



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

Empire State Granger
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May June 2026

President's Column

Sandra Green



Have you ever had a deadline? Of course you have. Deadlines are found throughout all our lives. One that most everyone has dealt with recently came on April 15th. All income tax payers know that one well.

Some of us handle deadlines with the attitude "get it done as soon as possible so the deadline won't become an issue." How many of you file your tax return as soon as you have all the necessary information?

Some of us work best when the deadline is close. How many of you crammed for tests or wrote reports just before they were due? Most of us, I believe, actually do some of each, based on the situation. If one owes taxes to the government, he/she is more likely to wait for the deadline. In this way, the individual keeps the money as long as possible. If one will be receiving a refund, he/she is more likely to file early, thus receiving the money as soon as possible.

Most people understand the necessity of deadlines and do their best to meet them. If you realize a deadline is approaching for something, please remind the one who is responsible.

However, is it ever too soon to file a report? Yes! The best example of this, for me, is the Grange quarterly report. Deadlines for quarterly reports are the end of each quarter. The June

quarterly report should not be filed until June. While "the early bird gets the worm," one should not file a report on the early birds consumption of worms until the worms are eaten.

Have you ever missed a deadline? Sometimes, it cannot be helped; one may become ill or suffer an accident. Sometimes, procrastination lasts too long. Sometimes, people forget the deadline. Sometimes, "woodchucks!", as my Gramma used to say.

What do you do if you miss a deadline? Do your best to make up for it.

I am sure that Community Grange Secretaries, Treasurers, and Masters, across the nation, have, at some point, missed getting quarterly reports filed on time. Just the fact that three people are required to complete the filing adds to the chances of reports being filed late. But, what if the deadline has passed? Send them! While reports have deadlines for reasons, even late ones are helpful. This goes for any Grange report. And, the tax returns. *Better late than never* is a cliché for a reason. And, do your best to meet any future deadlines.

All of us are human. All of us are busy, and time passes quickly. All of us "mess up" in different ways. Let us be forgiving to those who mess up. Let us use "kind words, spoken in season" to correct them.

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



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Northeast Lecturers Conference

The Northeast Lecturers Conference convened at the New York State Grange Headquarters on April 17, 2026. There was in excess of 70 attendees from the States of New York, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont and Maine. The motto of the group is "Seven Strong".



The flags from each of the states were presented. New York State Grange Lecturer, Brenda Noble welcomed all to the conference. She introduced several dignitaries of the National Grange and from the State Granges present. Several announcements were made regarding the week-

end events.

Game time, led by the State Lecturers then commenced. There was a trivia quiz and Grange ritual, blow a duck (you would have had to been there), ping pong ball bounce, a basket raffle, and a dice rolling game.



After the opening ceremonies, Saturday was filled with workshops and speakers. Walter Hartley, Member of the National Grange Executive Committee and Kathy Gibson, National Grange Lady Assistant Steward and State Grange Master Sandra Green gave remarks.



Nettie Hartley, Lecturer of Rhode Island gave a "PowerPoint" presentation. The presentation described the

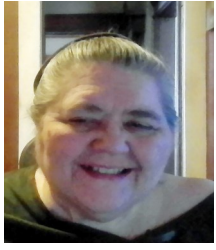
descriptions of different personalities and how leaders of organizations should take account of them to provide good results.

Kathy Gibson gave a demonstration on how to make ice cream using a milk and vanilla, salt and ice in plastic bags. We found out that you need to be very careful not to get holes in the bags or you ice cream will not turn out well.

Lunch was served by Cuyler Grange which included pulled pork as the main course.



Legislative Column



Cindy Benson-Pollard

Despite the turmoil that had become the norm in Washington, there are things getting done. First, one important accomplishment, the Multi-Cancer Early Detection bill that we had been working to get passed, was signed into law last month. This is a major victory for the hard work the Grange on all levels has been working for. I sent an email blast out thanking all the Grangers who wrote in to their representatives as per our email request.

We were recently contacted by a lobbying group that we have worked with in the past. They were looking for a written statement from the State Grange regarding reforming the 340B Medicare reimbursement to rural hospitals. Many urban hospitals have found a loophole in the regulations that allow them to get the funds that are meant for rural hospitals. Congresswoman Tenney is leading an effort to reform the regulations. After talking with our President, we sent an email to the Congresswoman's chief of staff supporting her efforts.

A new farm bill has been proposed in the House Agriculture Committee. As of last week, the bill passed out of the committee and should be somewhere in the netherworld waiting to come to the House floor. Two interesting things that are being discussed in this bill would be to override California's laws that govern how animals are to be raised as they pertain to pen/cage sizes and to reform the laws that govern meat processing plants and their monopoly on certain markets. This has been an issue with the Stockyard Act for some time now. We will continue to monitor the negotiations and when it looks like it will be discussed on the floor, I will send out an email blast looking for support.

On a state level, the legislature is starting budget negotiations. Several committees have been holding hearings regarding budget funding. The Governor's budget had provisions that were very favorable to agriculture and rural communities. I will continue to follow the negotiations.

Other issues/bills I have been following include:

- ❖ Restrictions on the sale of xylazine
- ❖ Animal abuse registry
- ❖ Urban farming projects in included in ag districts
- ❖ Expansion of telehealth services
- ❖ Students attending agricultural related activities be an

excused absence from school

- ❖ Establishing rural suicide council

- ❖ Food donations by grocery stores

I met with Melvin Phelps and Johanna Bossard via Zoom meeting regarding working together with the Ag Educators Association and the Grange on legislative issues that are of concern to both groups. We also talked about how the FFA and Grange can work together. There were several ideas exchanged about possible programs that would be for both organizations to work on. Melvin Phelps offered to help with the presentation of these potential programs. I think they would be beneficial to all the organizations involved.

Last year, I worked with Putnam Valley Grange regarding the Grange's representation on the Soil and Water Board. This was quite a contentious situation. The member that was saying they represented the Grange was not an actual Grange member. I received an email this week from Crystal Stowell, Overseer/Vice President of Putnam Valley Grange. They had successfully resolved the issues that were of concern. I was glad to hear that they were able to successfully resolve this problem.

I received an email from Sarah Barber regarding the date for the Earlandt Legislative Trip. They have asked me to schedule the trip for April 20th. I have started planning for that trip. When the meetings have been set, I will email her the schedule.

I had a phone call from Lori Lee Previty asking for help regarding a capstone project that she is working on. From her description, the program seems very similar to an Eagle Scout program. She asked about writing resolutions and communicating with elected officials. I forwarded her some materials that I think will be helpful in her efforts with those students who may be participating in the program.

Since my last report, I have received the following resolutions:

1. Prohibiting Online Gambling Sites Advertising on Mass Media, Onondaga County
2. Temperature Related Working Conditions, Cortland Co.
3. Clean Fuel Standard Act, Cortland Co.
4. Safer Beauty Bill Package, Cortland Co.

State Grange Secretary



Ryan Orton

I have received several requests from Granges regarding their total membership list and when their members joined the Grange. At the State Grange Headquarters, we only keep track of current membership lists with names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mails (that is, when the Granges send us this information – some Granges still haven't because of a ludicrous notion that State Grange will "sell" their information to someone else – WE WILL NEVER DO THAT!!!). Hopefully, our membership list for your Grange matches yours. If you have a question about this, please feel free to contact me or Mary Liddington at Headquarters to confirm your membership list with what's in our database.

State Grange does not, however, keep track of when your members join your Grange. That responsibility rests with the local Grange Secretary. If we kept such records at State Grange, my office would be completely covered in piles of papers going back to when the Fredonia Grange #1 was organized in 1868! Even if this information was eventually kept electronically, it would mean significant amounts of time and energy to transcribe this information from paper files, most of which are housed at the Grange Archives at Cornell University in Ithaca. If you or one of your members has questions about when someone joined your Grange because it's not kept in a Roll Book, your best bet is to read through your Record Books and find the date they submitted a membership application and were accepted as a member. Maybe that member can help by suggesting a timeframe of when they joined

to find the exact date.

As of May 1, 2026, the National Grange has raised the cost of 50 Year Golden Sheaf Membership Certificates, 75 Year Diamond Membership Certificates, and 80 & 85 Year Membership Letters to \$15 each. Additionally, shipping rates from the National Grange have increased as follows:

Up to \$10.00: \$6.00 shipping
 \$10.00 - \$19.99: \$9.00 shipping
 \$20.00 - \$49.00: \$10.00 shipping
 \$50.00 - \$74.99: \$12.00 shipping
 \$75.00 - \$99.99: \$15.00 shipping
 \$100.00 - \$124.99: \$20.00 shipping
 \$125.00 - \$249.99: \$25.00 shipping
 \$250.00 and above: \$30.00 shipping

New Form M (Gold) Membership Award Applications have been printed and are available at State Headquarters. Please make sure to either use these new forms when applying for 50, 75, 80, or 85 Year Membership Awards, or use the correct prices for the awards and shipping if you're using up the old forms. Incorrect checks will delay the process of getting your Membership Awards. Congratulations to the following Granges for welcoming new members:

+3 New Members: East Chatham Grange #1066 (Columbia County)
+1 New Member: Bethlehem Grange #137 (Albany County)
 Susquehanna Valley Grange #1552 (Broome County)
 Stanford Grange #808 (Dutchess County)
 Freedom Plains Grange #857 (Dutchess County)
 Kirkland Grange #684 (Jefferson County)



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Community Involvement



Melvin Phelps and Joan Phelps

Welcome May, May Flowers and May Baskets. Does anyone remember gathering a bouquet of flowers, tying them together with a ribbon and attaching the bouquet to the door of a neighbor or a friend then ringing the doorbell and running away? That used to be a "May Day" tradition. It was a nice one. I remember making paper flowers and baskets in Elementary School. It was such fun and I was so excited to take the May Basket home to my Mom. She was equally excited to receive it – I think. 'Course Mom's liked all of that stuff. My Mom shared that when she was in Country School her teacher would organize a "May Pole" celebration. I have little knowledge of that sort of thing, but Mom said that it was a lot of fun. Maybe the "May Day" tradition of old should be revived. I think the receiving of flowers would put smiles on many unsuspecting faces. Gather some bouquets of flowers, tuck a card in the bouquet that states "Happy May" from (your Grange name) and place them on some unsuspecting neighbor or friend's door. Ring the doorbell and "RUN"! You just brought some happy smiles to your community.

I have been asked about Community Service Projects and what can be counted as such.

First and most important – a Community Service Project cannot be one that would make money to be used to pay Grange bills or that would be maintenance on the Grange Hall.

A Community Service Project is one that benefits or helps your community. Some examples are – helping to clean up a cemetery, helping another area organization to complete their project (possibly helping another organization with a dinner), helping at a local food pantry, helping to place flags for Me-

morial Day, maybe even organizing a day of activities at your Grange Hall for your community. There are many things that can be completed in the name of Community Service. But, make sure you let the other organizations know that you are assisting in the name of your Grange. Often individuals will do community service projects by themselves. This may be because they may not be physically able to do a group project. I understand that Nursing Homes like to receive jig saw puzzles for their clients to work on. I am aware that there are a few Grangers will make these puzzles from old calendars. The Nursing Homes love them. Individual Clients can put the puzzles together at their leisure. Everyone has old calendars and many just get tossed at the end of the year. Check with a Nursing Home and see if they are interested. Lap blankets are popular with elderly people in Nursing Homes and in your communities.

Work with a local Pastor – they may like to have a few on hand when they make visits to their membership body. Just make sure if you do these community service activities – you make it known that you are doing this in the name of your Grange. Take pictures and write a paragraph about your project and get the information to your Grange Community Service person. Oh, and – keep track of your hours. I hope that this has helped in clearing up any questions you may have had regarding Community Service Projects. Don't think too hard, just look around and try and meet the needs of the community you Grange may be in.

Enjoy this Spring – when the Sun crossed the line on the first day of this new Spring season – the wind was out of the South/Southwest. Therefore, this season should see timely rains and good Spring temperatures that are positive for a good growing season. (at least that is what my Farmer Husband told me!)

We will have to wait until June 21st to see just what the Summer will bring.

New Officers and Deputy Biographies

Fannie Mallette



Special Deputy State Master

This is my second year as a NYSG deputy, under President Sandra Green.

I am currently Ceres of Newark Grange #366 and Chaplin of Wayne County Pomona Grange. I have been a delegate at State Grange several years, both on Health and Grange Issues. I also was elected to Ceres for State Grange for two terms. I served as Special Deputy at National Grange in Niagara Falls, NY.

I joined Horseheads Grange in 1978, but was involved in the Grange with my aunt Lorena Whitney for many years before she asked us to join after Allan and I married in 1977. In Horseheads Grange I served as Lecturer for two terms before taking a demit as we had moved to Newark, NY for Allan's new job. Upon joining Newark Grange I was asked to become Lecturer, which I accepted with some hesitation as I knew nothing of the area or the members of Newark, but with guidance from the Past Lecturer, Dorothy Taylor I caught on and have enjoyed many new friendships and lots of new experience since joining.

I also have been Lady Assistant in Newark Grange.

Allan and I also have been in charge of The Wayne County Pomona Grange Food Booth for fifteen plus years. We have had fun and worked hard to keep it going. It is a pleasure to work with the adults, young children, and youth as they have grown thru the years and now are in a position to possibly take over for us.

I wanted to be a Special Deputy because I like meeting new people, and see how other Grangers do different things in the Grange.

I hope to travel to many Granges with my husband Allan, who is also a Special Deputy, and my best friend, like all members of Grange that I have met along the way.

I hope to be a Special Deputy in the future.

Paula Turner



I am Paula Turner and am currently Master/President of North Cameron Grange #355 and Secretary of Steuben County Pomona Grange. My parents

met in the Grange, so I joined Juvenile Grange as soon as I turned 5 to attend with my two older brothers. I am a Golden Sheaf member now, and past NYS Grange Youth Co-Director with Elaine Smith, as well as past Flora of our State Grange. I retired as a Radiologic Technologist or X-ray Tech after 38 years at Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital in Bath, NY. I have been married to Jack for a little over 38 years and am Mom to Chris, Jill, Becky and Jackie; and have six grandchildren.

I took on the Special Deputy position to support our State Master after I installed her to that position, and possibly to follow in my parents footsteps as Grange Deputies as well. I also want to help the Granges succeed, as without them we cannot have a State or National Grange. My favorite thing about being a Granger is traveling and meeting new people whether it be at a local Grange meeting or event, or at the biennial Grange Revival. Something that you may not know about me is that I won the Cohocton Fall Foliage Tree Sitting Contest at age forty by staying up in my assigned tree for 48 hours. I think I was trying to prove that 40 was not old. Now I REALLY know that 40 is definitely not old. I am a member of Savona Federated Church. In addition to loving being a Grandma, I enjoy reading, hiking, swimming and traveling. I can be reached by phone or text at 607-377-1736 or email me at paulaturner635@gmail.com. Please note that I do NOT always notice voicemail or Facebook messages in a timely manner, but will respond quickly to a text or email.

Thank You!

Dear Fellow Grangers,

We are grateful for your support and for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers during our mother's, Opal E. Sprague's decline and passing to the "Great Grange Above," on November 14, 2025. Mom remained a fully active 7th degree member of Ross Grange #305, Chautauqua County, for 73 years. Your expressions of sympathy and thoughtfulness during this difficult time are deeply appreciated.

Fraternally,

Ken & Elaine (Sprague) Smith
Dean & Rebecca (Mullen) Sprague

In Loving Memory

Chaplain's Corner



Kelly Frost

I have enjoyed National Grange's monthly Heirloom Quotes! I am a visual learner, so I especially love the quotes that National Grange has paired with a photo. I've had some of the photo-quotes printed in big poster sizes for our Grange exhibits.

February's Heirloom quote is from Flora's part in the 4th Degree: "In kind words, dispense charity, as freely as flowers do their perfume."

This quote reminds me of words in the Bible that encourage us not to grow weary in doing good. More fully it explains, we will reap the kind of harvest that matches the types of seeds we have planted.



7 Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. 8 Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. 9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. 10 Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith. (Galatians 6:7-10 New Living Translation)

We don't have to wait until spring to plant kindness, encouragement, a listening ear, and care for others. Your service and positive attitude make a difference! Keep up the good work that you are doing in your own home, workplace, and community.

State Grange Historian



Carol Bailey

FLAG PHOTO CONTEST

Photo of a flag. Photo must show a flag furled or unfurled. No larger than 8 X 10.

Unframed, but may be mounted on card stock or matted.

No county judging.

All photos come to State Grange for display.

Judging by Peoples Choice.

Certificates to top three choices in each division.

Division I Community Grange
Division II Junior 5 to 9 as of January 1, 2026

Division III Junior 10 to 14 as of January 1, 2026

On back of all photo entries:

Name

Address

Grange, number and county

Division

Lecturer



Brenda Noble

I thank everyone for their help with the Northeast Lecturers Conference and the New York Lecturers/Family Activities Weekend. There will be more details in the next Empire State Granger with the contest winners.

Looking forward to this summer, we will have Grange Day at New York State Fair on Saturday, September 5th at 2pm.

We encourage any and everyone to attend and support the Grange at the Grange building. We will also be glad to see everyone at State Session in October.



Family Activities

Lena Goettel Linda Pile
Co-Directors

Spring is finally here and by the time you receive this article we will have had our lecturers/FAC day. I was excited to be able to help host the day and I hope all who were able to come enjoyed the day. We reviewed the contest rules and changed the categories slightly to align with the Big-E. Winners were announced at the end of the day Saturday. Our judges recognize artistic talent and items were judged on the category criteria, creativity, originality and skill. This was the first time I was able to come and see all the crafts that were created. It was a wonderful experience. If you were unable to come think about saving the date for next year or make a craft to send for judging. I would love to see entries from all the granges in New York. I challenge you all to be creative and craft for your subordinate contests! I know if you win it is a while to see your projects back safely home. We hope those who attended, were able to learn a little about bullying and can bring this back to your granges. Even if it only helps one person it is worth it. They say 50% of people will experience bullying in their lifetime. I believe that number to be much higher. The lasting effects can be felt long after the bullies are no longer there to torment you. I speak from experience. We will announce contest winners in the next newsletter. The first and second place winners will be on display at the state conference in October. Prizes will be awarded there. The Big-E contest always takes place in September. The first place winners from our contest will go on to be entered in specific categories at the Big-E. We will have these items sent to the Big-E by August 15 or sooner if possible, as mail is slow these days! I urge you please to send us craft items to be donated to the Big-E for sale so that this tradition can continue. Please send the items to either myself or to the state Grange office. I will make sure that they get to the sale. Even one hand made item per person would be wonderful but the more you are able to make would be greatly appreciated. Thank you to all of you who have made and donated crafts to the Big-E store. They are always looking for scrubbies, cat and dog toys, knitted or crocheted items, including blankets, hats, scarves, mittens in all sizes, toys suitable for young and old alike. Holiday ornaments, pins and magnets too. Be creative and let them see how talented we are

here in New York! If anyone is interested in working at the Big-E store please contact me. My home phone is 845-229-7449. Please leave a message, as if I am unfamiliar with the number I will not answer it. You may text my cell number 845-264-0367 or the FAC e-mail Fac@nysgrange.org If you have any ideas, suggestions we are happy to try to implement them. I was thinking of maybe adding more categories. Unfortunately these would not get cash prizes but maybe a certificate and bragging rights as our budget is limited. I hosted a craft supply exchange at our Pomona meeting and it was well received. People donated craft supplies or projects they no longer wanted or were able to use or do. Our Grange members were able to take home craft supplies they could use. Let me know if you think this would be a good idea to have a similar table at state session. Thank you and Happy Crafting.

Sports

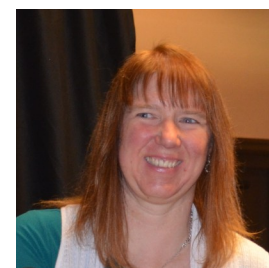


Co-Directors
Bruce Dehner & Matt Horton

By the time you get this the dart ball tournament will have been April 26th, results in next issue. Bowling will be the next event on June 7th at Cort-Lanes in Cortland. Entry forms have been mailed to all teams that have bowled in the past. Anyone that still needs a form, please contact me and one will be sent out. Golf will be July 12th. It will be held at the Vassar Golf Course, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12604. Corn-Hole will be August 1st at State Grange Headquarters. A sign-up sheet will be at each sports event to sign up as we need to know how many will be attending so we have enough boards for everyone. If anyone needs a copy of the rules, please contact me and one will be sent out. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at this year's events. Have fun!



National Grange has appointed a new Junior Grange Director. Katie Girtler, a member of Ono Grange #445 in Ono, California, has two children currently in the 1+ program of her Grange. She has created the 2026 National Junior Grange program book which can be found on the National Grange website. Please take time to view the handbook and help your Junior Grange members work on some of the projects that are listed in the handbook. Please note that all projects are to be submitted electronically. The submission information is listed within each project. All submissions are due on September 1, 2026 but will be accepted earlier in the year to be held until the time of judging.



One of the programs listed in the National Junior Grange handbook is the Cape of Honor Award. The purpose of this award is to spotlight the Junior Grange members that are planning, participating and serving their communities. There are several community service ideas in the handbook. Below is the application process information for this award.

All Applicants are required to meet the following criteria

1. Must be a Junior Grange member in good standing
2. Must be between the ages of 5-14 at time of submission and not yet received the obligation into the Subordinate Grange.
3. Junior Granger is expected to keep track of community service hours August 1 of the current year through July 31 of the following year.
4. Junior Granger must keep track of their projects throughout the year.

All Applicants must submit the following:

1. Online Application form
2. A letter from the Junior applicant stating “Why they have a passion to serve their communities and what their favorite service project was from the last year”
3. A list of service projects done throughout the year- along with how many hours each project took from start to finish.
4. The total number of community service hours completed. This may include hours Junior stepped up to help with but did not plan or organize.
5. A headshot of the applicant.

TIERS FOR AWARDS:

- WHITE TIER: Junior must complete between 10-50 community service hours for this tier
- RED TIER: Junior must complete between 51-100 community service hours for this tier
- BLUE TIER: Juniors must complete between 101-200 community service hours for this tier
- GOLD TIER: Juniors must complete over 201 hours of community service for this tier

The Junior Granger with the **MOST** community service hours will be named.

The **2026 Big E craft project** is a **Painted Bird House**. Here is the criteria for the project:

SIZE RESTRICTION: 8” Length x 8” Width x 12” High

Make from scratch or purchase a pre-built birdhouse

Paint/Decorate birdhouse using any medium and/or embellishments

Be creative!

Please bring the winning Bird House from your Grange to the nearest Kids’ Day Out event this summer. At the end of the week of Kids’ Day Out, all entries will be judged and the winner will be submitted to the Big E. All other entries will be on display at the New York State Grange Session in October and can be picked up on Sunday afternoon. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.



The information for the Kids’ Day Out 2026 events have been mailed out to all Junior Leaders, Youth Chairpersons and Subordinate Secretaries. It is also on the New York State Grange website, nysgrange.org, under the Grange Camp tab. We are hoping to have our most successful year yet! Many Granges have sent in donations to help us keep this program affordable. We are very thankful to all that send donations to Kids’ Day Out! Please encourage all children/youth to attend the event closest to you. They do not have to be a Grange member to attend, these events are open to anyone.

Kids Day Out will be 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM at each location and the cost is \$20.00 per attendee. This event is open to anyone ages 5 – 17.

The schedule for the day includes leadership activities, rocketry, arts and crafts, community service activities, indoor/outdoor games and lunch. Please share this information with your Juniors and Youth and the young people in your community. Registrations are due on or before July 15, 2026 (no late registrations will be accepted). If parents would like to stay for the day, there will be a \$5.00 charge for lunch.

Registration forms were mailed out with the information that was sent to all Junior leader, Youth Chairpersons, and Subordinate Secretaries. Please make as many copies as needed of this form. If you need the registration form, it is also on the New York State Grange website.

Feel free to reach out to Sherri at (315)380-2294 or email at kidsbreak1@yahoo.com or Ryan at (845)868-7869 or email secretary@nysgrange.org with any questions.

Monday, July 27, 2026 – Brunswick Grange, Rensselaer County
7 Grange Road, Troy, NY 12180

Tuesday, July 28, 2026 – Colonel Harper Grange, Delaware County
170 Wilcox Road, Harpersfield, NY 13786

Wednesday, July 29, 2026 – Wide Awake Grange, Ontario County
1004 State Route 88, Phelps, NY 14532

Friday, July 31, 2026 - Kendrew Grange, St. Lawrence County
693 Stevenson Road, Rensselaer Falls, NY 13680

New York State Grange Merchandise Store

NYS Grange now has its own store to provide items for ALL Grangers.

- Items in the store can be customized for you and your Grange.
- There is no minimum order
- Items are shipped directly to your home
- Your purchases help support NYS Grange
- Extended and Tall sizes available

Visit the store at: <https://1800tshirts.chipply.com/NewYorkStateGrange/>

Calendar Of Events

NEW YORK STATE GRANGE
2026

Calendar of Events, Activities, & Dues Dates

April 1-30 event	GRANGE MONTH – Plan a special public activity/
April 15	Art/Photo Entries due at HDQ for Judging
April 15	Talent Entry Report Sheets due to the State Lecturer
April 17 – 19	Northeast Lecturer’s Conference – State Grange Headquarters – Cortland
April 20	Woodworking, Quilting, & Needlework due at HDQ for Judging
April 24	Executive Committee Meeting, 2:30 p.m. – Hybrid
April 25	Lecturer/FAC Conference – State Grange Headquarters – Cortland
April 26	State Dart Ball Tournament – State Grange Headquarters – 9 a.m.
May 14 – 16	NYS FFA Convention, Buffalo
May 15	Empire State Granger Copy Due
June 7	State Bowling Tournament – Cort-Lanes Bowling Alley, Cortland, 12 Noon
June 19	Executive Committee Meeting – Lux Hotel & Conference Center, Waterloo – 9:30 a.m.
June 30	Subordinate Dues to State Secretary
June 30	Junior Grange Quarterly Report Due to State Secretary
July 7	Executive Committee Meeting – Headquarters – Budget – 9:30 a.m.
July 12	State Golf Tournament – Vassar Golf Course – Poughkeepsie – 12 Noon
July 15	Empire State Granger Copy Due
July 27 – 31	Grange Camp “Kids Day Out Events;” 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday, July 27 – Brunswick Grange, Rensselaer County Tuesday, July 28 – Colonel Harper Grange, Delaware County Wednesday, July 29 – Wide Awake Grange, Ontario County Friday, July 31 – Kendrew Grange, St. Lawrence County
August 1	Cornhole Tournament – State Grange Headquarters – 9 a.m.
August 26 – Sept. 7	New York State Fair – Syracuse
September 1	National JG Report due
September 5	Grange Day at the New York State Fair – Syracuse
September 12	State Grange Health Fair – Headquarters – 9 a.m.
September 15	Empire State Granger Copy Due
September 15	Lecturer’s Reports due to State Lecturer
September 15	Community Service Yearbooks due to Director
September 18 – 20	Fall Youth Weekend – Jefferson County
Sept. 18 – Oct. 4	Eastern States Exposition (The Big E) – West Springfield, Massachusetts
September 25	Executive Committee Meeting – Headquarters – 3:30 p.m.
September 26	State Grange Legislative Day – Headquarters – 9 a.m.
September 27	Grange Day at the Big E – West Springfield, Massachusetts
September 30	Subordinate Dues to State Secretary
September 30	Junior Grange Quarterly Report to State Secretary
October 16 – 20	154 th Annual New York State Grange Session – Lux Hotel & Conference Center in Waterloo, Seneca County
October 20	New York State Grange Cultural & Educational Foundation Meeting – Lux Hotel & Conference Center in Waterloo – 9 a.m.
October 20	Executive Committee Meeting – Lux Hotel & Conference Center in Waterloo – 10 a.m.
November 15	Empire State Granger Copy Due
November 10 – 14	160 th Annual National Grange Session – Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
December	Executive Committee Meeting - TBA
December 31	Subordinate Dues to State Secretary

December 31

Junior Grange Quarterly Report & Dues due to State Secretary

As of 04/21/2026

New Grange Members

Clinton/Essex Co. Ausable Valley #973
Jennifer Eager
Columbia Co. Copake # 935
Frank Corisanzio
Julie McGanney
Tom Walsh
Cortland Co. Cuyler #449
Hali Buchanan
Myron Batsford
Jeremy Cook
Delaware Co. Walton#1454
Jennifer Ladd
Carol Nichols
Brett Trembly
Dutchess Co. Stanford #808
Elliot Hurley
Rhinebeck #896
Lawrence Miller

Jefferson Co. Champion #18
Timothy Irey
Bradley Russell
Brent Russell
Cindy Russell
Eva Russell
Autumn Wasilewski
Onondaga Co. Lamson#588
Kevin Whitmarsh
Leslie Whitmarsh
Otsego Co. Westville #540
Edward Schneegas
Pierstown #793
Lewis Warner
Butternut Valley #1533
Dawn Lawyer
Cash Osborne
Reed Osborne
Scott Osborne
Aidan Woishnis
St. Larence Co. Kendrew #891
Ronald Stiles
Ernest Swarts

Museum

GET YOUR MEMORIAL BRICKS BEFORE PRICE INCREASE.

At the November Museum Board meeting it was stated that the price would be increasing. So now is your chance to get them before prices rise. 4x8 inch are fifty dollars and the 8x8 inch are seventy five dollars. A few more are needed for an order with free shipping. Send your order to Patricia VanLare, 5413 VanLare Rd., Williamson, NY 14589. Email pvanlare2@yahoo.com Order blanks are available from her also.

Please continue to save "H" (history) dollars for the museum. Sixty dollars was turned in at State Grange. This will be the second year for this savings program.

You can support the museum in a great way by including a donation is you after life planning. These gifts are tax deductible.

New York State Grange
Information Email



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The Distinguished Grange Program:

A Road Map for Planning, Growth, and Community Impact

Since its creation in 2009, the National Grange **Distinguished Community Grange Program** has served as one of the most valuable tools available to Granges seeking meaningful growth, stronger community connections, and a clear plan for the year ahead. While many members think of the program as an award, its true power lies in how it can be used as a **strategic guide**—a yearlong roadmap that helps a Grange plan, act, and improve.

What the Distinguished Community Grange Program Recognizes

The program honors Community Granges that fulfill their responsibilities as a Grange while excelling in leadership, advocacy, programming, and community service. These expectations are clearly outlined in the application guidelines, which emphasize submitting required reports, participating in State and National Grange events, and demonstrating active service within the community.

At its core, the program encourages each Grange to:

- Strengthen its internal operations
- Build visible, meaningful community impact
- Engage members of all ages
- Support legislative awareness and civic dialogue
- Promote agriculture, history, and education
- Preserve Grange heritage while embracing modern needs

Using the Program as a Road Map for the Year

The Distinguished Grange Program is most effective when used **not as a year-end task**, but as a **yearlong planning tool**. When reviewed at the start of the program year, the requirements and optional point categories provide a clear structure for monthly meetings, committee work, and event planning.

The application's required elements include timely reporting, delegate participation, attendance at major Grange events, and submission of a Community Service report—all foundational activities of a healthy Grange year.

The optional point system—of which Granges must earn at least **100 points**—covers a wide range of activities, such as:

- Maintaining or increasing membership
- Hosting community service events
- Holding legislative forums or civic education events
- Updating Grange websites and social media
- Preserving history and honoring veterans
- Supporting youth through programs or partnerships
- Offering scholarships
- Participating in fairs and community days
- Engaging in health, agriculture, or homesteading education
- Encouraging other Granges to complete their applications

These categories reflect the qualities of a vibrant Grange: active, visible, welcoming, and deeply connected to its community.

When used intentionally, this checklist can:

- Guide **monthly agendas**
- Help committees set **specific goals**
- Serve as a **tracking tool** for progress
- Encourage member participation
- Reveal opportunities for new events or outreach
- Align the Grange with statewide and national priorities

By June, a Grange that has followed the roadmap has not only met Distinguished requirements—it has enriched its members, improved its community, and increased its relevance.

Program Timeline and Submission Details

The **2025–2026 Distinguished Grange year** includes all activities completed **July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026**, with applications due **September 1, 2026**.

This timeline provides ample opportunity for goal-setting, event planning, documentation, and reflection.

Congratulations to New York's 2025 Distinguished Granges

New York is proud to recognize the outstanding Granges that earned the title of **National Distinguished Grange in 2025**. These Granges represent the best of our state—strong leadership, consistent service, and creativity in meeting community needs.

2025 Distinguished Granges from New York:

- Bethlehem #137
- East Chatham #1066
- Kirkland #684
- South Rutland Valley #53
- Stanford #808
- Jefferson County Pomona #5

Why Your Grange Should Participate

Whether your Grange is thriving or rebuilding, large or small, the Distinguished Community Grange Program offers a structured path to success.

By treating the application as a **road map**, rather than an award application, your Grange can experience growth, renewed purpose, and stronger relationships both within the membership and throughout the community.

A Grange that plans intentionally becomes a Grange that leaves a lasting impact.

Youth



Co-Directors
Sarah & Raymond Barber

Spring has finally arrived. At the writing of this article we are preparing for our trip to Albany for the Robert Earlandt Recipient and we will have a report on that in the next article. Plans are in the works for the Sign a Song and Public Speaking Contests in Cortland and we hope to have a wonderful turnout. This article is going to focus on some new programs being rolled out by National Grange.

The John Trimble Legislative experience has been revamped into the Honorary Youth Delegate Experience. Participants will have the opportunity to serve as an Honorary Youth Delegate at the National Grange Convention, gaining first-hand knowledge of policy development, debate, and decision-making within the Grange. Individuals will be selected at the National Grange convention to serve the National Grange for one year as participants in the Honorary Youth Delegate Experience. They will serve the National Grange throughout the following year, culminating at the next National Grange Convention, where they will serve as an Honorary Youth Delegate. During their year, they will learn and participate in Grange legislative work through committee assignments, mentorship, and learn about and participate in hands-on advocacy engagement. This commitment is now a year long commitment and more details can be found in the National Grange Youth & Young Adult Handbook. The Seeding the Future Challenge is

a way to grow our Granges. It invites youth to play an active role in strengthening the Grange by personally inviting others to become involved. This program emphasizes the power of relationships—sharing your own Grange story, building genuine connections, and welcoming new members with warmth and encouragement. Youth are challenged to lead by example, helping others discover the fellowship, service, and leadership opportunities the Grange offers. Every invitation, conversation, and act of hospitality helps ensure the Grange continues to grow, thrive, and remain strong for generations to come. Youth earn credits when new members (youth or adults) join a Grange and pay dues. More information can be found in the National Grange Youth & Young Adult Handbook. Remember NY has a contest for recruitment as well for our youth so make sure our youth members are keeping track when their friends and family are joining the grange and let your State Youth Directors know.

The Distinguished Youth Grange Program has been removed and replaced with the Distinguished Grange Youth Member. The application may seem overwhelming but I assure you they are things most of you are doing anyways. Please let me know if you need help filling out the application.

The Community All-Star Program is designed to encourage youth to actively serve their communities while developing leadership, compassion, and civic responsibility. Youth will track their community service hours throughout the year, celebrate milestones, and recognize outstanding dedication to service. While all service is valued, one youth will be honored as the Community All-Star of the Year for exceptional commitment. Details on the program and the tracking sheets can be found in the National Grange Youth & Young Adult Handbook. Stayed tuned for more information on these and other new programs being rolled out from National Grange this year.

(Continued from page 1)

Matt Clark led a workshop where groups brainstormed out-reach projects that their Granges used. They were recorded and made available for attendees to photograph.

A presentation was given about children's books about agriculture.

Some of the attendees went on a tour to a brewery. Those that chose not to go on the tour played an on-line quiz game. Most of the quizzes were about United States history and geography. New York teams were quite successful in winning the competitions.



The evening program presented by New York Grangers highlighted the 250th anniversary of our country.



Corey Waltz entertained with a number of popular song. Some got up and danced during his presentation.

Throughout the day Karin Croucher gave some humorous remarks about things she read in the minutes of early Grange meetings.



Cuyler Grange provided a sumptuous turkey dinner with all the fixings.



Sunday morning: Kelly Frost, Chaplain of New York State Grange gave a very inspiring service. She connected Grange and biblical references in a wonderful way.



ences in a wonderful way.



The final workshop explained about the National Grange Project Sustenance.

There were many positive comments about the conference and how nice it was to be at the State Grange building.

building.

The State Grange Museum was open and many of the people from the Northeast states visited.

The old statement, "We set, we met, we et and a good time was had by all" sums up the weekend.

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