



American Values, Hometown Roots

THE EMPIRE STATE GRANGER



Our Vision!

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



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November December 2023

President's Column

Sandra Green

I am honored to be the first woman President of New York State Grange.

For those who don't know me: I was born into a Grange family and have always thought of the Grange Hall as a second home. Most recently on the State level, I was Fundraising Chair. In my local Grange, Cuba #799, I am Secretary and Jr. Leader.

Steve Coye has served long and diligently as NYS Grange President, and in many other capacities. Your rest is well deserved, good and faithful servant.

As many leaders of the State Grange have changed, perhaps this is the time to consider changes in other things. If anyone has thoughts on any of the things "we've always done that way", please share them. Are there new things we should consider?

Do you—you who are reading this—have a skill or talent to share? Reach out. Those in leadership roles need and want help from other members who are willing to share.

Is there an area of State involvement you would like to learn more about, ASK. For example, I am sure Irene Fassett would love to share how she chooses which March to play. Andrew Croucher would love to pass on his knowledge of the audio work at State Session.

Let's step into a new Grange



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future together.

State Grange Session 2023

Election of Officers The following are the Officers of the NYS Grange

- Master - Sandra M. Green
- Overseer - Melvin Phelps
- Lecturer - Brenda Noble
- Steward - Matthew R. Horton
- Asst. Steward - Vernon Starr
- Lady Asst. Steward - Debra VanLare
- Chaplain - Virginia L. Conner
- Treasurer - Kenneth M. Smith
- Secretary - Ryan J. Orton
- Gatekeeper - James Dowd
- Ceres - Allison Bolio
- Pomona - Virginia Dehner
- Flora - Kelly Frost
- Executive Committee - Elaine Smith
- Museum Board - Nelson Eddy
- Museum Board - Laura Wigfield

Resolutions

EDUCATION

FIX TIER SIX
RESOLVED that New York State Grange urges the New York State Legislature to work with the New York State United Teachers and other similar organizations and unions to make Tier 6 more equitable to Tier 4 or 5 in the New York State Retirement System to keep teachers in the classroom, class sizes smaller, and decrease the teacher burnout rate.

FEDERAL ISSUES

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI) PROGRAM REFORM

RESOLVED New York State Grange supports legislation that would update the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program to increase asset limits and earnings to be in line with today's economy and tie future increases to the rate of inflation.

PROTECTING YOUR GENETIC DATA

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would update the definition of "genetic" testing" to include direct-to-consumer commercial genetic testing companies, forbid the use of a person's genetic data without their consent, and ensure that such data is stored securely.

PEER-TO-PEER PAYMENT APPS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would strengthen consumer pro-

tections for peer-to-peer payment app users by requiring providers to clearly state which security protocols are used to protect users' information, be transparent about the availability of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insurance, clearly explain reimbursement policies in cases of fraud or error, collect only the data needed to prevent fraud and provide the payment service, disclose and identify who they share consumer data with and the purpose for sharing the data, allow users to see their personal data and delete it if they no longer want to use the service, and do not require users to agree to binding arbitration to resolve disputes or to resolve claims on an individual basis.

THE IMPORT SECURITY AND FAIRNESS ACT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would address concerns related to United States competitiveness by prohibiting goods from non-market economies, such as China, from benefitting from de minimis treatment, and be it further

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that requires Customs and Border Patrol to collect more information on shipments, of any value, to make it harder for people to import illegal goods and harmful products.

LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY

RESOLVED that New York State Grange urges policymakers to give the Consumer Product Safety Commission the authority and funding it needs to protect consumers from the dangers connected to poorly made lithium-ion and other types of high-energy density batteries.

PERMANENT DAY-LIGHT-SAVING TIME

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports efforts to bring about the elimination of biannual time changes, favoring permanent daylight saving time that allows more light in the later afternoon/evening hours, that the Department of Transportation claims show a reduced number of accidents because people are driving more in day-

light hours, prevalence of crime is reduced as crime is more likely to occur when it is dark and provides more quality time for families with later daylight hours.

MAJOR RICHARD STAR ACT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports passage of Senate Bill 344 or similar legislation that would eliminate the offset of military retirement pay and Veterans Administration (VA) disability pay.

STOP STOLEN VALOR FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTORS ACT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports the passage of the Stop Stolen Valor for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Contractors Act (S1469) or similar legislation.

BURN PITS IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would amend the Pact Act to include exposure to the air borne hazards causing severe clinical irregularities among Vietnam War veterans.

BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS ACT OF 2018

RESOLVED that New York State Grange strongly supports legislation to amend the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018 by eliminating the nautical mile limitation to include United States Navy and Marine Corps veterans who were assigned to the Vietnam theater of combat operation or received the Vietnam Service medal.

AUTO/TRUCK HEADLIGHTS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange request that National Grange work with the National Safety Council, the Department of Transportation, and Federal legislators to address the safety issue of high intensity discharge lights and the safety concerns for drivers in oncoming traffic with the auto and truck light manufacturers and auto and truck manufacturers.

DEEP SEABED MINING

RESOLVED that New York State Grange requests the United States Government to implement policies to prevent companies from deep seabed mining for cobalt, nickel, and other

Legislative

Column

Cindy Benson-Pollard



A new year is beginning for the legislative work of the Grange. Are you ready? I am. I look forward to telling the Grange position on issues that will be coming before the legislators when the new year begins. I hope that you will join me in our efforts. State Grange has been completed. It was a very busy session with 80 resolutions that were considered by the delegate body this year. I want to say a special thank you to Dennis Phelps, Karen Orton, Pamela Petrelli, Bruce Dehner, Letitia Pickering, Vernon Starr, and Heidi Heidenreich for agreeing to chair the session committees. We were able to complete the committee work via Zoom prior to session with the exception of Grange Issues. Thank you to everyone who participated. The delegates were well informed, and everyone took part in the discussions. The delegates have set new policies for the coming year and renewed and/or deleted those policies that were reviewed. You will find the resolution resolve section in the paper. I encourage you to check out the new policies that were passed this year.

During the Idea Fair at State Session, I handed out a survey for those attending to fill out. Thank you to everyone who took a few minutes to complete the survey and return it to me. I wanted to share a few of the results with you. Of those who completed the survey, 78% know who their government representatives are. 85% have shared their email address with State Grange. If we do not have your email address, please share it with us. This gives you the opportunity to participate in our email blasts to the Governor and the Legislature. As for the email blast participation, I was disappointed that one 46% participated in the legislative email blasts. 70% have had the opportunity to read the legislative policy handbook from State Grange. 81% told me that their legislative chairperson reports at their regular Grange meeting and that 91% read the Empire State Granger for information.

I will be updating the policy handbook and will have it available to you by the end of the year. Please take time to review it. We also be publishing our top priorities pamphlet for use by

your Grange. I encourage you to use this valuable informational tool.

Jim and I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season. Wishing you all the best for a wonderful time with family and friends as we look forward to a new year.

State Grange Secretary



Ryan Orton

If you were at State Session in Auburn, I hope you are reenergized and reinvigorated to continue your Grange work at home! It was a great Session with many old friends, making new friends, and history was made! I always tell my kids in school to watch for history to happen all around them, and this was certainly the case for those of us at State Session! For the first time in 150 years, the New York State Grange has a female Master/President! Congratulations to Sandra M. Green of Cuba Grange #799 in Allegany County for being the auspicious Sister to be the first woman Master/President of the New York State Grange! (It would be at this point at school during the women's suffrage unit that my co-teacher and I would yell "Girl Power," and the class would respond with a fist bump in the air with a resounding "WOO-HOO!") We can practice this at State Session (or before) next year!

While we celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the New York State Grange and all our accomplishments over the past century and a half, this is certainly a time for new beginnings. Only five Officers of the New York State Grange remained the same after the Election of Officers. All others were either new Officers or they moved seats from one Office to another. I hope the Grangers of the Empire State will invite the State Officers to your meetings and events and welcome them with open arms. You did that with me when I first came to this Office two years ago, and I hope it will continue in the next term.

Now that State Session is over, we have a lot of work to do at home in our Subordinate and Pomona Granges. Once again, the State Grange has made the commitment to strengthen our Granges throughout the State. We were short of a net gain in membership by only 48 members – we were so close! Let's promote membership, identify needs in our communities, and

be the place people want to go to for fun, fellowship, and service. If we all work together, we can accomplish a net gain in membership in 2024.

Congratulations to the following Granges on welcoming new members:

34 New Members: Milton Grange #685 (Saratoga County) (Yes, you read that correctly – 34 new members!)
4 New Members: Ausable Valley Grange #973 (Essex/Clinton County)
Stanford Grange #808 (Dutchess County)
Butternut Valley Grange #1533 (Otsego County)
3 New Members: Bethlehem Grange #137 (Albany County)
Corinth Grange #823 (Saratoga County)
2 New Members: Rhinebeck Grange #896 (Dutchess County)
East Pembroke Grange #1157 (Genesee County)
North Cameron Grange #355 (Steuben County)
1 New Member: Hamburg Grange #1293 (Erie County)
Mayfield Grange #683 (Fulton County)
South Rutland Valley Grange #53 (Jefferson County)
Floyd Grange #665 (Oneida County)
Pleasant Valley Grange #1453 (Oneida County)
Putnam Valley Grange #841 (Putnam County)
Addison Grange #854 (Steuben County)

Family Activities

Brenda Noble



We are off to another great year. There were 8 awards at the Northeast Exposition for the Needlework: *Doilies* 1st - Helen Horth, Chautauqua Co.; *Counted Cross Stitch* 2nd - Letitia Pickering, Monroe Co.; *Adult Garment* 1st - Maryanne Campbell, Otsego Co.; *Latch Hook* 2nd - Marlene Utter, Chenango Co.; *Quilted Wall Hanging* 1st - Cathy Stark, Dutchess Co.; *Stuffed Toy* 3rd - Charlotte Brenon, Jefferson Co.; *Baby Afghan* 2nd - Letitia Pickering, Monroe Co.; *Sewn Garment* 1st - Karen Johnson, Otsego Co. They thank everyone for all the items we sent to be sold at the store. They help support the running of the building. Many people come to buy the items made by the Grangers.

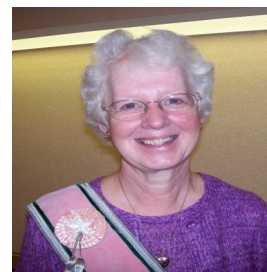
At State Grange we had 5 Diabetic Apple Pies and 16 Regular Apple Pies for the baking contest. The *Diabetic Apple Pie* winners: 1st Janice Grunenwald,

Oneida Co.; 2nd Pat VanLare, Wayne Co.; 3rd Helen Ritchey, Otsego Co.; Hon. Mention Ellen Starr - Albany Co., HM John Buchanan - Cortland Co. *Regular Apple Pie winners*: 1st Janice Grunenwald, Oneida Co.; 2nd Jolene Pirrone, Columbia Co.; 3rd Barbara J. Lawton, Chenango Co.; HM Cathy Stark, Dutchess Co.; HM Braedey Morton, Allegany Co.; HM Katy Barringer, Genesee Co.; HM Laura Magrum, Livingston Co.; HM Elnora Cresswell, Seneca Co.; HM Rhonda Davis, Jefferson Co.

For the New York State Grange 150th Celebration, we put together a quilt and pillow for raffle at State Session. We thank everyone who sent in quilt blocks. Also, a big thank you to Valerie Griffing for putting them together for us. We raised \$715 for the Hosting Fund. The quilt was won by Lora Richardson, Cortland Co. and pillow was won by Matt Bower, Fulton Co.

I thank everyone for their support and help over the years while I have been Family Activities Director. I will now be delighted to serve in my new role as New York State Grange Lecturer.

Chaplain's Corner



Virginia L. Conner

Congratulations

Congratulations to our newly elected first female President of New York State Grange – Sandra Green of Almond, NY. I encourage all members to offer her your support and aid in whatever capacity you are able.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Memorial Service at the 151st State Grange Session. We continue to mourn the loss of beloved Grange members.

It is with humbleness that I accept your vote of confidence in me to continue to perform the duties of the office of Chaplain. Please let me know of the death of a Sixth Degree member so that I may attend services if possible.

Please remember sister Neva Woolley who passed recently.

Closing Thought: Keep your pencils sharpened !!



Community Involvement



Melvin Phelps

I am excited to bring forward some changes for 2023-2024 as the program book was already put together when I started two years ago. Some of the new changes include changing some terms and names. I will be asking that all Granges submit an Annual Report of Grange Community Service Activities. These "Reports" will not be evaluated but used as a way for the State and National Grange to track Grange Community Service on a larger scale.

Granges will then be able to submit a "Yearbook", which will look very similar to our report books in the past. I plan to convene a special committee of our top Granges from the past two years to help develop a new rubric for scoring and selecting next years winners.

In the handbook you will find some exciting new forms that I edited based on some of the hard work of my fellow Community Development Director from Oregon. In the hand book you will find a form that you can use to plan your activities, a volunteer log to print to give to your members to keep track of their volunteer hours and updated Community Service Report.

We will be developing a new rubric for scoring the yearbook later this winter so keep an eye out for that to be sent out. **I have also changed the due date of the yearbook and reports to being postmarked by September 15th which is a change from September 1st.**

As a special project to help celebrate New York State Grange's 150 years of community involvement Granges all across the state and at our regional birthday celebrations assembled Birthday Cake Kits for local food pantries. I am happy to report that this year grangers assembled 401 Birthday Kits and provided them to their local food pantry. That is an amazing accomplishment.

We had 33 reports submitted with a total of 28,113 hours of community service performed by Granges and Grange Members. If you do some research you will find a value of community service hours to be \$31.80 per hour which equates to \$893,993. One could argue that the impact on a local community is even greater. You should be proud of all that you do for your community.

I would like to take time to recognize the Granges that scored in the top 20% of reports sub-

mitted, you can pick up a certificate of accomplishment from the Community Service Table. These Granges should be recognized as submitting a quality report that tells the story of their Grange Community Involvement. I will list them alphabetical order:

- Beaver Falls #554 Lewis County
- Butternut Valley #1533 Otsego County
- Colonel Harper #1508 Delaware County
- Interlaken #160 Seneca County
- Marcellus #464 Onondaga County
- Rhinebeck #896 Dutchess County
- Stanford #808 Dutchess County

After the reports were scored I am pleased to announce this year's winner of the NYS Grange Community Service Reports. I will have your awards and certificates available after this session at the Community Service Table.

- 4th place – Marcellus Grange #464 Onondaga County
- 3rd place – Beaver Falls Grange #554 Lewis County
- 2nd Place - Butternut Valley Grange #1533 Otsego County
- 1st place and representing NYS Grange at National Grange Session is: Stanford Grange # 808 Dutchess County

Leadership Membership



Barton Snedaker

If this column looks familiar it may mean you have checked out the new handbook. It is an expanded version, with some thoughts I had after the initial writing.

The old saying is that there is nothing new under the sun. This is mostly true in recruiting new members for your Grange. The basics have not changed and no new gimmick, contest or rewards will alter that. There may be some ideas that your Grange has not tried before. Do not give up on the first attempt. Recently a song made a change in another old saying. Seeing is believing. The lyrics of this song say - You have to believe it to see it. You have to believe that Grange is a worthwhile organization and you have to be able to communicate that to potential members. Like politics, all Grange membership ideas are local. It is your Grange, in your community and

it is up to each member of that Grange to be out there telling others about it. Recently a Grange member turned the tables on a person who was being asked to join. He asked the possible member - What do you want from a community organization? From there, using the person's answers, he was able to describe the Grange in many of the words he heard. It may work for others, too.

To steal a motto from the Boy Scouts - Be prepared! Have your answers ready for questions you may get. Have brochures and handouts at the ready. Make sure the person, and your community, knows they are welcome to attend a meeting at any time. Perhaps you can offer a ride. Many community members still believe the Grange is a secret organization or only for farmers. Those are two myths which certainly need to be dispelled. Do your best to do just that!

After you have determined the purpose of your Grange you may realize it is exactly what community members want and need. Make sure they know about it, if they don't already

After COVID many people are looking for ways to again be connected to others. What a great reason to ask them to join your Grange. Come, be social, help your community, support rural America, have a good time, be part of a century and a half old organization that advocates for agriculture. Maybe offer a social event or two to the neighborhood of your Grange.

Recently I heard a member of the FFA make a comment that agriculture is not just farmers. It is all the surrounding businesses and other supports to farmers, too, Feed stores, milk haulers, veterinarians, mechanics, tire dealers... Also remember that local craft breweries and vintners are also in the fold, beekeepers, too. Use your imagination to expand your and your Grange's definition of what agriculture is - especially in your own locality. Also remember that we are all consumers of agricultural output if we like to eat.

Contrary to popular opinion young people WILL join organizations they believe are relevant. Make sure your Grange is a relevant part of your community and communicate that to any young people you know and let them assist you to remain that way.

Little has changed in the ways to recruit members. There are ideas that do not need revising. But maybe expansion in the ways your Grange fits into the life and function of your town, village, or geographic area.

Do not give up. There are people out there who are searching for connections. Offer them membership in your Grange. See what happens.

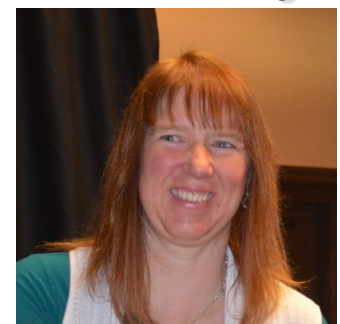
Sports



Director Bruce Dehner

The sports department held the final event for the year, corn hole, on August 5th with 7 teams participating. The results were: First - Jerry VanDenburg and Doug McCall from Albright Grange in Cortland County, Second - Matt Horton and Ron Horton from North Cameron Grange in Steuben County, Third - Cathy Nagel and Dale Nagel from Cuyler Grange in Cortland County. We had very evenly matched teams for the final game but Jerry and Doug pulled it out to win. The dates are all set for next year's events and are in the handbook. We move the golf tournament every 2 years so the next 2 years it will be held at Orchard Valley Golf Course in Lafayette, NY. We hope everyone that participated in this year's sports events had a good time. Looking forward to next year. Fraternally, Bruce Dehner

Junior Grange



Sherri Horner

The 2024-2025 Junior Grange handbook is on the New York State Grange website. The first page of the handbook tells us that: The Junior Grange provides young people with the tools and resources to help them prepare for a more promising future. Then it goes on to list what Junior Grange is specifically. The first two things on the list are: Develop Self-Confidence and Leadership Skills. How does the Junior Grange do these two things? This article will give examples of how the Junior Grange helps our members to develop self-confidence and leadership skills.

Junior Grange members develop self-confidence when they are given a challenge and they persevere until they are successful.

What does your Junior Grange do to help the members develop their sense of self-confidence? Has your Junior Grange been asked to help at a Community Grange event where some of the members had to learn a new skill? If so, how did the member feel upon being successful at the task? I am sure the community members were just as proud of the Junior Grange members as they were proud of themselves. Any opportunity that the Junior Grange members have to learn new skills and overcome any challenges will help them to develop their sense of self-confidence. Having a sense of self-confidence will give them an advantage to becoming successful adults.

Leadership is a skill that will help our Junior Grange members to become leaders in all that they do. Whether they become leaders in a job setting or any organization, they can learn the skill of leadership through Junior Grange. Do you have your members practice the ritual regularly so they can learn to lead a meeting? When your Junior Grange decides to do an activity or event, do you choose a chairperson from your Junior Grange to lead the committee in making the activity or event a reality? With the help of the Junior Grange leader, the chairperson would learn to delegate responsibilities, ensure that all details are taken care of, and do all they can to make the activity or event a success. By learning these skills, we will have very successful leaders in our organization, in our communities and in our country.

Let us do all that we can to help our Junior Grange members to become self-confident leaders. This way, we can relax and let our current Junior Grange members take on the leadership roles that we currently hold.

2024 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.

Drop Chocolate Chip Cookies

Using a recipe of your choice, make your favorite chocolate chip cookies. You may use any kind of chips in the cookies (peanut butter, chocolate, butterscotch, white chips, confetti chips, etc). Each contestant must enter six (6) cookies on a disposable plate. The recipe must be included with the entry.

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

Draft Stopper

Using any material of your choice, create a draft stopper to fit a standard sized door. If using a filling, fill the draft stopper with any item you choose (rice, dried beans, batting, etc). Not to exceed 32" in length.

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

Holiday Luminary

Make a luminary for your favorite Holiday. Using any material, create a luminary for your favorite holiday. Please include a flameless LED votive candle in your luminary. Not to exceed 12"x12"x12".

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

Stuffed Sock Decoration

Using a sock of your choice, create a stuffed sock decoration. Decorate in any manner and using any materials, such as (though not limited to), paint, yarn, sequins, markers, and buttons. Not to exceed 12"x12"x12".

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

Wooden Table Decoration

Using fallen branches or scrap driftwood, create a table decoration. Sand and refinish the wood, then decorate in any manner of your choice. Not to exceed 18"x18".

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%

Grange Camp

Grange Camp 2023, "Kids Day Out", was very successful! Of the six days that were planned, two were canceled due to no participants and four were held with a total of 41 participants. The attendees were all in the Junior Grange and Youth ages. Many were Grange members but each event had non-Grange members. The non-Grangers all expressed interest in joining the Grange. We were very excited to hear this!

Participants at each event packed 72 "goodie bags" for children in their community that are going into foster care, have a medical or other kind of emergency. The bags were left with either the hosting Grange or another Grange member in the county to be dispersed within their community. They also wrote letters to soldiers that were sent to an organization that will send them on to soldiers.

The participants also worked on their leadership skills, crafts, and social skills. They had to go across a "volcano" without falling into the "lava". It was interesting to see all of the different ways that the young people came up with to be successful in this venture. We then broke them into groups to build a tower out of spaghetti. Each group were given 20 pieces of spaghetti, three feet of string and three feet of masking tape. They had to use these supplies to build a free standing tower that would hold a marshmallow. The team that built the tallest tower that could support a marshmallow was the winner.

After a delicious lunch at each location, the attendees spent the afternoon playing games. Board games and outdoor games were provided. The attendees spent the afternoon socializing and playing with each other. It was wonderful to everyone having a wonderful time!

We are working on Grange Camp's Kids' Day Out Events for summer 2024. Information will be sent out as soon as all of the details are finalized and the events are ready for advertising. We are looking forward to another successful year of the new style of Grange Camp!



SUPPORT JUNIOR GRANGE



SUPPORT JUNIOR GRANGE



SUPPORT JUNIOR GRANGE

State Grange Historian

Carol Bailey



DID YOU KNOW...

That in 1991 there were several meetings concerning the Delaware Watershed? A policy statement was eventually adopted.

At that state session we had fun with Master Bert Morse and the song "Achy Breaky Heart."

Ovid Grange hall was checked out as a possible Grange museum. Bro. Oliver Orton was appointed to the National Junior Grange Advisory Committee.

In 1995 the headquarters building was fully rented. Grange had a representative to the Dairy of Distinction Committee. Grange supported the right to farm legislation. At the State Fair we were honored to have Robert Barrow, Master of the National Grange, present. He gave a short presentation and graced us with his beautiful voice in song.

John Lincoln, president of Farm Bureau, was a guest at the banquet in 1996. Almond Jr. Grange had the honor of naming a bull calf "Bo" at the Kelley Farm.

In the late 1990s Grange was working hard for the Dairy Compact. Food safety, imports of apple concentrates, removal/sale of Great Lakes water were just some of the legislative issues Grange was concerned about. A new treasurer was elected in 1997, Kenneth Smith.

As the new century began some of the issues Grange was concerned with were prescription drug coverage, trade schools, Dairy Compact and preservation of historic barns.

The NYS Grange Museum opened on October 7, 2001. The executive committee did a memorial walk around the parking lot in remembrance of 9-11.

In 2002 committees were realigned. Also that year the Committee on Women's Activities was changed to Family Activities Committee. Directors were appointed for the four vision areas. Grange had representatives on several state boards.

There was a special bus trip to Kelley Farm in 2003. Don Drake was presented a resolution on his retirement from the executive committee in 2004. 2004 marked the fortieth year of Grange camp. There were six regional meetings to explain the new program.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 1) Resolutions

minerals/elements.

HEALTH

BAN RED #3 DYE

RESOLVED that New York State Grange requests the Food and Drug Administration ban the use of erythrosine, otherwise known as FD&C Red #3 dye, in any products used for human consumption.

KEEPING HEALTH DATA PRIVATE

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would extend the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, or HIPAA, to guarantee privacy protection for any personal information related to our health unless required to do so by court order.

AMEND THE FAMILY LEAVE ACT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange encourages the members of the New York State Legislature to amend the Family Leave Act to authorize leave for bereavement due to fetal death, miscarriage, stillbirth of an infant, due to the medical non viability of an infant, or due to loss of a child from the failure of a surrogacy.

MEDICARE COVERAGE FOR DIABETIC SENSOR/READER APPLIANCE

RESOLVED that New York State Grange urge Medicare to review its policy regarding the coverage of the diabetic “continuous glucose monitoring device” (CGM) and change its prescription coverage to allow refills every 28 days rather than 30 days.

Geriatrician Physician Loan Repayment

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would grant loan forgiveness for physicians who agree to practice in the field of geriatric medicine for five (5) years so that there are adequate physicians for our aging population.

Rural Emergency Responder Training

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would establish a grant program such as the “Rural Emergency Live Training Program Revolving Capital Fund” that would provide grants to help defray the cost of Farmedic Program training for first responders and medical staff in the dangers of rural and agricultural accidents.

THE ENSURING ACCESS TO LIFESAVING DRUGS ACT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports passage of “the Ensuring Access to Lifesaving Drugs Act” as well as any similar legislation ensuring access to all cancer treatment drugs.

HIGH LEVELS OF CAFFEINE IN ENERGY

DRINKS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports any proposed legislation for the Food and Drug Administration investigation of the high levels of caffeine in energy drinks which can have possible impacts on young children, such as heart problems, digestive issues, and anxiety.

MEDICARE MULTI-CANCER EARLY DETECTION (MCED) SCREENING COVERAGE ACT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation to ensure Medicare coverage for the lifesaving screening tools, enabling Medicare recipients to access proven multi-cancer early detection (MCED) tests.

IMPROVING THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION'S HUMAN FOOD PROGRAM

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would consider the recommendations of the Reagan-Udall Foundation 2022 study of the Food and Drug Administration to unify the Human Food Program under a deputy commissioner of foods who is a food safety expert solely focused on our food supply under the Food and Drug Administration.

PREVENTING MATERNAL DEATHS REAUTHORIZATION ACT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports the “Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act of 2023” or similar legislation.

STATE ISSUES

SNOWMOBILES AND ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES AS FARM VEHICLES

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation to amend the vehicle and traffic law to allow snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles to be registered as farm vehicles if their sole purpose is for farm use.

RENEWABLE ENERGY BILL OF RIGHTS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would establish a renewable energy bill of rights that would grant and protect an individual property owner the right to generate electricity by non-combustion methods for private use while connected to an existing electric grid, as well as the right to receive full credit for any unused electricity that is sent back into the established electric grid and would also require utility companies to respect and comply with these individual property owners renewable energy rights.

NEGLECTED STATE-OWNED PROPERTIES

RESOLVED that the State of New York expend more effort to find uses for these properties or selling them, putting them back on the tax rolls which would reduce the financial stress on the communities and improve the ambiance of the community

making a more pleasant area for which families could live.

ALL-ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN NEW YORK STATE

RESOLVED that New York State Grange opposes any requirement that all new vehicles sold in New York State be electric.

ALL-ELECTRIC HOMES IN NEW YORK STATE

RESOLVED that New York State Grange opposes the mandate proposed by New York State Governor Kathy Hochul that would require all appliances and heating in newly constructed homes in New York State be electric by 2030.

BIKE AND WALK LANE ON CHAUTAUQUA LAKE BRIDGE

RESOLVED that New York State Grange urges the State Department of Transportation to add bicycle and pedestrian lanes to the Chautauqua Lake Bridge during reconstruction.

SUPPORT OF 211 SERVICE

RESOLVED that New York State Grange asks for more promotion and awareness of the 211 service in New York State by the entities that are involved in its operations.

TAXATION/FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

CASH AS PAYMENT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation at the state and/or federal level that would ensure that every consumer has the right to use cash at retail businesses who accept in-person payments, including self-checkout stations.

SMALL FARM DISASTER GRANTS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would establish the “Small Farm Disaster Recovery Grant Program” that defines a small farm to include only those that have annual sales of less than \$100,000 to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Markets. The grants would be up to \$10,000 and would be used solely for the purchasing and replanting of crops that have been destroyed by a natural disaster.

THE COMPANION ANIMAL CAPITAL FUND

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports the continued funding of the Companion Animal Capital Fund that will support construction, renovations, and expansion projects at animal shelters and will enhance animal care for animals as they await adoption.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR OLDER INMATES

RESOLVED that New York State Grange opposes any legislation to provide retirement benefits to prison inmates in New York State.

JUNK FEE PREVENTION ACT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange urges members of Congress to pass the “Junk Fee

Prevention Act” or similar legislation which would help protect consumers from excessive, hidden, and unnecessary fees as often happens when purchasing entertainment tickets, communication service fees, and the seating of young children adjacent to an accompanying adult on an aircraft.

STATE REIMBURSEMENT OF MEDICAID FUNDING

RESOLVED that New York State Grange opposes cutting state reimbursement of Medicaid funding from the budget.

AGRICULTURE/ ENVIRONMENT

PROMOTING AGRICULTURE SAFEGUARDS AND SECURITY (PASS) ACT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would prevent China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea from investing in, purchasing, leasing, or otherwise acquiring United States farmland, and would add the Secretary of Agriculture as a standing member of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to consider agricultural needs when making determinations affecting national security, and require a report to Congress from the United States Department of Agriculture on the risks posed by foreign takeovers of United States businesses engaged in agriculture.

NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation to keep the Northern Long-Eared Bat on the Endangered Species List and ensuring it continues to have all the protections granted from that designation.

PLANT-BASED MILK LABELING

RESOLVED that New York State Grange asks the Food and Drug Administration require plant-based milk to post their nutritional value stating, non-dairy, in order to clarify to the consumer that they are buying a substitute, yet the product is being called, incorrectly, milk.

NATURAL GAS VERSUS SOLAR POWER

RESOLVED that New York State Grange is opposed to the plan of New York State Governor Kathy Hochul to remove the sale of natural gas as a fuel source in New York State rather than going to all green power.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL CRISIS HOTLINE ACT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports the proposed legislation by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand for the National Agricultural Crisis Hotline Act.

WILDLIFE HIGHWAY/ ROAD CROSSINGS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange recommends that New York State include appropriate wildlife crossings in future highway construction and improvement projects.

Continued from Page 5 Scholarships

“PRODUCT OF USA” LABELING

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports the United States Department of Agriculture’s proposal to have the words “Product of USA” (in regard to meat production) to be used for beef, pork, and other meats for human consumption only if the animal was born, raised, slaughtered, and processed in the United States.



Youth Officers picture above

The youth officers entered the hall and executed an impressive drill. At the end of the drill they formed a huddle and broke and each went to their assigned station. The officers are as follows:

- Master: Garrett Phelps (Jefferson County)
- Overseer: Alyvia Fuchs (Wayne County)
- Lecturer: Marian Pirrone (Columbia County)
- Steward: Wyatt Fuchs (Wayne County)
- Asst. Steward: Nathan Frost (Jeff. County)
- Lady Asst. Steward: Elizabeth Van Kleeck (Dutchess County)
- Chaplain: Logan Gonzalez (Albany County)
- Treasurer: Stephany Fuchs (Wayne County)
- Secretary: Allison Bolio (Dutchess County)
- Gatekeeper: Mazlyn Fuchs (Wayne County)
- Ceres: Hali Buchanan (Cortland County)
- Pomona: Aria Fuchs (Wayne County)
- Flora: Aleasha Fuchs (Wayne County)
- Executive Committee: Aaron Buchanan (Cortland County), John Buchanan (Cortland County)
- Flag Bearer: Dan Fuchs (Wayne County)
- Pianist: Kelly Frost (Jefferson County)



Memorial Service

Chaplain of the NYS Grange, Virginia Conner presented another wonderful memorial service. She included several musical numbers and a lesson of how a pencil has many life lessons and how the shape reminds us of the Trinity. She also quoted Billy Graham: “Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil—it has no point. He also commented “May your troubles be less and your blessings be more, May nothing but happiness come through your door.

Gerald Eastman Award Photo Right

This year the Gerald Eastman award went to Reba Spencer. Her biography indicated how she lived the principles that are the basis for the award.



State Master, Steve Coye and Reba Spencer

“C” Bill Presentation

Bev Centers of Mathew’s House was presented to the Master’s Station.



Mathew’s House is a small hospice organizations. Hospice allows those near the end of life to have a homelike atmosphere where friends and family can visit and share meals, but also receive professional care. It is entirely run by volunteers. This year the campaign managed to raise \$2500.00.

Melvin Phelps, Bev Centers and Heidi Henderson

Sixth Degree

The degree was executed in fine fashion by the officers of the New York State Grange.

The Rose Drill was performed by a group made up of Nathan Frost from Kirkland Grange in Jefferson County along with: Aleasha Fuchs, Alyvia Fuchs, Aria Fuchs, Dan Fuchs, Stephany Fuchs and Wyatt Fuchs all of Eureka Grange in Wayne County.

The Graces also introduced their attendants. Flora, Paula Turner

had Attendants Viola Horton and Carol Staffehl. Ceres Fannie Mallette had attendants Carol Baily and Debbie VanLare. Pomona Sarah Barber had Laurinda Gearing and Johanna Barringer Stewart.



Sixth Degree Court of Flora

Food Donation

Each year those attending the State Grange Session are asked to provide non-perishable items to be donated to a local cause. This year the donation was sent to the Weedsport School Backpack Program. Tim Corwin, school principal was there to receive the donation. Pictured is Melvin Phelps, Community Service Director and Tim Corwin.



State Secretaries

This year we were pleased to have all of the living New York State Grange Secretaries in attendance. Pictured are : Roger Halbert, Meta Riester, Virginia Conner and current secretary Ryan Orton



Worth Master Retires

Richard Church is shown presenting Stephen C. Coye with a small token of appreciation for his many years of service to the Grange including 12 years as State Grange president.



As a retiring delegate to the National Grange, brother Coye was also presented with a “Demeter” sash. High Priest of Demeter Emeritus Bruce Croucher did the honors.

National Grange Representative Betsy Huber, President

We were very pleased to have the National Grange president as our guest at the Sesquicentennial session of the New York State Grange. She brought us up to date about National Grange happenings, especially the sale of the headquarters. While she was here she presented past first lady of the State Grange, Sharon Croucher a pin from the National Grange Community Service Director Pete Pomper for her dedication to community service in the Grange. The photograph shows sis Ter Huber with a parting gift from State Grange. The gift was a vase with a Sesquicentennial Logo engraved upon it.



Sesquicentennial Finale’

The Sesquicentennial Committee presented an inspiring program at the annual banquet. The State FFA Team did a great leadership program that involved participation of the guests at the banquet. We all learned some modern vocabulary such as bussin bussin, slay, cappin, clout, rizz, sus and slaps. Ask your delegates about them.

Master Coye and State Senator Rachel May with Senate Proclamation



FFA Leadership Team

We also had an opportunity to sing “Happy Birthday” to the Grange and enjoy some sesquicentennial cake.

Master Coye and Master Huber with Sesquicentennial cake



Contact Information

(Continued from page 4)

Sandra Green, President
100 Grange Place
Cortland, NY 13045
607-756-7553
Steve@nysgrange.org

Ryan Orton, Secretary
218 Attlebury Hill Road
Stanfordville, NY 12581
845-868-7869
secretary@nysgrange.org

Brenda Noble, Lecturer
7973 Telephone Road
LeRoy, NY 14482
585-768-6632
bnoble195@gmail.com

**Cindy Benson Pollard
Legislative Director**
401 Charles Avenue, Syracuse, NY
13209
315-413-9335
Cbenson81@msn.com

Virginia L. Conner, Chaplain
918 Bartnick Road
Genoa, NY 13071
315-246-7330
vlconner48@yahoo.com

Brenda Noble, Family Activities
7973 Telephone Road
LeRoy, NY 14482
585-768-6632
bnoble195@gmail.com

**Barton Snedaker
Leadership Membership**
5404 St. Hwy 23
Norwich, NY 13815
shrngnol@roadrunner.com

**Melvin Phelps
Community Involvement**
PO Box 493
Copenhagen, NY 13626
318-778-6712
northerngracefarm@gmail.com

**Johannah Stewart
Youth**
P.O. Box 81
Rose, NY 14542
(585) 880-6045
barringer.johannah@gmail.com

Bruce Dehner, Sports
PO Box 372
DeRuyter, NY 13052
315-852-6460
bcd221@yahoo.com

Carol Bailey, Historian
3033 Middle Sodus Road
Lyons, NY 14489
315-946-4379
barnlady38@yahoo.com

Sherri Taft, Jr. Director
164 County Route 14
Fulton, NY, 13069
kidsbreak@yahoo.com

**Cindy Benson-Pollard
NYS Fair
Grange Building Superintendent**
315-413-9335
Cbenson81@msn.com

**Sherri Taft
Ryan Orton
Camp Directors**
kidsbreak1@yahoo.com
rorton808@yahoo.com

Make a Difference Day was recognized with donations to a food pantry at our state session in 2005. New signs were to be placed at the Jr. Grange reforestation projects.

Many issues consumed the delegates through the early 2000s. Among them were the Great Lakes Basin, reimbursement of pre school special need, dependence on fossil fuels, English as the official language, prescription drug costs and repeal of Wicks Law.

Crouchers were presented Demeter sashes in 2008. The brick walkway at the museum was dedicated also. A task force was formed for the headquarters in 2009 to help with maintenance.

Francis McDowell was named to the Steuben Hall of Fame through the efforts of few Grangers in 2010. Shirley Hughes was honored for 74 years as a subordinate secretary.

Several fund raising efforts were used through the years such as Anything Goes, appeal letters, selling chocolate and bulbs, silent auctions, and the ox roast.

Through these later years many Granges have closed. In the last couple of years there has been some new ones organized or re-organized. It is difficult to get people to join especially since the pandemic.

This past year has been full of 150th celebrations across the state. It reminded us of our past and looked to the future. As we Grangers begin a new year let's be positive and have a "can do" spirit.

Kirkland Grange



quets were provided by Tammy Stine to honor the award recipients, and a beautiful cake decorated with the Grange emblem was made for the special event by Rhonda Cazziol.

Kirkland Grange's next meeting is Friday September 29th, at the Lutheran Community Center, Route 37 Redwood, NY at 7:30 pm.

Front row: Lottie Bertram, Robert Stine, and Shirley Handschuh
Back row: Karen Wilcox, Mary Ellen Stine, and Norris Handschuh

Degree Day at State Grange HQ.

September 30 2023, as part of the Sesquicentennial celebration the first five degrees of the Grange were exemplified. Five teams of officers



Photo above, Colonel Harper Grange 1s degree

were selected to do the Degree Work. The day began with the officers of the State Grange opening in the fourth degree. The Grange then was declared at Recess and the officers from Colonel Harper Grange took their positions and proceeded with the 1st Degree. The second

Photo right Butternut Valley 4th degree team, Roger Halbert Director



Photo left 4th degree in action

degree was then conferred by a team from Cortland County Pomona

Photo Right Dutchess County 5th degree team.



Grange. After a lunch served by Cuyler Grange of Cortland County, the officers from Ontario County took their positions and the third degree was exemplified. Butternut Vally Grange then took over and exemplified the fourth degree.

The Grange then was closed in the fourth degree by the officers of New York State Grange. The Grange was then opened in the fifth degree by Dutchess County Pomona Grange. The fifth degree was then conferred in full form.

Desert was served in the form of cupcakes.

Six Kirkland Grange members were recognized for their long-standing Grange membership by the New York State Grange Vice President, Elaine Smith, of Stamford, NY. She presented awards for seventy-five years of membership to Robert Stine, seventy years of membership to Lottie Bertram, sixty-five years of membership to Karen Wilcox, sixty years of membership to Norris Handschuh, fifty-five years of membership to Shirley Handschuh, and forty-five years of membership to Mary Ellen Stine.

This ceremony followed a delicious buffet lunch, interesting history of the Grange, and visiting with friends about our American values and our hometown roots. Home-grown floral corsages and flower bou-

Vietnam Memorial Roger Conner

Roger Conner wanted to fight in the Vietnam War, but was rejected. That's why he'll be volunteered at a tribute to those who did serve.

Conner and other volunteers gathered for orientation Wednesday evening at Casey Park, where "The Wall That Heals" was on display. The traveling three-quarters-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial honors the more than 3 million Americans who served in the armed forces during the war, and bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who died during it. The memorial was originally scheduled to come to Falcon Park, but was moved to nearby Casey Park in a last-minute change. Conner told us he signed up for the U.S. Air Force so he could serve in the war, but didn't pass the physical.

"I was refused for service, and I owe it to whoever served in my place," said Conner, who drove 20 miles to volunteer at the traveling memorial.

Roger is the husband of State Grange Chaplain Virginia Conner

Veteran Grange

Veteran Grange #1108 Master Lonell Johnson & Overseer Mary Johnson presented our member Alice L. Britenbaker with her 65 and 70 years seals and her 75-year certificate.



Frances Hulle received her 75 year Certificate of Grange membership at the May 2023 meeting of Hamptonburgh Grange #950 in Orange County. She joined Hamptonburgh Grange #950 in May of 1948. She is also a 7th Degree member of the National Grange.



Diane Whitten from Cooperative Extension teaching on Food Preservation

"It Takes A Village"

Milton Grange #685 has partnered with Saratoga County Brookside Museum and Cornell Cooperative Extension to teach self sustainability to our neighboring communities.

"Homesteading on 1/2 Acre" 2 hour classes were offered at the Brookside Museum in Ballston Spa every Tuesday from September 19 through October 17th.

The program, coordinated by Grange member, Eric Smassanow, was presented to show our suburban neighbors that you can have "agriculture" on a small piece of land.

1st class focused on Homestead set-up.

2nd class involved Growing Your Own Food; turning a simple area into a lush productive one.

3rd class was "Preserving the Harvest" - canning, freezing, drying and fermentation

4th class - "Growing Protein" - chicken and ducks for meat and eggs, rabbits and even a special breed of goats.

5th class - 20 minute classes 1. Composting 2. High production planting design 3. Fermentation 4. Herbs - medicinal uses 5. Vegetable planting tips and tricks for early and late harvest-season extension.

As many as 53 residents participated and 34 became new Grange members.

Sesquicentennial Estate Gifts Scrapbook

With this year being the NYS Grange's 150 year Sesquicentennial celebration, the committee has started a scrapbook with a collection of pictures commemorating the regional birthday celebrations.

Also, included in this scrapbook will be pictures of any Grange that wishes to be added, along with a brief history of their Grange. This portion of the book has been started with several granges submitting their information. If you were at our State session you may have viewed the scrapbook already. This will be a process to complete but I look forward to putting it all together. Once completed the scrapbook will be housed at our NYS Grange museum.

If you wish to be included please send your pictures and information to Barbara Lavier, sesquicentennial committee member, either in the postal service mail or via email. Contact information below.

I will be away for the winter so please do not send in the postal service mail between 11/01/2023 and 05/06/2024 but you can email at any time.

I look forward to adding your Grange to our celebratory, commemorative scrapbook.

Contact information: Barbara Lavier, 2590 McKinley Street, New Woodstock 13122 or



For many of us the Grange has been very instrumental in our lives. You may have had your first opportunity as a leader in your Grange or Junior (Juvenile) Grange. You may have met your future spouse at a Grange event. Perhaps the Grange provided you with a scholarship for your education. May be that the principles of the organization helped shape your life in becoming the person you are today. You may be interested in just contributing to the many community service projects that have been the forte of Grange throughout its history. Whatever the reason including the Grange in your estate is an excellent way to show your appreciation and to help the organization continue to its purposes for the community, state and country.

New York State Grange offers the Grange Foundation as a means for you to help the organization and to afford you a tax saving for your estate by contributing to a 501 C(3) not for profit organization. You may give for a specific project or just for the general educational and cultural programs of the foundation.

If you want to help your own community Grange you can also use the foundation as a pass through not for profit to provide that help and still receive a tax benefit.

If you are interested in making a contribution or to get further information, please contact: Bruce Croucher, Foundation President, at 2514 County Road 25, Clifton Springs, NY 14432; Telephone 315-573-3097 or at croubr@ottcmail.com.

FUN!



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

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Editor Bruce M. Croucher

Executive Committee: Daniel Woolley, Chair, Sandra Green, President, Ryan Orton, Grange Secretary, Melvin Phelps, Vice President, Bruce Croucher, Executive Committee Secretary, Barbara Lavier, Elaine Smith.

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