

THE EMPIRE STATE GRANGER

American Values, Hometown
Roots



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



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July August 2024

President's Column

Sandra Green



How did it get to be Summer already? Where does the time go? We are just going along and suddenly realize things have changed. Suddenly, it's a new season/year/decade....

While most things don't just suddenly happen, many things do happen while we are *just going along*. Some are good. Some aren't.

Sometimes members get possessive of a Grange. Rarely does someone join and immediately try to take charge, but over time, while *just going along*, a member may start thinking of the Grange as his/hers. It is your Grange but not YOUR Grange. Each member should have an integral part in his/her Grange. No one should have controlling power. It is not always the Master who falls into this thinking. Former National Master Ed Luttrell told of a Grange in his state that was struggling when he was State Master. Several members of the "official" State Grange team travelled to the Grange to help them come up with a plan to get things moving in a positive direction. Everyone at the meeting worked together to come up with an activity and make a workable plan. As folks left, they shared their excitement

over having passed the first hurdle and were ready to move ahead. It only took a matter of hours for the controlling power of that Grange to talk everyone else out of the project.

Watch out for this. Letting someone take charge because they are willing to do things may be easier, but it exacts a price. Be sure you are not "taking over" or letting someone else do so. And, don't thrust too many responsibilities onto someone. Either the person will "burn out" or will become domineering. Grangers must work as a team! One of the great things about being a Granger is that team/family feeling. Please do your part to help OUR Grange family thrive.

Please, if you have tried to contact me and I've seemed to drop the ball, get in touch again. I receive emails at president@nysGrange.org and my personal email address. I usually don't mind, but sometimes I am unable to access the proper items where I receive the request. So, please, drop a reminder.

State Grange Historian



DID YOU KNOW...

That a woman dressed as a man attended New York State Grange in the 1890s?

Yes, Doctor Mary Walker did just that to praise the Grange for their stand on equal suffrage. She appeared in her usual "neat gentlemen's suit."

Mary Edwards Walker was born in the Town of Oswego on November 26, 1832, one of five daughters of Alva and Vesta Walker. Her father was a country doctor and probably influenced her later vocation. The family was ahead of its time in many ways.

Mary studied for thirteen semesters at a cost of \$55 each. At the age of 21 she graduated from

(Continued on page 2)



The following are scholarships offered by the New York State Grange. Other eligibility requirements may apply. Go to the New York State Grange website for additional details and application information

The DeNise Scholarship Fund

Established In 1983

Mr. and Mrs. Howard DeNise, longtime agriculturalists and Grange members in western New York, have established the DeNise Scholarship Fund, with the New York State Grange as the administrator. **PURPOSE:** Strong emphasis in awarding these scholarships is placed on need and that the applicants must be agriculturally oriented.

AWARD: \$1,000

Susan W. Freestone Education Award

Established In 1945

Susan Freestone served as a National Grange Juvenile Superintendent for more than a decade.

PURPOSE: To assist former Junior Grange Members get a higher education.

AWARD: \$1,000 (A second grant may be available, providing the student makes application and supplies a satisfactory transcript of work from the college.)

June Gill Nursing Scholarship

Established In 2002

June Gill was a Grange member and a nurse from Dutchess County New York.

PURPOSE: She established this scholarship fund to encourage Grange members to enter the nursing profession. **AWARD:** Two \$1,000 Scholarships are available annually, and a recipient may receive only one award. The payment will be sent directly to the school after the successful completion of one term, which must be verified in writing.

Following are this years scholarship Winners.

DeNise and Susan Freestone Garrett Carson Phelps



Garrett Phelps, son of Melvin and Jennifer Phelps, of Copenhagen, NY, is the recipient of both the DeNise Agriculture Scholarship and the Susan Freestone Education Award.

Garrett has been a member of the South Rutland Valley Junior Grange #24 in Jefferson County for eight years and continues as a member of the South Rutland Valley Grange #53 and holds the following degrees: junior, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th.

Garrett graduated from Lowville Academic and Central School. He was active in the Lowville FFA, student council, the varsity tennis and swimming teams as well as the 4-H Dairy Club and Dairy Prospects.

He has worked with Northern Grace Farm and Highlight Farms LLC. He has traveled to the NYS Fair and Northeast National Brown Swiss Show at The Big E where he kept busy maintaining a clean display, lead animals for milking, washing and show day, fed and watered animals and obtained knowledge about how to prepare animals for show day.

One of Garrett's teachers stated, "Garrett is very passionate about his role and involvement in both FFA and the Grange. I believe he will bring this same passion to his education and career as a teacher."

Garrett will be attending SUNY Morrisville to major in Agriculture Business. He plans to become a certified agriculture teacher. He has four siblings – Ryan, Ashley, Brandon and Wyatt.



(Continued on page 2)

What's Inside

| | |
|--|-------|
| Scholarships Continued | Pg. 2 |
| Secretary, Chaplain, Youth | Pg. 3 |
| Legislative, Leadership/ Membership, Lecturer | Pg. 4 |
| Family Activities, Community Involvement, Sports | Pg. 5 |
| Juniors, New Members, | Pg. 6 |
| Contact Information | |
| National Grange News, Buyers Edge | Pg. 7 |
| Local Granges, Museum, State President Request for Helpers | Pg. 8 |

(Continued from page 1) Scholarships

DeNise Scholarships Abbie Laura Ainslie

Abbie Ainslie resides in Clayville, New York, and is the daughter of Bradley and Carol Ainslie. She has three siblings, Ellie, Austin and Aidan. Elizabeth attended Mount Markham High School and graduated with honors. While in high school, she was a member of the Mount Markham FFA and the National Honor Society.



She is attending Cornell University as an Animal Science major with a minor in Education. She stays active in the Cornell University Dairy Science Club, the Collegiate Farm Bureau, and is a sister on Cornell's Sigma Alpha.

Her skills include leadership, communication and problem solving. Her advisor and professor, Michael Van Amburgh, Ph.D., at Cornell University, stated that Abbie "wants to bridge the gap between food production and environmental sustainability."

Elsie Grace Donlick



Elsie Donlick's passion for the dairy industry and agriculture is strong. A resident of Cortland, NY, Elsie has been involved in 4-H, NY Holstein Association,

NYS Dairy Ambassadors and has competed in Holstein USA convention contests.

She recently graduated from Tompkins Cortland Community College where she was a math and science peer tutor. She will be attending SUNY Cobleskill in the fall as an Animal Science major. She is the daughter of David and Christel Donlick and the sister of Annika and Eli.

Elsie's aims to secure a career in some field of the dairy industry to benefit producers and cattle through her attention to detail and organizational skills.

Keller Francis LaClair

Keller LaClair, of Ellenburg Center, NY, is a recent graduate of Northern Adirondack Central School.



While in high school, Keller held leadership roles as the Northern Adirondack FFA chapter president as well as the treasurer of the National Honor Society.

Keller will be attending SUNY Cobleskill to major in Plant Sci-

ences. He intends to work towards a PhD in Agronomy. He has been interested in plants since he was a young child. He also plans to work on becoming a Certified Crop Advisor through the American Society of Agronomy.

Keller is the son of Matthew and Erin LaClair and has two siblings, Scotlyn and Emmett. His former science teacher, Jordan Manor, stated he had "the privilege of witnessing his outstanding dedication, exceptional academic performance, and unwavering passion for the field of agriculture."

Kelly Anne Niefergold

Kelly Niefergold, a recent graduate of North Collins High School, is the daughter of David and Emily



Niefergold. She has four siblings, Holly, Ashley, Allison and Matthew. She has also taken agriculture classes at the Springville Griffith Institute.

Kelly will attend SUNY Morrisville as a Dairy Management major and will be minoring in agriculture business. She believes this major will allow her to be more successful and sustainable in the future as her career goal is to take over her family's dairy farm. She is currently the calf manager on the farm. She is proud that agriculture is a part of her everyday life and feels lucky to have grown up on a small family dairy farm.

She believes community service is important and has volunteered with the NYS Spring Dairy Carousel, the Erie County Dairy Ambassador program, and Milk for Health. She is a member of the Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau and the NYS Junior Dairy Leaders Program.

Maddison Lynn Juby

Maddison Juby, of Carthage, NY, is the daughter of Andrew and Kelly Juby. She

has one sibling, Cassie. Maddison graduated from Carthage Central High School where she was the salutatorian of her class. She has worked on the family beef farm helping with cattle, vaccinations and the beef business.

Maddison kept busy while in high school having been involved in FFA, the varsity soccer team, National Honor Society, Key Club, student government as well as holding a part-time job. She has volunteered through Encompass Recreation as well as ringing bells for the Salvation Army. Her agriculture

teacher, Jennifer Phelps, stated that "Maddison is a quiet leader. She doesn't seek public recognition as a leader yet is deserving of recognition for her many accomplishments and commitment to academics and serving others."

She will be attending West Virginia University where she will major in Animal Science with a minor in Agriculture Business. Her goal is to become a veterinarian – a goal she has had since the age of four.

Natalie Lou Gardner

Natalie Gardner resides in Interlaken, NY, and is the daughter of Virginia Gardner and the late Matthew



Capluzzi. She is a recent graduate of South Seneca Central School where she competed on the cross-country and track teams. She also completed her certificate in Animal Science at TST BOCES in Ithaca, NY.

Natalie will be attending SUNY Cobleskill for her Bachelor of Technology in Animal Science. She wants to have an impact on the lives of animals and farmers. She wants to continue to learn about making improvements to the nutritional and veterinary aspects of the lives of animals while trying to find affordable ways for farmers to be able to care for their animals appropriately.

Trinity Rae Scott



Trinity Scott, daughter of Shane and Ricci Scott, resides in Castile, NY, with her siblings Charity and Joseph. She is

a recent graduate of Letchworth Central School and a member of the National Honor Society.

She has been involved in many organizations that aim to educate others about animals, farms, the products they produce and healthy lifestyle choices. She served as the FFA chapter president and a member of the DeJa Moo 4-H Club. She has competed at local, state and national shows achieving notable successes.

Trinity will be attending SUNY Alfred and major in Agricultural Technology with a focus on becoming a Dairy Herd Manager or a Crop Manager. She envisions her own venture focused on raising and showcasing register brown Swiss cattle. She would also like to enter the grooming business by providing services to both small and large animals.

Syracuse Medical College, the nation's first medical school which accepted women.

Shortly after graduation from medical school Mary wedded Albert Miller, a fellow classmate. At her wedding she wore a suit (a man's?) and a top hat. However the marriage did not last for long. They were finally divorced in 1868. Another unusual event for the times.

Mary unsuccessfully tried to join the Union Army but was denied a commission as an Army surgeon. After this she volunteered (unpaid) her services at the US Patent Office Hospital in Washington, DC. Later contracting to the medical corps, she served as assistant surgeon.

Among the places where she was in the front lines of battlefields were First Bull Run in July 1861 bad Battle of Chickamauga 1863. Prisoner of War in Richmond, VA from April to August 1864, she was soon back on the battlefield in Atlanta, GA in September of 1864.

Why was she imprisoned? In September 1863 Mary was appointed an assistant surgeon in the Army of the Cumberland and attached to the 52nd Ohio Infantry. It is generally agreed that during this time she was a spy for the North. Frequently she passed into enemy territory to treat civilians in the South. During one of these forays she was captured and imprisoned. Her imprisonment occurred at Castle Thunder Prison near Richmond. Eventually Mary was exchanged with other Union doctors for several Confederate surgeons.

While serving during these dangerous times Mary wore a modified officer's uniform, pants under her skirt and packed two pistols at all times! This was nothing new for her as she had worn pants and other comfortable clothes since her early years, long before "bloomers" came on the scene.

On November 11, 1865 President Andrew Johnson awarded her the Medal of Honor for her meritorious service to her country. Of the more than 3500 medals that have been awarded, she was the only female to receive one. However in 1917 Congress took away her medal along with 917 more. Congress had revised the rules and standards to include actual combat. Refusing to return her medal Dr. Mary continued to wear it until she died. Congress and President Jimmy Carter reinstated her medal in 1977 after much persuasion from various entities and family.

Following the Civil War Dr. Mary continued to practice medicine wearing pants, top hats and coats. She championed women's rights, temperance in alcohol and smoking. Walker traveled extensively even to Europe to stress these issues.

Dr. Walker died alone and almost penniless on February 21,

1919. Her only income was a \$20 pension from the Army and fees from doctoring and lecturing.

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker is and was remembered with twenty cent stamp in 1982, a liberty ship during WWII and several medical facilities around the country including SUNY Oswego.

Sources: Sisters of the Grange: Rural Feminism in the Late Nineteenth Century by Donald Marti
The Times of Wayne
Online Sources

State Grange Secretary



Ryan Orton

It's time to begin planning for the Annual State Grange Session! By now, the following information has been received by each Pomona Grange in New York: The 152nd Annual Session of the New York State Grange is coordinated by the New York State Grange Executive Committee and our Graces (Flora – Kelly Frost; Pomona – Virginia Dehner; Ceres – Allison Bolio). The Session will be held from October 25 – 29 at the Lake Ontario Event & Conference Center; 26 East 1st Street; Oswego, NY 13126 (Oswego County).

The room rate at the Best Western Plus adjacent to the Lake Ontario Event & Conference Center will be \$142 per night (plus 12% tax), and this rate includes breakfast. This rate will be honored for Thursday and Tuesday if anyone wishes to come in early or leave a day later. The reservation cut-off date is Thursday, September 19th. Grangers who are not part of the "Official Family" should make a reservation directly with the hotel at (315) 342-4040 and ask for the New York State Grange Conference Rate. About a third of the rooms will be at the neighboring Clarion Hotel. The following is the contact information for both hotels:

Best Western Plus
26 East 1st Street
Oswego, NY 13126
(315) 342-4040
Check In: 3 p.m.
Check Out: 11 a.m.

Clarion Hotel
70 East 1st Street
Oswego, NY 13126
(315) 343-1600
Check In: 4 p.m.
Check Out: 11 a.m.

There will be one meal function for the entire Grange Family on Friday evening, October 25th. Those arrangements will be shared later by Melvin Phelps, State Overseer, who will be handling notification and meal reservations. The Conferment of the Sixth Degree will be on Saturday, October 26th 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 2024 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 Thursday, August 15th to me at my home address: 218 Attlebury Hill Road; Stanfordsville, NY 12581. The forms now ask for phone numbers and e-mail addresses for all Delegates. This is for virtual Committee Meetings prior to State Session. Also, please note if any of your Delegates are first time Delegates to State Grange.

It is the duty of the Delegates attending to notify either the State Master or State Secretary if you are leaving Session early and will not be present to vote on all matters presented before the Delegate Body or if there will be Delegate Substitution due to the departure of a Delegate for any reason. There has been confusion when Counties were called for the roll, and no answer was returned as well as when a Granger who was a visitor at the beginning of Session suddenly was a Voting Delegate by Monday. Help us to keep our records accurate, especially when important votes are taken, by notifying us if there is a Delegate substitution or if you are leaving Session early.

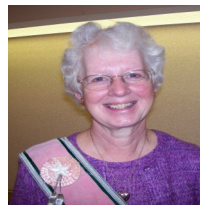
All Delegates are reminded that a registration fee of \$5 will be collected during registration upon arrival in Auburn on Friday, October 25th.

The Executive Committee invites State Grange Officers, Deputies, Junior Deputies, and Directors to provide an item that can be included on the Silent Auction Table for 2024. We appreciate your willingness to participate in this Annual Fundraiser. Directions will be given on Friday evening as to the lo-

cation of where items are to be delivered on Saturday of Session.

Congratulations to the following Granges who took in new members since the last ESG:
10 New Members: Plattekill Grange #923 (Ulster County)
7 New Members: Copake Grange #935 (Columbia County)
5 New Members: Milton Grange #685 (Saratoga County)
4 New Members: Mount Pleasant Grange #349 (Oswego County)
2 New Members: Fredonia Grange #1 (Chautauqua County)
Cuyler Grange #449 (Cortland County)
Mount Hope Grange #902 (Dutchess County)
Putnam Valley Grange #841 (Putnam County)
1 New Member: Colonel Harper Grange #1508 (Delaware County)
Kirkland Grange #684 (Jefferson County)

Chaplain's Corner



Virginia L. Conner

I WILL NEVER FORGET

Have you ever emphatically declared, "I will never forget....."? It is a phrase that we hear people use often.

Normally after declaring that we will never forget the event or a bit of knowledge someone told us or an important statement that we should remember for the future or a snippet of local history that we really, really want to remember, we go about our daily routines and then a few days/weeks later try to recall the information that we wanted to remember and it won't come to mind! That is when we ask our spouse or a friend who was present and heard the same information to help us recall what we so desperately want to remember. And quite often as soon as the other person says one or two words, we suddenly have the forgotten memory.

In God's Word, there are twenty six verses with the word "forget". There is a command in Psalm 103:2: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits". Then in Psalm 102:4 a verse that we all can relate to at some time in our lives: "My heart is smitten and withered like grass; so that I forget to eat my bread".

In Philippians 3:13, Paul declares "this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth to those things which are before". Aha, is Paul saying it's ok to forget? But then he says "to

look forward to what lies ahead".

The most important event that we must never forget is that which occurred in the Garden of Gethsemane – the location of our Lord's agony and betrayal. Read Matthew 26:36-56 and John 18:1-12.

Youth



Co-Directors
Johannah Stewart & Sarah Barber

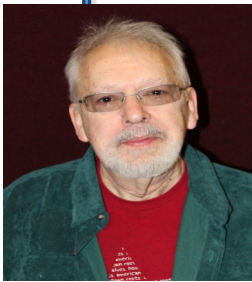
Wow, time is really flying! I can't believe it's almost summer. The Youth department is gearing up for what is shaping up to be a fantastic North East Regional Youth Conference. Young, old, or in between, get your registrations in today. In the meantime, there is still time to notify your department chairs that you want to compete for State Youth Ambassador or State Young Adult Ambassador. As an ambassador, you will have the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of some of the most respected leaders in the Grange. Past Princes and Princesses, Horizon Youth Leaders and Ambassadors have all made their mark on the organization as a whole. You will also have the chance to forge a new path moving forward. Which of the G.R.A.N.G.E. pillars will you focus on? Will you Grow the membership of your subordinate Grange? Will you teach Ritual to junior Grangers? Will you Act on the ideas you have had for years? Will you Network with other Grangers in far away places? Will you focus on Grassroots Advocacy by hosting a meet the candidates night? Will you Educate your fellow youth members by running a workshop on a topic close to your heart? No matter what you choose to do, you will learn and grow from your experience. Every member of the G.R.O.W club will tell you that this experience was well worth it. We all learned a lot and were given opportunities to network with and help other Grangers across the state and, for some, even the country. My co-director and I hope to hear from many of you about your desire to compete to become an ambassador. If you are past the age of becoming an ambassador, (16-21 for youth and 22-35 for young adults) you may be wondering what this article has to do with you. First, I hope you encourage the younger members of your Subordinate or Pomona Grange to participate in this fantastic

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3) Youth

program. Next, please consider how you, and your local Granges, can help future ambassadors have the best chance to learn and grow in all six pillar areas. All the past Princes and Princesses I have spoken to consistently talk about the events they were involved in. I have heard stories of riding in parades, helping at dinners, doing the lecturer's program and helping with many community service projects. Please let the youth department know if you are hosting one of these events or want to call on our ambassadors for other similar events. The motto of the G.R.O.W. club, the organization past Grange royalty graduate into, is Go Right On Working. For this to be true of any future ambassadors, we need to put them to work while they are serving. These stories of road tripping all over the state to attend events are also the stories that these young people remember for years to come. I hope to hear from many of you about the interesting events your Grange is having or participating in.

Leadership Membership



Barton Snedaker

In the grand scheme of things it wasn't all that long ago that I first heard the term volunteer applied to a plant which had not been planted, but came up in someone's garden all by itself. This year as I was weeding in my own garden I found an example of that phenomenon. For years we have planted nasturtiums with our zucchini as a form of natural bug repellent. There they were - two newly growing plants with the distinctive leaves of that type of flower.

So where did my mind go? Membership/Leadership, of course. It was an extremely short leap between the two. These volunteers were there without being asked or instructed. Do you have members of your Grange who are always ready to help? Aren't they a blessing? They do not need to be asked for their help after an announcement of an event. There they are - ready, willing and able. Ready to participate, willing to take on the task and able to see it through. Volunteers are the backbone of any organization and that most assuredly includes the Grange. If you stop to think about it your entire Grange is made up of volunteers. No one is being forced to be

there. Do you have volunteers as leaders in your Grange? Of course you do. Have some of them been "volunteering" for a long time in that position? My guess is that if they have, they may no longer think they are volunteering. It may be time for a change of personnel.

If you have new members who are willing volunteers to take part or assist in various functions don't burn them out. They may need mentoring, they may need to be slowed down some. Whatever you do - do not squelch their enthusiasm. Find a way to incorporate them into your Grange structure. If they offer a new idea - let them try it. That is the essence of leadership development. Just like a volunteer in your garden they may need nurturing to continue thriving in your Grange. Care for them with fidelity and nurture their hope. Offering your knowledge may be a charitable act. Show them you have faith in their abilities.

The question arises about what to do with your volunteers while you continue gardening. How to keep them safe and protected. Make sure your volunteers are checked on frequently. Are they still growing, are they actually thriving? Can you keep them covered and out of harm's way? If you do so properly you will have an addition to your garden (Grange) which requires very little in the way of more work.

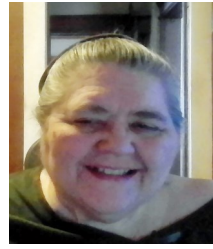
On the other side of that coin are those Grangers who would be very willing to help but need to be asked. You may already know who they are. They may use the reason that they do not want to intrude. They may not think you need them. They may feel that they don't have the skill or aptitude for your project. Ask anyway. You may be pleasantly surprised, so might they.

The conventional wisdom is that people will not volunteer. The other wisdom is that they will if asked, and deem the project worthy enough of their involvement. No one should be left to shoulder the total responsibility of any project or event. As they say, too many cooks may spoil the soup but another saying is - many hands make light work.

I have heard that these vegetable volunteers are sturdier and more hearty than those planted from seed. Accept your volunteers, value their involvement and appreciate their excitement. It just may be catching and grow your Grange.

PS. The zucchini is being planted in two places this year. Oh well!

Legislative Column



Cindy Benson-Pollard

Summer is finally here. The smell of fresh mown grass and blooming flowers is all around us. We enjoy summer evenings watching fireflies floating around. Summer activities keep us all busy. I hope that your Grange activities are included in your plans.

The State legislative session is quickly coming to an end as I write this article. It has been a busy one this year. Some of the issues that we have been working on include the prohibition of the use of fracking fluids on roads during the winter, the installation of wildlife crossings over interstates during reconstruction, expansion of the bottle deposit laws and agrivoltaics program regulations. These are just a few of the many topics that we have been writing to state legislators about during this session. Please be on the lookout for email blasts when these issues are forwarded to the Governor for signing.

There has been a proposal introduced in the House of Representatives that would establish a new Farm Bill. Many issues were addressed in this new bill. The National Grange has been involved in communicating the Grange's position on various topics that are included in this omnibus bill. There is some skepticism that this bill will receive much attention until after the November elections. I encourage you to keep the pressure on your Congressmen and Senators to get this bill enacted as soon as possible.

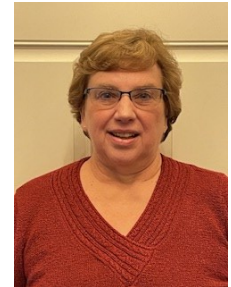
I happened to see an article recently that has brought me great concern. There is a movement that has started in the Sonoma Valley in California by animal rights groups. They have successfully petitioned to have a ballot initiative for Sonoma County election this year which would outlaw large scale dairy and poultry operations in the county and would require existing operations to be shut down within 3 years. I encourage you to read any articles that may talk about this issue. This could affect all forms of agriculture, not just dairy and poultry and not just in California. Should you want any further information, please let me know, I will be glad to share anything I may have with you.

A couple of reminders. First, please keep resolutions being sent into me as soon as possible. The deadline is September 1st if the resolutions are to be consid-

ered at this State Grange Session. Second, please remember to mark your calendar for the annual Legislative Day at Headquarters in Cortland on September 28th. Please watch your mail for further information.

Always remember if you need help writing your resolutions or have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I am always happy to help.

Lecturer



Brenda Noble

I want to thank everyone who came to the Lecturers/Family Activities weekend. It was a fun filled day. There were approximately 40 in attendance. We had two speakers: Hannah Rion a Farm to School Coordinator at Rural Health Network, and Joan C. Smith from National Grange. Joan spoke on the National Grange Foundation and Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors. We thank Cuyler Grange for a wonderful lunch.

The Photo Contest winners for Close Up photos: Div I (Age 15 and above) 1st Ralph Williams, Jefferson Co.; 2nd Cathy Stark, Dutchess Co.; 3rd Ginnie Bush, Jefferson Co.; HM Matthew Pirrone, Columbia Co. Div II (Age 10-14) 1st Logan Ciesielczyk, Columbia Co.; 2nd Haily Fleming, Jefferson Co.; 3rd Gabby Hubbard, Lewis Co. Div III (Age 5-9) 1st Liam Adams, Lewis Co.; 2nd Gunther Pirrone, Columbia Co. Best of Show for Photos: Div I Ralph Williams, Jefferson Co.; Div II Logan Ciesielczyk, Columbia Co. The Art Contest winners for Barn Quilts: Div I (Age 15 and above) 1st Christine Adams, Lewis Co.; 2nd Cathy Galley, Otsego Co.; 3rd Laura Wigfield, Wayne Co.; 3rd Christine Anken, Oneida Co.; HM Mindy Jo Eldred, Chenango Co. Div II (Age 10-14) 1st Isabelle Ciesielczyk, Columbia Co.; 2nd Elizabeth Hickey, Jefferson Co.; Div III (5-9) 1st Eryk Ciesielczyk, Columbia Co.; 1st Miles Hickey, Jefferson Co. Best of Show for Art Div I Christine Adams, Lewis Co.

The Talent Contest winners: Variety Act (Subordinate) 1st Sonja Galley, Otsego Co. Vocal Solo (Subordinate) 1st Corey Watts, Jefferson Co.; 2nd Connie Johnson, Oneida Co. Vocal Solo (Junior) 1st Peyton Meyers, Rensselaer Co. Best of Show for Talent is Corey Watts from Jefferson Co.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4) Lecturer

Update for 2025 Photo Contest: In addition to Grange Hall photos there will be a second category added – State, County, or Community Fairs. Submit a photo that you think is the best representation of your favorite fair memory this summer. The same Divisions and Rules apply, but we will have 2 categories instead of just one. This is also a category in the National Grange Digital Photo Contest for 2024, so you can check out the Rules and details for submission by September 1st, 2024 on the National Grange website!

Future State Lecturer events: We will see you at State Fair on Saturday, August 31st for Grange Day in the Grange building. We will also see you at the State Grange Banquet on Friday, October 25th during State Session.

Family Activities

Maryanne Campbell

I would like to thank all those Grangers who worked diligently and submitted crafts for the April 26th State Grange Contest. There were a total of 68 crafts submitted from 14 counties. Making crafts takes a time commitment using your skillful tools and hands to complete the specific craft you have chosen. The items presented at the State Contest showed your creativity and skill. Congratulation to all who submitted a craft or crafts, you are all winners in the craft world.

The following crafts judged and placed as, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention (HM). They are listed below, as well as the Grangers name & County. Some of the 1st place winners will have their craft item submitted for display and judging at the Big E, Northeast Needlework Contest in the New England Grange Building. The Big E, Eastern States Exposition will take place September 13-29, in Springfield, Mass.

Woodworking: 1st & going to the Big E- Donald Hamilton, Onondaga, 2nd -Cathy Galley, Otsego, 3rd -Lynne Conklin, Chenango and HM- Brian Campbell, Wayne.

Quilted Runner/Topper: 1st - Paula Evans, Otsego, 2nd -Vicki Lewis, Onondaga, 3rd -Cathy Stark, Dutchess, HM- Mary Gates, Columbia.

Wall Hanger: 1st & going to Big E -Mary Gates, Columbia.

Bedsize Quilt, Machine or Hand quilted: 1st -Karen Johnson, Otsego, 2nd -Jolene Pirrone, Columbia

Afghans Regular Size: 1st &

going to Big E -Roberta Hamilton, Onondaga, 2nd -Pat Vanlare Wayne, 3rd - Sharon Burdick, Jefferson, HM -Elizabeth Morin, Albany.

Afghans Baby Size: 1st & going to Big E -Letitia Pickering, Monroe, 2nd -Sandy Tabor Hunkins Otsego, 3rd -Mary Bolio, Dutchess, HM -Reba Spencer, Onondaga.

Doilies: 1st & going to Big E -Charlotte Brenon, Jefferson, 2nd -Gail Lewis, Otsego, 3rd -Cindy Pollard, Onondaga, HM -Linda Kesby, Chautauqua.

Latch Hook: 1st & going to the Big E -Lynn Conklin, Chenango, 2nd -Viola Horton, Steuben

Canvas (Plastic): 1st & going to Big E -Sandra Green, Allegany, 2nd -Sammie Taber, Otsego, 3rd -Rose Bower, Onondaga

3 Piece Baby Set: 1st & going to Big E -Beverly Wright, Chenango, 2nd -Cindy Pollard, Onondaga, 3rd -Marcy Bolio, Dutchess.

Embroidery/Cross Stitch: 1st & going to Big E -Letitia Pickering, 2nd -Cathy Stark, Dutchess, 3rd -Karen Wilcox, Jefferson

Stuffed Toy: 1st & going to Big E -Charlotte Brenon, Jefferson, 2nd -Marcy Bolio, Dutchess, 3rd -Lynn Conklin, Chenango.

Holiday Ornament: 1st -Gail Lewis, Otsego, 2nd -Heidi Henderson, Onondaga, 3rd -Emily Ormsby, Allegany, HM - Marlene Stanton, Albany

Holiday Ornament Junior: 1st -Gabby Hubbard, Lewis

Tea Cup/Saucer: 1st & going to Big E -Mindy Joe Eldred, Chenango, 2nd -Cindy Williams, Lewis, 3rd -Jacqueline Schrom, Albany, HM -Pat Hombeck, Otsego.

Junior Tea Cup/Saucer: 1st - Ariel Fuchs, Wayne, 2nd -Liam Adams, Lewis.

Adult Garment Sewn: 1st & going to Big E -Marlene Utter, Chenango

The 1st & 2nd placed crafts will be displayed at the State Grange Conference in October. The Big E items will be sent to the New England Grange Building and will be returned after their fair is completed in time for our State Conference. Lets try next year for 80 or more crafts submitted, tell your fellow Grangers and have some craft nights to get your projects completed. Most importantly have fun.

The Big E needs workers and again this year Anna Ritchey and myself are planning on working at the New England Grange Building. There are other Grangers that are also planning on working. If you are interested in working please let us know. They are also looking for items to sell. To date I have received 226 items that will be sold in the Grange Building. Please let me know your name

and the Grange, if you have made & donated crafts that will be going to the Big E. Smithville Valley Grange 1397 has submitted many items. These items should be mailed to me by August 5th. The following items are needed for their store. Large size afghans, dishcloths, 8x8, stuffed animals, baby mittens without thumbs, baby sets, chef hats, large shawls, scrubbies made out of rough netting, mittens, fingerless gloves, set of place mats, potato sacks, grain bags, quilted bowl cozy, kitchen towels, if the material is thin please do not cut them in half. Aprons, clothespin bags, cotton grocery bags and plastic bags made for grain or bird seed. The Christmas items sell out quickly. This request is from Dawn R Percoski, Craft Manager of the New England Grange Building and Director of CT Family Activities.

Thank you to the Family Activities committee for their hard work during the Conference, Valerie Griffing, Jeanette Moore and Letitia Pickering. Our behind the scene helper, Pat Vanlare. A big thank you to all of those who donated items for our pasta lunch, helped with setup, cooking and clean up. You all are greatly appreciated.

Domestic Violence display and information was available for promoting a greater understanding and increasing awareness to Grangers and the public. There were handouts, purple ribbons and a short presentation was given at our conference. This display will be set up at our State Grange Conference in October with pertinent information for a greater understanding of Domestic Violence and what you can do to help.

The pumpkin bread contest will take place at the State Grange Conference. Congratulations to all of you that have placed for this contest. We are hoping to have a lot of participants.

If you have any questions, please call me at 607-874-6639 or my cell, 607-226-4441. If you have sent e-mail, please note that my correct e-mail is: kmcampbell@citlink.net

Community Involvement



Melvin Phelps

As we are looking forward to summer, it is time to start thinking about our Annual Report of

Grange Community Service Activities that need to be post marked by September 15, 2024 to myself. Remember every Grange should be submitting this report, even if you have a simple project or no project at all please submit the report. These reports are **NOT** judged at the state level, but used collectively to determine the impact our organization has on a state level.

Granges can also submit a "Yearbook" which is a combination of yearly activities which will be judged on the state level. These are also due with a post-mark of September 15, 2024. All information about New York State Grange Community Service Projects can be found on the New York State Grange website under Community Involvement. There are forms there in information about what should be in the yearbook.

The Community Service page on the National Grange website also gives some ideas on how to organize your yearbook. It lists several Do's and Don'ts for your submission. Please take a moment to visit the National Grange website and look over their suggestions for a good yearbook/report.

We are still working out the details of our Food Drive at state session and which organization will be receiving the "C" bills as well at state session. Please keep an eye out for the next issue of the Empire State Granger for more information and the State Grange Facebook.

Sports

Director

Bruce Dehner



The dart ball tournament was held April 28th and we had something happen that has never happened before. We had a 3-way tie for first place. We had the 3 teams involved vote on what to do as, with a 3-way tie, it could take a long time to determine a winner. It was decided to give out 3 first place trophies and 1 second place trophy due to the time it would take to decide a winner and the amount of travel time many still had to face to get home. Here are the results: 1st place Hamptonburgh Grange, 1st place Cortland County Pomona, 1st place North Cameron Grange, and 2nd place Dutchess County Pomona. Bowling will be the next event on June 2nd at Cort Lanes in Cortland. At this point, it looks like we will have more teams than last year. Right now, we have a possible 9 teams and maybe a 10th if they can get 2 more people. Golf will be July

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5) Sports

7th. Plans to hold it at the Orchard Valley golf course in LaFayette, NY have been finalized. If anyone needs an entry form please contact me. Golf teams consist of 3 people, one being of the opposite sex. The cost is \$31.00 per person which includes the cart fee. As for Corn Hole, we are holding that on August 3rd at State Grange Headquarters. I will be passing out rules at each sporting event or if you would like a copy mailed to you please contact me. **We need to know how many will be attending so we have enough boards for everyone. Please let me know ASAP if you have a team.** Let's have great turnouts for the coming events. Have fun!

Junior Grange



Sherri Taft

I am looking for a few good Junior Grange members! I am sure you are asking, "Why are you looking for a few good Junior Grange members?" At the annual New York State Grange Session, Junior Grange members have a chance to show off their skills of running a Junior Grange meeting. On Sunday, October 27, 2024, I need between thirteen and fifteen Junior Grange/1+ members to put on the Junior Grange opening and closing. If you are interested in being an officer, please send me your first and last name, Grange name and County, and the office that you would like to hold. This information can be sent to me via email at kidsbreak1@yahoo.com or call/text me at (315)380-2294. There will be a pizza party following the Junior Program for all of the officers that participated. The program will be on Sunday, October 27, 2024, 1:00 PM at the Lake Ontario Event and Conference Center, 26 East 1st Street, Oswego, NY 13126. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me. I am looking forward to having a wonderful Junior Grange program this year!

Have you ever thought about being a National Junior Grange Ambassador? Are you asking, "What is a National Junior Grange Ambassador?" The National Junior Grange Ambassador program allows a Junior Grange member to serve on the National Junior Grange program for one year and build leadership skills. Outstanding Junior Grange members would attend the National Grange Convention and go through a process of interviews

and observations by a council of judges. The Junior Grange member that is chosen to be the National Junior Grange Ambassador for the year will be given an opportunity to build relationships with other Junior Grangers and Grangers across the country. They will also receive important training that will help them to develop Junior Grange programs within their state and prepare them for their future in Grange.

Are you now asking yourself "What do I do to apply for this wonderful opportunity?" The first thing you would do is to reach out to me and ask for information on applying to be an Outstanding Junior Granger. I will then give you the information you need to apply for this prestigious honor. Once we have completed all the necessary criteria, I would announce the winner of our Outstanding Junior Grange program. I would love it if we could have an Outstanding Junior Granger represent New

Kids Days Out

York in the upcoming National Grange Conventions.

Keep working on your projects, inviting new people to your Grange events, and I hope to see everyone at the Kids' Day Out events near you! Have a great summer vacation and continue to build the Junior Grange Program in New York State.

Please remember that the due date for Kids' Day Out registrations is July 1, 2024. We are looking forward to a great program again this summer! We have many fun activities planned for everyone. We cannot have a successful program without all of you! If you need the information or registration

That's the GRANGE way!



Be a star and add a few new members to your Grange.

New Grange Members

- Albany Co.**
- Bethlehem#137**
- Judy Juene
- Ravena #1457
- Adalberto Gonzales
- Erin Gonzales
- Eilica Steenbuck
- Chenango Co.**
- Smithville Valley #1397**
- Debra Turner
- Chautaugua Co.**
- Fredonia #1**
- Clara Wilder
- Jeff Winton
- Columbia Co.**
- Copake #935**
- Dana Coleman
- Rebecca Gadzuk
- Joe Lacovelli
- Jamie Purinton
- Carol Singer
- Larry Singer
- Steve Ziass
- East Chatham #1066**
- Jeanne Bowerman
- Cortland Co.**
- Albright #440**
- Angela Perry
- Dutchess Co.**
- Freedom Plains #857**
- Richard Sassi III

- Rhinebeck #896
- Nicholas Sussillo
- Jefferson Co.**
- Kirkland #684**
- Wade Walts
- Oswego Co.**
- Richard #993**
- Holly Cook
- Putnam Co.**
- Putnam Valley #841**
- Brian Beaton
- Tom Deacon
- Saratoga Co.**
- Milton #685**
- Mary Anastasio
- Ben Badaszewski
- Susanne Ciani
- Faith Deutsch
- Ginger Knight
- Greenfield #807
- Jean Crumb
- Dan Crumb
- Cody Sargen
- Kateri Scogen
- Ryan Vetch
- Wayne Co.**
- Eureka #46**
- Brennan Dailey
- Newark #366**
- James Wilck

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lands have traditionally been managed on the multiple use concept where they are eligible for lease to livestock grazing, recreation, energy development and timber harvest. Ranchers and other current lease-holders fear that well-funded public interest groups will be able to out-bid them for leases on these lands.

President invests in climate-smart agriculture

President Biden has made \$1.5 billion available for fiscal year 2024 for conservation and climate solutions through USDA's Regional Conservation Partnership program. The RCP invests in landowner partner-driven projects that help farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners adopt and expand conservation strategies to enhance natural resources and climate-smart practices. The move was welcomed by ag producers. But several key progressives on Capitol Hill are critical of such practices alleging they are less targeted to reducing greenhouse gas emissions than subsidizing the country's largest "factory" farms.

Ag climate alliance engages EPA

The National Grange is a member of the Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance that has been able to bring agriculture to the table during EPA's consideration of what types of projects could qualify for new program funding at EPA. EPA has recently established a \$14 billion National Clean Investment fund to mitigate climate change and build resilience to challenging growing conditions.

Ag emissions down

Agriculture emissions fall to their lowest level in ten years according to the EPA. Emissions from all agriculture are just under 10% of the U.S. total which is the lowest level since 2012. This highlights the value of voluntary and market-based programs that support producer efforts in sustainable agriculture practices.

Funding urged for Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network

The National Grange, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, the Farmers Union and a broad group of agriculture, rural, and mental health organizations are urging the Senate and House Appropriations Committees to continue the \$10 million funding for FRSAN during FY 2025. Administered by USDA, FRSAN established four regional centers that include telephone helplines and websites, training programs and workshops, support groups, and outreach services. The National Grange and Rural Minds are pushing for additional permanent funding in the farm bill.

Rise in rural fatal drug overdoses concerning

The rise in fatal drug overdoses has been rising more rapidly in rural areas for the past decade. While the rate of deaths are generally higher in urban areas, eight states – California, Connecticut, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Vermont and Virginia – had higher drug overdose death rates in rural areas. Even though the federal government has allocated billions to all 50 states, observers question sending additional funding to places that are already well funded. For instance, in a recent round of funding grants, half went to California and New York.

Medicare should cover anti-obesity medications

The National Grange and 42 medical, patient and consumer groups signed a letter to the administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicare Services to request CMS approve Medicare coverage of anti-obesity medication treatment for all people with obesity. Obesity is a significant contributing factor to the development of cardiovascular disease and several others.

Plant-based meat isn't better for your heart

Findings published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* seems to debunk plant-based meat analogue product claims that they are healthier for your diet than real meat. Researchers found no significant changes in cholesterol profiles for either diet.

Senate urged to pass tax relief

The National Grange and 33 agriculture producer organizations sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell to urging them to bring H.R. 7024 to the floor for a vote. The bill, Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act, passed the House with broad bipartisan support. It would extend expired or soon-to-expire provisions of the tax code for farmers, ranchers, growers and landowners. These include bonus depreciation, Section 1031 like-kind exchanges, pass-through provisions and several more.

Support grows to extend Affordable Connectivity Program

The ACP provides more than 33 million low-income households with a monthly internet discount. Its \$14 billion allocation from the Infrastructure and Jobs Act will run dry in May. The ACP Extension Act introduced in January would provide funding through 2024 while permanent funding sources can be negotiated. The Act has 223 cosponsors in the House but it has yet to be brought to the floor. The Biden Administration is urging Congress to pass the legislation. A discharge petition is currently being circulated in the House that, if sufficient signatures are obtained, would force a vote on the ACP Extension Act.

"If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain." ~ **Emily Dickenson**

"There never was any heart truly great and generous, that was not also tender and compassionate." ~ **Robert Frost**

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched, they must be felt in the heart." ~ **Helen Keller**

"I think there is only one quality worse than hardness of heart and that is softness of head." ~ **Theodore Roosevelt**

"The heart of a fool is in his mouth, but the mouth of a wise man is in his heart." ~ **Benjamin Franklin**

The National Grange is pleased to announce the recognition of the National Grange News Corner on the Empire State Grange website. The National Grange News Corner is a new feature that will give our members and families for national recognition. Each family will receive a certificate and feature in the National Convention. The deadline for nominations is September 10, 2004 and should be sent to the

National Grange

News

CORNER



Farm bill could see action soon

House Ag Committee Chairman G.T. Thompson has announced he plans to unveil a draft of the farm bill and begin markup in the committee before Memorial Day. He says he's found a way to robustly fund the safety net programs including commodity programs and crop insurance. He also assured Democrats on the committee that no money would be shifted to the commodities program from the nutrition title or the Inflation Reduction Act conservation funding, both items that Democrats have insisted on protecting.

U.S. commodities to emergency food aid

USDA and the Agency for International Development will deploy \$1 billion in Commodity Credit Corporation funding to purchase U.S. grown commodities for emergency food assistance for people around the world in need. USDA will purchase the commodities and transfer them to USAID for distribution. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, an estimated 205 million people need life-saving food assistance worldwide.

More veggies, less milk

USDA's final changes to the Women, Infants and Children nutrition assistance program (WIC) will boost fruit and vegetable consumption among participants while trimming milk and dairy they purchase with benefits. The changes permanently increase the fruit and vegetable benefit Congress first approved in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The final rule includes cuts to the amount of milk and dairy products available to purchase through the program.

Ranchers fear loss of public lands use

The Bureau of Land Management has finalized a rule that will allow conservation leases on the 245 million acres of mostly western land the agency controls. These

Otsego County

Jefferson County

GILBERTSVILLE-Butternut Valley Grange celebrated its 90th Anniversary on Monday, May 13 at its regular meeting at the Grange Hall. Several members received recognition for years of service.



Pictured front row, left to right, Colleen Bushnell 40 years, Wanetta Daniels 25 years and Irmabelle Sheldon 75 years. Back row left to right, Anna Ritchey 65 years, Joseph White 60 years, John Matteson 60 years, and Roger Halbert 55 years. Absent were Maryanne Campbell, Colin Theos and Helen Ritchey with 25 years, David Ireland 40 years, Cathy Osborn and Melodee Ireland 55 years, and Douglas Dutcher 60 years. Following the meeting an Anniversary Cake and maple milk punch was served by the refreshment committee.

In recognition of Earth Day and Grange Month, Kirkland Junior Grange met to pick up litter at the Redwood Playground on the evening of April 29th. Many hands make light work, and in only half an hour, the kids really made a difference removing several bags of trash. After their community service project, the kids gathered at the Lutheran Community Hall to hear and taste the results of their chocolate chip cookie contest. First place was earned by Braxton Slate of Hammond in the 5 to 8 age category. First place in the 9 to 11 age group was won by Tryston Hawn of LaFargeville. Group leadership games wrapped up the final portion of the fun evening.

Kirkland Junior Grange is for children age 5-14, and meets once per month to lead, learn, grow, and serve.



In the photo:
front row: Braxton Slate, Hunter Slate
middle row: Tryston Hawn, Aubrey Beckwith (representing Girl Scouts), and Heaven Thomas
back row: Junior Grange Alumni Steven Frost and Nathan Frost

Wayne County

Wayne County News

Celebration of 150 years of Grange in Wayne County is underway. Some Grange history was published in a county paper and more will follow. At our Pomona meeting on June 8 past and current state officers and committee chairs, past deputies and others will be recognized.

A committee is working to have a float celebrating 150 years of Grange ready for a couple of parades this summer.

In September Wayne County Pomona Grange will meet in the oldest Grange hall in the county, Huron. Huron hall is owned and maintained by the Town of Huron. Electricity was recently installed.

Huron was one of the 15 Granges to be organized in 1874 in the county of Wayne. The Grange closed in 1995 and was turned over to the town by NYS Grange in 1997. The hall was the site of the first Junior (Juvenile) Grange in 1904.

Museum Fund Raiser

Check you one dollar bills, do you have any with and "H" on it? If you do save it for the New York State Grange Museum. "H" is for history of course. You can check \$5 bills for an "M" which we will gladly accept as well.

This new fund raiser was approved at a meeting by the board of the museum on April 20. This fund raiser coincides with the other bills that we save throughout the year. We will collect them at State Grange in October. The board thanks you for participation in this project.

The Board of the New York State Museum

AREAS OF ACTIVITY IN NY STATE GRANGE

- Could you lend your talents, knowledge, and time? See list below or offer your expertise in another area.
- Teaching Grange Ritual > Many current members have not learned how to properly do it.
- Training Leaders > Secretaries, Masters, Information Directors, Youth Committees, Jr. Leaders need instruction on duties/expectations.
- Teaching Code Reading > Those who are proficient at deciphering the code book are few; we cannot lose this important aspect of Grange knowledge.
- Posting on social media > Please repost NY State Grange posts. Your post may be the only one someone sees. Wouldn't be great to get a new member that way?
- Website updating > Do you have the skill and could you donate a small amount of time each month to updating the NYS Grange website?
- Sorting > There are many items at the State Grange Headquarters that need to be sorted.
- Helping at the State Grange Museum > Contact the Grange Museum Board if you are interested.
- Helping at State Session > If you will be at State Grange Session, and would have some time to help, please let me know. There are lots of little things that need doing.