First - Carol Bailey, Wayne  
Second - Jaren Wilcox, Jefferson  
Third & HM - Anna Ritchey, Otsego

### Promotional

First & Second - Cathy Galley, Otsego  
Third - Carol Bailey, Wayne

### Talent

First - Sandra Green, Allegany  
Second - Connie Johnson, Oneida  
Third - Sandra and Anna Green, Allegany  
HM - Matthew Horton, Steuben

### Youth Speakers

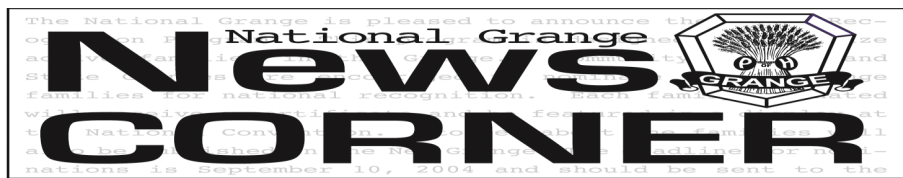
First Place Prepared, Second Place Impromptu, Alyvia Fuchs  
First Place Prepared, First Place Impromptu, Garret Phelps

I'm excited to work with my committee on getting a new program book out. New committee members will be joining and we'll get some fresh perspective.

The next big event for the Lecturer's department is the State Fair's Grange Day event. Pat Kane said he was interested in performing again, so if he is able, you can look forward to seeing him again this year. His West o' Clare band is a lot of fun and I hope we can see him again. If not, I will make sure to have something nice planned for the occasion.

After that, it's get ready for the banquet at State Session and on to the National Grange Conference. Hope to see you all there!





Equitable access.

If one phrase could sum up the legislative call to action of the Grange from its earliest days, it's that. Ensuring that every American home receive mail to their door, electricity, phone service, that rural individuals are provided the same quality of education and healthcare, and that today (and for the past 20 years), broadband internet be made available to every home and business regardless of geography — these issues are where consistently where you will hear the Grange's voice.

However, broadband expansion to rural homes through landline, fiber or new technologies such as small-cells, is not the only barrier to access. For rural America - which experts prove over and over is as a whole older, sicker and poorer than its urban and suburban counterparts - affordability is also an issue. While we've made our voice heard for two decades on the infrastructure component, and have become a leader so much so that National Grange President Betsy Huber has for several years served on the FCC's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee, today we're adding an action step for Granges to share information with their neighbors who struggle to afford access.

The National Grange recently partnered with the Oregon Institute for a Better Way and together we have been awarded a grant from then FCC to raise awareness in communities like those our Granges serve about the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

The ACP provides a subsidy for eligible low-income individuals and households - those falling at or below 200% of the federal poverty line or is already qualified for another government assistance program such as Social Security Insurance, Medicaid, SNAP or Veteran's Pension - to their participating internet service provider.

Providers were initially the main communicator, telling their customers about the program. However, the FCC realized this method did not bring the message about the program to many of those who were qualified and, in response, established their first ever grant to provide organizations like the Grange the tools necessary to get information out to communities they serve.

Specifically, the grant awarded to the Grange and our partner, the Oregon Institute, allows us to create and provide free print materials and signs to Granges that can be used in Grange Halls, in public locations throughout their community, at fairs, festivals and other events they are already attending to inform people about potential eligibility for monthly service savings and a one-time discount for an internet-ready device, such as a laptop or tablet. The partnership also brings an incredible resource of community navigators - individuals who will be assigned to assist Granges in identifying and preparing for events, ordering supplies, tracking reach of materials and more. Navigators - all of whom are Grange members - may also be available to attend events and assist with information booths or provide technological assistance for on-site sign-ups for eligible individuals.

Granges who participate in this community service project by handing out small cards about the program to people who drop by fair stands or info booths, who partner with local schools to provide info sheets to parents, who placing posters or signs up in central locations in their community, who hang a banner on their hall if it is on a well-traveled street, or perform outreach in any other creative ways, may receive a financial incentive on top of the free material. Specialized material may be available for very large events or outreach opportunities.

Also, when working with their navigator, we may be able to determine how needs for the local Grange may be met through other grants, potential partnerships, and more.

If you would like to learn more, sign up at <http://grange.biz/signupgrange> (case sensitive). You will be matched with a Community Navigator who will let you know when the next informational Zoom will be held, answer questions, gather information about ways in which we can provide your Grange with resources to raise awareness about the ACP program in your community and more.

## Sesquicentennial

A Treasured Tradition With The Future In Focus

The Grange Degrees are one of our most treasured traditions. The principles that they exemplify were focused on the future and are still relevant today. Equality of men and women, education available for all, conservation of our natural resources, working with others to reach community goals, humane treatment of animals, and helping those less fortunate are but a few examples of these principles. On Saturday September 30, 2023 you will have the opportunity to witness the First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Degrees of the Grange. Please come and bring your candidates for membership, new members, and those who have not seen the Degrees to the New York State Grange Headquarters at 100 Grange Place, Cortland on September 30. The schedule for the day is:

10:15am State Officers Open the Grange in the Fourth Degree;  
 10:30am First Degree conferred by Colonel Harper Grange #1508- Elaine Smith contact person, email [vicepres@nysgrange.org](mailto:vicepres@nysgrange.org) phone 607-652-2180;  
 11:15am Second Degree conferred by Cortland County Pomona Grange - Barbara Lavier contact person, email [lavier1@hotmail.com](mailto:lavier1@hotmail.com) phone 315 662 7758;  
 12 noon until 12: 45pm Sandwich lunch by Cuyler Grange. Price of lunch is \$10 and includes a Sloppy Joe Sandwich, Macaroni Salad, Green Salad, Beverage and a Cookie. 12:45pm Third Degree conferred by Ontario County Pomona Grange - Bruce Croucher contact person, email [croubr@ottcmail.com](mailto:croubr@ottcmail.com) phone 315 462 3067;  
 1:30pm Fourth Degree conferred by Butternut Valley Grange#1533 - Roger Halbert contact person, email [rhalbert1@stny.rr.com](mailto:rhalbert1@stny.rr.com) phone 607783-2691;  
 2:15pm State Officers Close the Grange in the Fourth Degree;  
 2:30pm break - Cupcakes provided by Sesquicentennial Committee;  
 3pm Fifth Degree conferred by Dutchess County Pomona Grange - Ryan Orton contact person, email [secretary@nysgrange.org](mailto:secretary@nysgrange.org) phone 845 868 7869  
 In order to help make plans for the sandwich lunch please call the New York State Grange Headquarters at 607-756-7553 or email [nysgrange@nysgrange.org](mailto:nysgrange@nysgrange.org) by September 18 to let them know approximately

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Center taking courses in Auto Technology.

Colin has been a member of the Small Town Country 4-H Club where he was an Honor Member for 10 years. He served as Club Vice President, President and Secretary. He attended NYS 4-H Career Explorations at Cornell University and was a Gold Award winner in the Community Service Olympics for nine years.

Colin was also very involved in the Future Farmers of America, being the founding member of the Sullivan West Chapter. He participated in activities for fundraising in order to establish and form the new chapter.

Colin is a junior member of the Hankins-Fremont Fire Department where he responds to fire calls and assists on scene. He attends meetings and participates in all fund raising events for the Fire Department.

Colin is an Assistant Farm Manager at the Mountain Ash Farm. He assists in the day-to-day operations of his family farm producing hay, raising a small beef herd and raising laying hens. He operates and maintains farm equipment. Colin also works at John H. Eschenberg, Inc. where he repairs small engines and provides full service and maintenance of new and used equipment. He has also been employed as a landscape technician at KMAH Services doing landscaping and property maintenance as well as excavation.

Colin plans to attend college in the fall. His goal is to study agriculture business and heavy equipment operations. Colin hopes to "learn more productive and profitable ways to use my family's farm as a lifelong career and to pass it down to future generations." He looks forward to coming back to his community to help others with new skills.



### Hanna Grace Lighthall

Hanna Lighthall resides in Croghan, New York and is the daughter of Todd and Shari Lighthall. She has one sister, Emily, who attends Ithaca College. Hanna attended Beaver River Central School District where she ranked in the top 10 in her class. She was section leader in her High School Band, Theater Department Secretary and Vice President, Class Historian, Cross Country Team Captain, National Honor Society President and served as Student Representative on the Beaver River Central School District Board of Education. Hanna was involved in many school activities and sports

teams, Chorus and Band, Cross Country and Track and Field, Spanish Club, and Theater Club, to name a few.

Hanna has been an active member of the Beaver River Future Farmers of America where she has held positions in many leadership roles. She served as Beaver River FFA President, Vice President, Reporter, was the New York State FFA Delegate and a member of New York State Officer Selection Committee. Hanna attended the New York State FFA Convention, National FFA Convention and Expo, FFA Leadership Camp and participated in many state, national and local contests where she achieved many awards. She applied for and received the New York State FFA SAE Grant, which she took the initiative to apply for on her own.

Hanna is very ambitious and conscientious. She has been referred to as having a strong work ethic, is "a motivator and model for other students," and having exceptional leadership and speaking skills.

Hanna is active in her community. She assists community members with yard work by participating in the annual Community Service Day, volunteers at the Oswegatchie Educational Center and the Croghan Lions Club, works with the Roadside Adopt a Highway Cleanup and was a student volunteer at the Lewis County Farmers Challenge.

Hanna will attend Cornell University in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in the fall where her focus will be on food systems and agriculture. She will pursue a degree in Global Development and International Agriculture. Her plan is to "take action in changing the world to ensure an adequate food supply."

### Holly Rebecca Niefergold

Holly Niefergold resides in Lawtons, New York and is the daughter of David and Emily Niefergold. She has four younger siblings, Kelly, Ashley, Allison, and Matthew. Holly attended North Collins Junior/Senior High School and was the Valedictorian of her class. She was a member of the National Junior Honor Society, National Honor Society, and the National Spanish Honor Society. Holly took courses in Horticulture and Biology at SUNY Erie. She also attended the Springville Griffith Institute where she took courses in Agriscience, Floral and Dairy Livestock. Holly was a member of the Varsity Softball Team, Varsity Volleyball Team Senior High Band and Jazz Band. She also served as Vice President and President of the SADD Club.



Holly has been active in both 4-H and Future Farmers of America. She received many awards in 4-H including Best Overall Erie County 4-Her, 4-H Teen Ambassador, Erie County 4-H Dairy Bowl Captain, Master Poultry Showman, and Reserve Champion Senior Dairy Showman. She also has many accomplishments in the FFA. Holly received the Bronze Rank in the Senior Prepared Public Speaking Contest at the National FFA Convention. She participated in many District Leadership Development Events and Career Development Events, placing first in Agriculture Issues Team, Senior Prepared Public Speaking placing First Place Individual, Number One First Place Overall. These make up only precious few of all of Holly's accomplishments.

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Holly has worked in many capacities. She was an Intern with the Erie County Agricultural Society, Northeast AgriSolutions Force, and Milk for Health on the Niagara Frontier. She learned and gained valuable experience, responsibility and education through these internships. She also worked on her family farm and was also a farm employee with Blesy Farms LLC and Meadow Run Dairy.

Holly has also been active in her community. She served as Erie County Dairy Princess and Ambassador, is a member of the Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau and the Beginning and Junior Dairy Leaders Program through Cornell CALS. Holly attends the First Baptist Church of Eden.

In the fall Holly will be attending SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill pursuing a degree in Agriculture Business Management. Her ultimate goal is to own and operate her own agricultural tourism attraction as agricultural education is very important to her. Her hope is to teach others about being more resourceful and to be a leader in agriculture.

#### Pyper Kneale

Pyper Kneale resides in New Berlin, New York and is the daughter of Timothy and Nadine Kneale. She has one brother, Brandon, who attends Tompkins Cortland Community College. Pyper graduated from Unadilla Valley Central School receiving a High School Advanced Regents Diploma where she ranked first in her class and was recognized as Valedictorian. She was a member of the National Honor Society. Pyper was a member of her Varsity Soccer team for four years, Varsity Bowling Team for five years, and Varsity Softball Team for four years achieving the Scholar Athlete Award. Pyper attended Tompkins Cortland Community College where she received an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts with Math and Science.

Pyper has been employed at Service Pharmacy in her home town, working as a Cashier and Pharmacy Technician. Her employer speaks highly of Pyper. He refers to her as possessing "an ability to happily and genuinely converse with anyone whose path she crosses," "an outstanding employee for her ability to reason with and communicate to pharmacy staff and customers alike." He also commends her for having a remarkable ability to think for herself, is respectful and has a remarkable work ethic.

Pyper is involved in her community mostly through school organizations that she is a part of. She has helped to serve local veterans and to honor them for their service to our country. She has worked to help create food boxes during the holiday season to send to local food pantries and serving the elderly at senior citizens' dinners. Pyper also restarted a composting system in the high school cafeteria with the Food Waste Compost Project. This project takes wasted food and repurposes it into soil that will grow the food going back into the school cafeteria. Her activities with FFA include volunteering at bottle drives. She also served as FFA Reporter and FFA President.

Pyper plans to attend Tarleton State University where she will pursue a degree major in Business Marketing with a minor in Agricultural Business.



## State Grange Historian

Carol Bailey



**DID YOU KNOW...**  
That a Grange Cooperative was chartered April 1, 1964 in Tompkins County? It sold fertilizer, insecticides and sprays. It was hoped that feed would be added soon.

The first Junior Grange Camp was held that year also. It was at Watson Homestead in late August. Watson Homestead is in the southern tier near of Bath. That was also when Juvenile became Junior Grange. The merit badge program was new for the Juniors in 1967

In 1965 the first banquet for all was held at State Grange. The slow moving sign for farm equipment received favorable com-

ment from Grangers.

At the 1967 session Grange supported the \$2.5 Billion bond issue for highways. Youth opened a session of the State Grange. Eighteen special sessions were held to confer the sixth degree before National Grange here. Those sessions included one each in PA and MA.

West Pomona Grange Hall in Orange-Rockland Pomona was given to NYS Grange in 1971. State Grange owned for several years before selling it to help pay for the headquarters building. Sale of West Pomona Grange Hall is completed.

By 1971 Patrons Agriculture and Consumer Cooperative was active in nine counties in central NY. This was the successor to the Grange Co-op formed in Tompkins Co.

Bill Benson won first place with an afghan at National Grange in 1972. Fern Palmer was the first women to be elected to the executive committee of NYS Grange.

1973 was the centennial of NYS Grange. Among the festivities was a state picnic in Yates Co. to honor Francis McDowell, one of the founders of National Grange and NYS Grange. At the annual session the birthday cake was cut by Mrs. Josie Lamont, age 94 and a descendant of Francis McDowell. This was followed by a time of "joyous throwing of serpentine." This is a referral to Greek mythology and means a harmonious and happy time was had by all. There was pageant (a two page description) later in the session.

The first weekend session was noted in 1974. Cornell Student Grange was active in 1975.

The American Agriculturist baking contest ended in 1976. The sixth degree that year was conferred in historical costumes in honor of our country's bicentennial. Delegates supported the bottle bill and the highway trust fund. Joan and Dennis Phelps were National Grange Young Couple of the Year in 1976.

Tax exempt status for Grange real property began on January 1, 1978. The first Eastman Award was given to Charles Oaks, Wayne County, in 1978. Twelve thousand dollars over several years was netted from the Clean Sweep broom sales.

In 1980 it is noted that over 200 Grange halls were painted through a program with Agway. Defensive Driving program is up and running with seven teachers. Bill Gearing was president of the new GROW club. The "Real Seal" for dairy was endorsed. For a number of years there was an awards banquet in January with the first in 1980.

The Crouchers were appointed National Grange Youth Directors in 1981.

A formal lecturer's committee was appointed. Dr. Bruce Widger retired as Cornell trustee after twenty years.

The Grange Exchange now (1982) has 1500 members using its products. This was a joint venture between Grange and Eastern Milk Producers. Dairy products especially were featured with other foods. This venture continued for several years.

The headquarters building was transferred from the Patrons of Husbandry Inc. to the NYS Grange. The ox roast at the State Fair netted \$10,000.

## Irene Fassett

Irene Fassett New York State Grange Pianist 75 year Member Irene joined Westville Grange #540 in 1947. As a young child she sat on the lap of Leila Martin, the Westville Grange pianist, and



soon was begging her parents for piano lessons. She first played the piano for Westville Juvenile Grange #544 as a member. Following her marriage she transferred to Springfield Grange #1523 where she continued until becoming a 75 year member. In Springfield Grange she has served as Treasurer and Pianist. She has always entered the FAC baking contests and has won state awards. She promoted the Community Service work of Springfield Grange through their prizes given to the local school and the Springfield Grange exhibit at the Otsego County Fair.

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how many will be attending from your Grange. Price of lunch has not been set yet.

The 150<sup>th</sup> New York State Grange Regional Celebrations are continuing. If the following are in your area, we look forward to seeing you. On sale will be 150<sup>th</sup> ornaments, bags, and shirts. The 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cake will be on display. Candles for the cake can be ordered at these celebrations. Many thanks to all who have honored so many with a candle on the cake! It is anticipated that the new history books will also be available.

**Saturday July 22, 2023 at Brunswick Grange #1337** (Rensselaer County) starting at 2pm. Hosts are Alice Grimsley (phone 518-279-9113) and Susan Drake (phone 607-264-3069) Entertainment - Hill Country Cloggers. - Counties - Albany, Essex, Fulton, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Washington;

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

**Sunday July 30, 2023**, at Stanford Recreation Park (Dutchess County) located at 86 Creamery Road, Stanfordville. Gathering at 1 p.m., Picnic at 2 p.m. - Dutchess Pomona is providing BBQ Chicken, hot dogs, drinks, birthday cake and ice cream for dessert, and table service; each family is asked to bring a dish to pass. Program begins at 3 p.m. Host: Ryan Orton (phone 845-868-7869) Counties - Columbia, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester.

**Saturday August 26, 2023 at Butternut Valley Grange # 1533** (Otsego County) located at 7 Bloom St., Gilbertsville starting at 2pm. Hosts are Roberta Halbert (phone 607-783-2445) and Susan Drake (phone 607-264-3069) - Counties - Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego.

More candles have been added to our traveling, fundraising 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cake. The following have been recognized with a candle on the cake; Carol Bailey, Rose Grange #1051, In Memory of Doris Bartoo, North Cameron Grange Youth, Bertha Tabor Westville Grange #540, Shirley G. Tabor Westville Grange #540, Perthshire #1445, Mayfield #683, and Fulton County Pomona #52. Contact Roberta Halbert at 607-783-2445 for a candle order form. A red candle is \$10, blue candle \$25, green candle \$50, and pink candle \$100.

You are the most important part of the New York State Grange. Your participation and dedication are appreciated and celebrated. Thank you for being a Grange member!!

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

Celebrate



# Contact Information

## New Grange Members

### Chautauqua Co.

Fredonia #1  
Charles Cichon  
Dale Davis

### Columbia Co.

East Chatham #1066  
Haley Caligiuri

### Columbia Co.

Copake #935  
Veronica Breasky  
Alison Holden  
Steve Klein  
Brooke Larsen  
Anita Salberg  
Oleg Sheherbakov  
Madeline Silverman  
Harold Treiber  
Karen Wimmer

### Genesee Co.

Corfu #142

Tammy Schollard

### Herkimer Co.

Salisbury Center #624

Richard Congdon  
Gregory Williams  
Marilyn Williams

### Jefferson Co.

Kirkland #684

Kenneth Hartman

### Lewis Co.

Adirondack #530

Denise Avallone

John Avallone

### Onondaga Co.

Lamson #588

Rose Bower

### Ontario Co.

Clifton Springs #1042

Kimberly Coon

### Otsego Co

Pierstown #793

Catherine Mistretta

Katherine Snyder

### Ulster Co.

Plattekill #923

Glen Betto

Libbie Werlau

John Werlau

### Wayne Co.

Rose #1051

Denise Kline

### Wyoming Co.

Curriers #1273

Azlila Young

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Cortland County Pomona 2<sup>nd</sup>



Hamptonburgh Grange 3<sup>rd</sup>



North Cameron Grange 4<sup>th</sup>.

# Stanford



At our Grange Month Meeting on April 26th, 3 members were honored with Grange Membership Awards: Jim Rogers - 50 Years Ed & Margaret Hawks - 55 Years They were presented by Steve Coye, Master/President of the New

York State Grange.

It was a great meeting with 26 members and 6 guests present! They spoke about the importance of the Grange in their lives. Jim Rogers grew up in the Grange and has cooked at the Grange Family Snack Bar at the Dutchess County Fair since he was a teenager (and he'll be back again this year cooking eggs

# Kirkland JR.

In recognition of April's Earth Day and Grange month, Kirkland Junior Grange met (in between April rain showers) to pick up litter along the driveway from State Route 37 to the Redwood playground area, and around the Mud Lake boat launch. Six bags of trash were removed!

To help prepare for Memorial Day, Junior Grange members worked together on the sunny morning of May 6th, (under direction of the Alexandria Bay American Legion) to place flags on the graves of 215 U.S. Military Veterans at the Redwood Cemetery, which is the largest of the 11 cemeteries in the town of Alexandria overseen by the American Legion.

The Junior Grange provides an opportunity for children (ages 5 to 14) to develop leadership skills, responsibility, and respect, while working to improve their community.

Litter Pick-up photo from left to right:

Elizabeth Hickey, Heaven Thomas, Kylianna Schneider, Jayden Davis, Jonah Peck, Jonathan Peck, Miles Hickey, Steven Frost, Nathan Frost, and Katelyn White. (Participating, but not in the photo were Karson Thomas and Tucker Davis)

Redwood Cemetery Photo from left to right: (gathered around the stone of General Benjamin J. Sanborn, War of 1812)...

Katelyn White, Heaven Thomas, Macenzie Tedford, Elizabeth Hickey, Miles Hickey, Karson Thomas, Nathan Frost, and Steven Frost



## Community Involvement



Melvin Phelps

As a reminder please get your projects ready and they need to be post marked by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. As a final segment I want to touch base on Evaluating your service project.

### REFLECT

Throughout your project, reflect on the progress toward meeting your goals and gather results. During the Project...

- Are we on track to meet our goals?
- If not, what steps should we take to make sure we meet our goals? After the Project...
- Did we meet the goals we set for our project?
- What went well with the project that we would keep the same if we did it again?
- What would we change about the project if we did it again?

### TELL YOUR STORY

Communication is an important piece of your project to gain support, share impacts and inspire others to take action. The more times the message is heard and seen, the better.

When should you tell your story? **Throughout the entire project!**

1 month ahead of the project...

- Who needs to know about the project?
- Do you need to recruit volunteers or resources?
- Report about your efforts on social media.
- Document your preparation with photos. On service day(s)...
- Use social media (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook) to alert followers that today is the big day!
- Document the event with photos, and if possible, video. 48-72 hours after the event...
- Send a post-event release with photos to your local newspaper and any local newsletters. Include impacts of the project.
- Thank everyone who helped.

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