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**

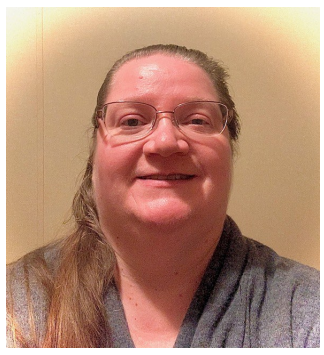
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November December 2026

President's Column

Sandra Green



Before reflecting on the 154th State Grange Session, I want to share some awesome news. Mellenville Grange #1255 in Columbia County has been re-organized. Nineteen enthusiastic people who had never been Grange members signed the papers to Charter the re-organization! Welcome all!
I encourage all of you to consider attending the North-East Leaders Conference in East Greenbush, NY January 8-10, 2027. A schedule has been prepared and the hotel link is available. Unfortunately, we have not determined the final cost as of this writing. I hope that by the time you read this you will already have made plans to attend.

I hope those of you who attended State Session share with the Grangers back home. Share your thoughts, thoughts shared by our National Grange Representative Lorretta Washington, the resolutions that were discussed, the Master's Address packet, the Gleaners, and highlights of your conversations. Hopefully, those who have never expressed an interest in State Grange Session will want to come next year. Help make the ones who wanted to come feel as though they were a part of it.

Loretta Washington handles the Sales and Benefits at the National Grange Headquarters, along with many other things. One of her joys is preparing the Golden Sheaf Certificates. She was a bundle of fun. She truly enjoyed her time with us and we with her. Lorretta said she has adopted us.

The Gleaner was prepared by Logan Gonzalez this Session. He took the task and ran with it. Thank you, Logan.

I was encouraged to have an external address that could be posted on social media. If you have not seen the 2026 external address, please check it out. This address should be shared with non-Grangers to give them an idea of our workings on the State level.

By the time you read this I will have returned from National Session. I will have much to share. Please be looking for that information.

I urge you that use the internet to sign up for email blasts, if you haven't already done so.

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New York State Grange
Information Email

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State Grange Resolutions

AGRICULTURE/ENVIRONMENT

CLEAN FUEL STANDARD ACT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange joins the New York State Farm Bureau and several other organizations in supporting legislation that would establish a Clean Fuel Standard Act for New York State.

FARM WOODLAND QUALIFYING FOR AGRICULTURAL ASSESSMENT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would increase from 50 to 100 acres, the acreage of farm woodland that qualifies as land used in agricultural production for agricultural assessment purposes.

OVERSIGHT OF APPROVAL FOR GENETICALLY MODIFED PLANTS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to review and revise the following:

The SECURE rule of 2020 that has allowed many gene-edited plants to be exempted from USDA regulation and the USDA should conduct a case-by-case assessment of all GMO plants; and be it further

RESOLVED that New York State Grange urges the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to review and revise the following regulations:

The Generally Recognized As Safe (GRAS) pathway that has allowed biotech companies to self-determine safety without Food and Drug Administration review; and be it further

RESOLVED that New York State Grange urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to review and revise the regulations contained in:

The "Coordinated Framework for the Regulation of Biotechnology" to ensure better oversight of the approval process for new GMO strains.

UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation which benefits hunters by providing a legal framework for unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) operation with the landowner's permission while advancing sustainable wildlife management and conservation initiatives in New York State.

INCLUDE DAIRY IN "PRODUCT OF USA" LABELING

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports including dairy in the voluntary "Product of USA" label program extending the possible benefits of the "Product of USA" awareness campaign to the United States dairy industry.

LEAD-FREE GAME DONATION ACT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange opposes legislation that would prevent the donation of wild game meat because it was harvested with lead ammunition.

RENEWABLE ENERGY VERSUS REFORESTATION LANDS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange opposes legislation that would adversely affect the New York State Reforestation Lands and the purposes for which they were intended rather than enter into agreements such as easements of leases for aiding in the interconnection of renewable energy installations and transmission and distribution of electricity.

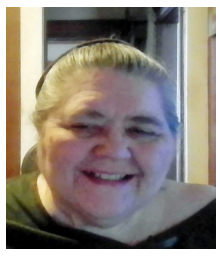
OPPOSE CONSTRUCTION OF FLOATING PHOTOVOLTAICS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange opposes the building of floating photovoltaics of any kind in New York State due to the detrimental impact to water resources, environmental harm with little to no benefit to rural New Yorkers.

MANAGEMENT OF PFAS IN BIOSOLIDS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange joins the New York Farm Bureau in opposition of the land application of biosolids that have

Legislative Column



Cindy Benson-Pollard

Another State Grange session is behind us. We all look forward to getting together each year. It is our time to join in making the decisions on resolutions that formulate our policies for the coming year.

I want to thank those members and delegates who agreed to chair the session committees. This can be a daunting task but each of you did an excellent job. I appreciate all your efforts and the extra work you did to make the Zoom meetings go so well.

To the delegates, thank you for your input in setting our Grange policy for the coming year. It is your decisions that make our policy strong and timely. Those resolutions that were of national importance were forwarded on to National Grange. Any resolutions that are adopted at National Grange will be highlighted in bold and italic print in the policy book. When the updates are complete, they will be sent to your Grange. I hope you will take a few minutes to look through the policy book and see which resolutions became part of our National Grange policy.

I would like to take a few minutes in this column to review the best ideas when writing resolutions.

- Please try to keep your resolutions to three to four "whereas" sections. Too many only confuse the readers and try to keep your resolutions to one topic only
- Be sure that one of those "whereas" sections give some idea of what your resolve section will be asking for
- Be sure in your "resolve" section that you explain what you would like the legislative department to do and who to communicate with.
- Please be sure that you have all your research materials with your resolution as background information. I do my own research as well, especially if you do not have any background information with your resolution.

I do have a wonderful PowerPoint presentation that explains how to write a resolution. National Grange just came out with a new publication that also gives excellent information about our grassroots advocacy efforts and about writing resolutions. It is available on their website. I encourage you to use one or both guides to help you in your resolution development.

If you would like help, please reach out to me either by email or phone. I am always available and happy to help you.

State Grange Secretary



Ryan Orton

State Session in Waterloo is in the history books! Huge thanks to our Host Region of Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Tompkins, and Wayne Counties for coordinating the many parts of State Session to ensure its success. It was fantastic to catch up with old friends and to make new friends. We also had several new Delegates this year as well as 12 candidates for the 6th Degree! Welcome to our new 6th Degree Members!

If you weren't at State Session this year, you missed an invigorating and energizing time! I hope you'll make plans to join us next year for the 155th Annual Session of the New York State Grange tentatively set for Watertown, Jefferson County, from October 15 – 19, 2027.

Now comes the tasks of completing the 2027 State Grange Directory and the 2026 Journal of Proceedings. These are perfect tasks for Thanksgiving and Christmas Breaks from school as well as the occasional Snow Day when I'm snowed in with a cup of hot chocolate and nowhere to go!

There's still time to get your Officers List in for the 2027 State Grange Directory! Each Delegate-at-Large at State Session received a copy of the list of Granges with missing Officers Lists. Please make sure to get those in so we have the most updated contact information for your Grange. Delegates-at-Large – please make sure those Granges with missing Officers Lists get their forms to fill out and return to us!

Since the last ESG, New York officially welcomed a reorganized Grange in Columbia County – Mellenville Grange #1255. They have 19 members and are enthusiastically ready to get to work! Also, Shushan Grange #1233 in Washington County has been revitalized with new leadership and 9 new members! Let's keep the momentum going with revitalized, reorganized, and (possibly) a newly organized Grange! Where will Grange #1607 be in the Empire State?! There are also strong possibilities of reorganized Junior Granges in Columbia and St. Lawrence Counties!

Congratulations to the following Granges on welcoming new members since the last ESG:

19 New Members: Mellenville Grange #1255 (Columbia County)

9 New Members: Shushan Grange #1233 (Washington County)

5 New Members: Copake Grange #935 (Columbia County)

2 New Members: East Chatham Grange #1066 (Columbia County)Kendrew Grange #891 (St. Lawrence County)

1 New Member: Walton Grange #1454 (Delaware County)

Stanford Grange #808 (Dutchess County)

Stone Church Grange #1561 (Dutchess County)

South Rutland Valley Grange #53 (Jefferson County)

Westville Grange #540 (Otsego County)

Glenville Grange #1531 (Schenectady County)

Junior Grange



Sherri Horner

Thank you to the Junior Grange members that participated in the scavenger hunt during the recent New York State Grange Session. The scavenger hunt encouraged the Junior Grange members to find Grange members that had attended Junior Grange camp, were current or former National Grange officers, take a picture with a current State Officer that used to be a Junior Grange member, plus many more! Congratulations to Carly Hanel from East Pembroke Junior Grange in Genesee County for completing the scavenger hunt!

Many Junior Granges turned in projects for this year's craft competition. Congratulations to the following on a job well done:

No Bake Dessert Bars - 1st place – Brantley McEathron, Jefferson County (Age 12 – 14)

Paper Chain Wall Hanging - 1st place – Kai Franklin, Lewis County (Age 5 – 8)

Hand Held Fan - 1st place – Elaina McKelroy, Jefferson County (Age 9 – 11)

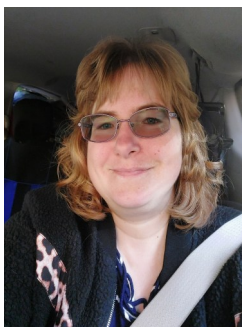
OJAY – 1st place - Ella Ciesielczyk, Columbia County

In the Junior Grange report at the State Grange Session, I reported that New York State has thirteen (13) Junior Granges, with 89 Junior Grange/1+ members. These numbers are depressing. What can we do to increase these numbers? If each Community Grange were able to reach children and families through places they already know and trust, the Granges could build a relationship with those children and families while introducing them to Junior Grange. Perhaps your Community Grange could send a short informational letter through family approved communication channels in the local school district. This letter could include some information about Junior Grange and the benefits of being a Junior Grange member. If you need help with a letter, please reach out to me and I will send you a sample letter. Another idea is to reach out to your local library and offer to do a child centered activity at the library. This could include a craft session, a reading related service project, a gardening program, or a family activity night. You could set up a display with information about Junior Grange for the parents to look at and learn more about Grange. A third option is to partner with parks or after school programs to connect with children and their parents. Each of these choices gives you an opportunity to provide activities that are inclusive, safe and age-appropriate. When you offer activities for different interests and abilities, you make participation comfortable for both children and families. By creating enjoyable experiences, listening to young people, and

(Continued on page 3)

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Youth



Co– Directors
Sarah & Raymond Barber

"It only takes a spark to get a fire going…" I'm sure most of you immediately know where this quote comes from and might have even begun singing the moment you read it. While the point of the quote in the original song has to do with spreading God's love, I'd like to point out that the same metaphor can be used to talk about the power of song. Songs are universally acknowledged to be a tool for education, sharing ideas and spreading excitement. While not all of us agree on the type of songs we like, we all know the power music brings.

When I was in 5th grade our chorus teacher taught us a song listing all 50 American states in alphabetical order. This song not only helped me remember geography, it was also a tradition in my school. Every group of 5th graders learned one of two songs which the teacher switched between. This helped create a shared memory with every student who attended my school, and I believe the tradition has continued, even though this music teacher retired. I also still remember a good many Bible verses and lessons from my first decade because of songs.

Similarly, I have memories of sitting around campfires with my family and at Grange camp singing songs. Some songs were silly, like "I've got six pence" and "I wish I were a…", while some were more serious, like "Pass it On". Both of these song types have their place creating shared memories and lessons which "Linger" in our minds and hearts throughout our lifetimes.

Our Grange founders also knew the power of music, purposely inserting three songs into each Grange meeting and several specific songs into our degree work. Each song in the Grange song books has a history and a meaning which is still helpful today. Even if your Grange doesn't have a pianist, singing something a little different can be interesting and informative. Consider changing up your opening and closing songs or inviting a guest speaker to share some of the history of these songs at your next meeting.

You may wonder how this fits into the Youth Column. In my time as a youth member and later as a leader, I have noticed a decreasing number of youth who are familiar with traditional Grange songs. No matter if the songs are silly or serious, for opening, closing, lecturer's program or degree work. These songs have to be taught to members if they are to be passed on. This means, your 5 year old great-grand daughter and the 50 year old friend you met at the neighborhood euchre tournament. There is room for innovation in these songs too. Be willing to listen to the new songs your youth members want to introduce you to, especially if they want to play them for you on the piano or sing them to the group. No matter what, keep singing. Use this important tool to pass on our traditions and make new ones.

A few weeks ago at State Grange the youth marched in, to their seating drill, on Sunday morning to the Star Spangled Banner and the song "Wagon Wheel" by Darius Rucker sung live by fellow Grange member Corey Walts. I'm not sure I have ever seen an entrance drill done to live music before. Leave it to our youth to do something innovative like that. Our youth are constantly surprising me like this and I can't wait to see what else they have planned for the future.

Chaplain's Corner



Kelly Frost

Contributing to a good cause and helping those in need (CHARITY) is common in the fall. Regardless of the success of your garden this year (hopefully more successful than mine), certainly we all have blessings of many kinds that we can share with others. Have you ever considered the power of your words to bless others? Words are free... and yet, so priceless! Degree #3 in the Grange, is associated with autumn and CHARITY. The chaplain's part says: "As flowers and vines cover the rough places in nature, so I charge you, cover the faults and failings of others with the mantle of CHARITY. Speak good of others rather than evil. Gather up memories of others' virtues, and pass by their faults in pity." Consider these Bible verses: Proverbs 12:18 – The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. Prov. 16:24 - Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. Prov. 18:21 – The tongue has the power of life and death and those who love it will eat its fruit. Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what helps build others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Whether using our words in leadership, community service, or relations with family and friends, we should consider giving CHARITY with our words, using their power to heal, encourage, and uplift.

Lecturer



Brenda Noble

We are off to a great start in the new Grange year. The Lecturers Program is on the New York State Grange website. All contests are open to all Grangers. The Art Contest for 2027 is coloring pages with America 250 theme – there is a different one for each age group. For ages 5-9 please use the coloring page with the eagle. For ages 10-14 please use the coloring page with 250 in the center. For the Subordinate Grange members please use the coloring page with the Liberty Bell in the center. The Photography Contest themes for 2027 are: America 250 Celebration and "By the side of the road on our travels" (Please no photos of roadkill). Photos must be a minimum size of 4"x6" and maximum size of 11"x14". The Writing Contest for 2027: How Did Your Grange Celebrate America 250? All entries are to be sent to New York State Grange Headquarters in Cortland by April 15, 2027.

(Continued from page 2)Junior

giving every child a place to belong, you can work on starting a Junior Grange or increase membership in your current Junior Grange. By next year, I would like to report that our Junior Grange numbers have increased, and be able to tell the Delegates how Community Granges were able to start a Junior Grange.

As always, if you need help, reach out to me and I will gladly help your Grange.

Sports



Co-Directors
Bruce Dehner & Matt Horton

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the sports events this year. We had great turnouts. Here is the schedule for next year. Dart ball will be held on April 25, 2027 at state headquarters, bowling will be June 6, 2027 at Cort lanes in Cortland, golf will be July 11, 2027 at College hill golf course in Poughkeepsie, NY, and corn hole will be August 7,2026 at state headquarters please note the new start time is 11am. I would like everyone to start thinking about getting your team organized as the early bird catches the worm. I want to wish everyone Happy Holidays and look forward to seeing you all next year. Fraternally Bruce Dehner Matt Horton

Grange Museum

NYS GRANGE MUSEUM BOARD

The NYS Grange Museum Board met at State Grange Session to share a great meal together. During the session the Museum was presented with a generous donation of "H "bills from Gail Lewis, from Pierstown Grange. Much of the donation was from Richard Pokerney, for which we extend our heartfelt thanks. This Grange had a competition to see who could collect the most "H" (History) bills. Perhaps a challenge for other Granges to collect "H" bills, as well as the "G" (Grange) and "C" (Cancer) bills will occur next year. Plans are set for a grounds cleanup time prior to the upcoming Nov 1, 2026, meeting



Brunswick Grange



On September 10, 2026 Brunswick Grange held its annual Membership Recognition night. Awards were presented by State Grange Assistant Steward, Vernon Starr, to Melvin Fitting and Alice Grimsley for 70 years of service and Maurice Burton for 80 years of service. Wayne Bonesteel was unable to attend to receive his award for 40 years of service. Pictured left to right: Melvin Fitting, Vernon Starr, Alice Grimsley, Maurice Burton.
Laurinda Gearing, Secretary
Brunswick Grange #1337

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detectable amounts of per- and polyfluoroalkyl the substances (PFAS) and/or elevated levels of heavy metals and supports Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) testing of any sludge or composted sludge - including but not limited to biosolids, paper mill waste or dredging soils - to determine if they are free of heavy metals, forever toxins and other DEC identified toxic substances prior to land application for agriculture or other uses.

NEW YORK STATE ELECTRONIC HUNTING LICENSES

RESOLVED that New York State Grange strongly recommends that New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reinstate the requirement that anyone legally hunting in New York State be required to wear a brightly colored agency issued back tag while actively hunting.

EDUCATION

LIFE SKILLS COURSE ADDED TO NEW YORK STATE CURRICULUM

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation to mandate a Life Skills Course in every high school. The course should include skills such as money management, identifying scams, food shopping and nutrition, and phone and internet etiquette.

HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN SCHOOL SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation providing for the inclusion of home-schooled students who wish to participate in whatever sports or extracurricular activities their local school district may provide.

AG RELATED SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports current and future legislation that would establish a subsidized program under the direction of the Department of Agriculture and Markets that would help create summer internship programs and provide students with opportunities to learn more about farming and other agriculture-related occupations.

RECESS TIMES IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports efforts of all public elementary schools to include 40 minutes daily for recess/free play to improve social skills, higher academic performance, reduce time on the screens and improve physical and mental health.

AI-ENABLED HUMANOID ROBOTS IN SCHOOLS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports the passage of legislation that would ban AI-Enabled Humanoid Robots from serving in instructional or teaching capacities in schools.

FEDERAL ISSUES

PROHIBITING ONLINE GAMBLING SITES ADVERTISING ON MASS MEDIA

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports changes to the Federal Communications Commission's regulations that would determine advertising for online gambling websites be prohibited to reduce the availability of these sites to those who may be struggling with addiction or become addicted to online gambling.

BANNING THE USE OF AI MANIPULATION IN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL MEDIA

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation to treat as a felony the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in photo, print, and media manipulation when such use produces a fallacy or leads to personal or professional damage of an individual or group, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State Grange supports state and federal legislation that if Artificial Intelligence (AI) is misused by a government official that harms a person or group, professionally, emotionally or financially, it would constitute a felony offense requiring that official to be removed from office if convicted.

CLOSE LOOPHOLE IN FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT SECTION 702

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports a change to Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act that is currently up for reauthorization, to close the loophole that currently allows government agencies to buy cell phone data that they would normally need a warrant to obtain.

AM RADIO FOR EVERY VEHICLE ACT OF 2025

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would require the Department of Transportation (DOT) to issue a rule requiring AM radio capabilities to be standard in all new passenger vehicles manufactured for sale in the United States.

"ENDS" CHINESE VAPE ACT

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports the "ENDS" Chinese Vape Act or similar legislation to combat the flow of unauthorized, illegal, Chinese vapes into American markets and schools.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SCAMS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation that would protect and educate consumers on the newest technology targeting consumers through Artificial Intelligence (AI) scams.

OPPOSE USE OF FLOCK CAMERAS
RESOLVED that New York State Grange opposes the use of Flock cameras or any other surveillance system that captures audio, video or images without a warrant describing probable cause of a specific crime with a definite time frame to investigate said crime due to security concerns as well as lack of Constitutional protection.

LAKE ONTARIO NAME CHANGE
RESOLVED that New York State Grange encourages our New York State federal and state legislators to oppose any proposition to change the name of Lake Ontario or any of the other Great Lakes.

HEALTH

SAFER BEAUTY BILL PACKAGE

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports "The Safer Beauty Bill Package" or similar legislation that gives the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the statutory power it needs to get some of the most toxic chemicals out of our beauty and personal care products, set standards for ingredient transparency and safety and create much needed protections for women of color, other customers and professional salon workers who are most at risk for unsafe cosmetic chemical exposures.

TEMPERATURE RELATED WORKING CONDITIONS
RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports funding for the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health to do research and promote education on temperature related working conditions before any legislation (such as the Temperature Extreme Mitigation Program Act) is passed.

CLARA'S LAW
RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports Clara's Law or similar legislation that would require hospitals and health care facilities to report incidents of sexual offense to the Departments of Health and Education to stop health care workers who have abused patients from moving to other hospitals or health care facilities without those facilities knowing their background.

TAKE CARE OF AMERICA'S VETERANS ACT
RESOLVED that New York State Grange opposes any reduction in benefits for the more than one million veterans suffering from sleep apnea and tinnitus that would then be used to fund other proposed veterans' benefits.

STRONGER OVERSIGHT OF HEALTHCARE CONSOLIDATION & PROTECTION OF PATIENT CHOICE
RESOLVED that New York State Grange urge the review and continuing oversight of hospital and healthcare system mergers, insurer acquisitions of healthcare providers, vertical integration, and other healthcare consolidations; to evaluate the number of independently controlled healthcare systems – not merely the number of hospital buildings – available within a reasonable geographic area; to consider the effects of consolidation on patient choice, prices, insurance coverage, provider networks, quality of care, access to services, travel distance, independent medical opinions, patient data, and healthcare employment; to require healthcare corporations seeking approval for consolidation to demonstrate measurable benefits that outweigh the loss of competition and remain accountable for promised services, access, affordability, and fair treatment of independent providers; and to preserve meaningful healthcare competition so that no American community is left without a reasonable choice of independently controlled healthcare systems.

STATE ISSUES

CRYPTO VIRTUAL CURRENCY BUSINESS REGULATIONS

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports legislation such as the Crypto Act 2026 or similar legislation that would establish regulations to prohibit unlicensed activities of virtual currency businesses in New York State.

. **ELIMINATE USE OF MESSAGE OF NECESSITY**
RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports passage of legislation which would amend the Constitution to eliminate the use of a message of necessity to call for immediate votes on bills before the legislative chambers, thereby preserving the three-day aging process that affords members adequate time to review and understand the contents of legislation. Including bills related to the Governor's budget.

ENERGY AFFORDABILITY CRISIS IN NEW YORK STATE

RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports any proposed legislation to lower energy prices to provide immediate financial relief to New York State residents.

OPPOSE GAS POWERED EQUIPMENT BAN
RESOLVED that the New York State Grange opposes any ban on the possession, use or sale of any equipment based on gasoline, including but not limited to lawn mowers, chainsaws and leaf blowers.

OPPOSE DATA CENTERS CONSTRUCTION

RESOLVED that the New York State Grange opposes the building of new data centers of any kind in New York State due to the detrimental impact to water, power and land resources and the degradation of the quality of life for millions of families with little to no benefit to the same.

TAXATION/FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU
RESOLVED that New York State Grange urges Congress, as soon as possible, to reinstate and provide funding for the Consumer Financial Protection Board (CFPB). The purpose of the CFPB is to protect consumers from fraud and predatory financial/business practices.

BOOSTING BENEFITS AND COLAs FOR SENIORS ACT
RESOLVED that New York State Grange supports the Boosting Benefits and COLAs for Seniors Act or similar legislation that would direct the Social Security Administration (SSA) to adjust benefits based on the Consumer Price Index for Americans aged 62 or older (CPI-E) rather than the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners (CPI-W), if CPI -E would result in a larger increase in benefits and would direct the Bureau of Labor Statistics to calculate and publish the CPI-E on a monthly basis.

FARMER-OWNER SUCCESSION PLANNING
RESOLVED that the New York State Grange supports legislation establishing the Farmer-Owner Succession Planning Program to help current farm owners prepare for the eventual sale or transfer of their land, equipment, and livestock and to help prospective buyers access the tools and resources needed to purchase and continue farming operations.

CARBON FARMING TAX CREDIT FOR FARMERS
RESOLVED that the New York State Grange supports any legislation to establish the Carbon Farming Tax Credit for farmers.

USE AGRICULTURAL ASSESSMENT VALUE FOR AD VALOREM TAXING DISTRICTS
RESOLVED that the New York State Grange joins with the New York State Farm Bureau in support of mandating that fire, rescue, library and other ad valorem taxing districts use agricultural assessment values when calculating property taxes.

NATIONAL ROLLOVER PROTECTION REBATE PROGRAM
RESOLVED that the New York State Grange supports legislation that will reinvest in the National Rollover Protection Structures Rebate Program to secure permanent federal funding for this valuable tractor safety program.

REGULATING CRYPTO KIOSKS
RESOLVED that the New York State Grange supports legislation to amend the banking law to regulate crypto kiosks/virtual currency to help prevent fraud and scams.

FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAMS
RESOLVED that the New York State Grange supports restoration of funding cuts to the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), and be it further
RESOLVED that the New York State Grange supports allocation of more funding to regional infrastructure and supply chains that help farmers, including beginning farmers, secure domestic markets and feed communities.

Veteran Grange



Our member Jesse Kent recently celebrated his 80th year of service. I have attached a photo of Jesse with his award.
He joined Olive Branch Grange in 1946. He & his wife Doris were Special Deputies for NYS Grange for 20 years. He was Master of Olive Branch Grange #42 in Schuyler County for many years and was in charge of the dinners they did when it was an active Grange. As Deputy State Master, he did visit many Granges in the Southern Tier and is credited with saving many that were on the brink of closure. When the normal Deputy Force was abolished in 2008, he and Doris were asked to stay on as Special Deputy & Junior Deputy because of the results they obtained in those offices - they were very successful as Deputies.

Calendar Of Events

NEW YORK STATE GRANGE

2026

Calendar of Events, Activities, & Dues Dates

November 15	Empire State Granger Copy Due
November 10 – 14	160th 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 10/29/2026

Community Involvement

2026 New York State Grange Community Service Report Melvin Phelps and Joan Phelps, Co-Directors



Melvin Phelps and Joan Phelps

The Grangers and Granges of New York State have once again shown what it means to serve their communities. Throughout this past year, our members have given their time, talents, and resources to make their communities better places to live, work, and raise a family.

This year, our Granges reported an incredible 49,558 hours of community service across New York State. Think about that number for a moment—nearly 50,000 hours spent helping neighbors, supporting community organizations, feeding families, honoring veterans, assisting youth, maintaining community spaces, and simply being there when someone needed a helping hand. Last year, we reported more than 30,000 volunteer hours, so seeing nearly 50,000 hours reported this year is something every Granger in this room should be proud of.

But numbers only tell part of the story. Behind every one of those hours is a Granger who saw a need and decided to do something about it. That is what Community Service in the Grange is all about.

Junior Grange Community Service Reports

Our Junior Grangers are also learning at an early age what it means to serve others and make a difference in their communities. The projects they complete today are helping build the next generation of Grangers who understand that community service is at the heart of what we do.

We are pleased to recognize our 2026 Junior Grange Community Service Report winners:

- Second Place - Kirkland Junior Grange
- First-Place winner - East Pembroke Junior Grange!

Congratulations to both Junior Granges and their leaders. Thank you for encouraging our young members to get involved, serve their communities, and carry the Grange tradition of service into the future.

Ideas Unlimited

Last year, we also introduced a brand-new Community Service program called Ideas Unlimited. The purpose was to encourage Granges to try something new - selecting a community service activity, documenting how it was planned and implemented, evaluating its success, and sharing the idea so that other Granges might be inspired to try something similar.

Today, we have the opportunity to recognize the first-ever winners of New York State Grange Ideas Unlimited.

If someone form these Granges could come forward to accept a certificate and your cash award.

- Third Place - South Rutland Valley Grange #53, Jefferson County
- Second Place - Pleasant Valley Grange #838, Dutchess County
- First Place Ideas Unlimited ed winner - Butternut Valley Grange #1533, Otsego County!

Congratulations to all three Granges, and thank you for being willing to try something new and share your ideas with the rest of us.

Outstanding Community Service Granger

Another program we introduced last year was the Outstanding Community Service Granger Award. We asked Granges to nominate that person who seems to always be there - the Granger who doesn't serve because they expect recognition, but simply because helping others is part of who they are.

It is my pleasure to announce our 2026 Outstanding Community Service Granger: Corey Walts of Kirkland Grange #684.

Corey serves as Treasurer of Kirkland Grange and Lecturer of Jefferson County Grange. He supports Junior Grange activities, assists with service projects, and was the person behind his Grange's Community Recruitment Drive.

But Corey's service extends well beyond the Grange. His nomination describes his involvement with the Redwood United Methodist Church, Redwood Historical Society , Jefferson County Fair, New York State Grange Museum Board, Redwood Cemetery Association, Clayton Opera House Volunteer Team, and other community activities. He also sings twice a month at a nursing home in Watertown and helps shut-ins in his community.

Perhaps the nomination says it best: Corey never seeks recognition or payment for what he does, and his service inspires others to become involved.

Community Service Yearbooks

We would now like to recognize our 2026 Community Service Yearbook winners.

These yearbooks document the work being done throughout the year and help preserve the story of how our Granges are serving their communities. Please make sure you stop to our booth after this session so you can collect your yearbook.

Would someone from each of the winning Granges come forward:

- Fourth Place - Pleasant Valley Grange #838, Dutchess County
- Third Place - Lamson Grange #588, Onondaga County
- Second Place - Butternut Valley Grange #1533 , Otsego County
- First Place Community Service Yearbook - Marcellus Grange #464, Onondaga County!

Congratulations to all of our winners and to every Grange that took the time to prepare and submit a yearbook.

Looking Ahead

As we look toward another year of Community Service, I hope we remember that a successful project doesn't have to be large. Sometimes the smallest projects have the greatest impact.

Community Service gives us an opportunity to do more than help our neighbors. It puts the Grange in front of our communities. It gives people an opportunity to see who we are, what we stand for, and why the Grange continues to have an important place in rural New York.

49,558 hours is an impressive number, but what matters even more are the thousands of people behind those hours and the thousands of lives that were touched because a Granger chose to serve.

On behalf of Mel, myself, and the Community Service Committee, thank you for everything you have done this year. Keep serving. Keep sharing your ideas. And most importantly, keep showing New York what the Grange can do when we work together.

Museum "H" Bill presentation



Grange Museum Board.

One of the fund raising activities of the State Grange Museum is the collection of "H" Bills. These are one dollar bills that have and "H" for history on them. Gail Lewis made the presentation at State Grange to Barbara Lavier, president of the State

Family Activities

Lena Goettel Linda Pilc

Fall is here and as we see the colors turning we know the Big E results are in. The Eastern States Exposition was very interesting. It is a big fair where we are a part of the New England Grange. The Grange building has a history going back to 1939. They hold the craft contest for all 7 states. We had 10 entries this year and our beautiful crafts did amazing. The Northeast Needlework contest has entries from all seven states. The results of the contests are as follows:

Class A Afghan:	Pat Van Lare	Did not place
Class B Doilies:	Helen Horth	3 rd place
Class C Embroidery:	No entries	
Class D 3 piece baby set:	Cindy Pollard	1st place
Class E Plastic canvas:	Shirley Ellis	3rd place
Class F Counted cross stitch:	Letitia Pickering	1st place
Class G Adult Garment:	No entries	
Class H Latch hook:	Lynne Conklin	1st place
Class I Quilted wall hanging:	No entries	
Class J Stuffed Toy:	Becky Turner	1st place
Class K Baby Afghan:	Letitia Pickering	1st place
Class L Child or adult sewn garment:	Lynne Conklin	1st place
Class M Miscellaneous:	Elizabeth Ciesielczky	2nd place

The Northeast Needlework contest pamphlets are the same as last year. The rules will remained the same and each pamphlet has 3 official entry forms.

I would like to thank again the many wonderful crafters throughout New York State who made and donated items to be sold in the New England Grange Building. We had 600 craft items donated. I am hopeful that this coming year we can get closer to last years total of over 800. The time and dedication that everyone put into these crafts was amazing. There was one thing that the asked of us. If you are making towels that hang on the cabinets or stove please cut the towels in half and make them up as two otherwise they are too long. Attach the knitting, crochet or sewn hanger to the cut side of the towel. These were a big hit and sold out fast and they asked if we could make more for next year. Toys were also a big hit. Dish scrubbies made from a special nylon thread sold out. People were asking for them and they said they are amazing. Fancy Christmas ornaments sell really well too. I had people say to me they come every year to get new ornaments! There were 8 New York State Grange members that worked at the Grange building including Vernon Starr, Steve Coye, Shugui Zheng, Brenda Noble, Valerie Griffing, Laurinda Gerring, Paula Turner and Lena Goettel. Thank you for all who worked and I hope it was as rewarding to yourselves as it was to me.

The New York State Baking contest took place October 17th. Judging started at 9 am for the Oatmeal Cookie contest. Cookies were sold at the Family Activities display during state session. We collected $33 to give back to the Grange. We looked forward to all the entries received and thank you for your support of family activities.

The following placed in the baking contest:

Regular oatmeal cookies:

1st place	Anna Ritchey
2nd place	Val Woolley
3rd place	Marian Pirrone
HM	Paula Turner

Diabetic Oatmeal Cookies:

1st place	John Buchanan
2nd place	Ryan Orton
3rd place	Helen Ritchey

Congratulations to all that participated in this contest. We had a total of 17 regular and 3 Diabetic. Our contest for 2027 will be Maple Quick Bread. Never too early to start perfecting your recipes! Thank you to our judges Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Mc Gregor.

Our Family Activities Handbook will be available on line. If requested, one can be mailed to you. Please note there have been some changes to the contests. Each county needs to also fill out a sheet of their contest entries. If you have any questions please contact one of our committee members. Please keep the contest rules in mind if you enter.

This year our committee did a presentation on Bullying. Our members reported on different types of bullying. This program was displayed at our April conference, a fair and again at state session. The program offered health information and education for Grange members and the community. Our health topic for 2027 will be tick born illnesses.

We have had a year of fun and learning. Before we know it the year will be winding down. Be grateful for your health, family and friends. Enjoy time with your family and I challenge you to ask questions to learn about your family history both in the past and present. There is no time like now to start documenting for future generations. Have a safe healthy happy holiday season and new year.

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Westville Grange



Westville Grange #540 honored members for their years of service. The awards were presented by Master Doug Roberts at a regular meeting of the Grange. We are all grateful for the faithfulness of our members in serving their Grange and Communities for many consecutive years.



Sandra Tabor-Hunkins 50 years Gold Sheaf



Nancy Frueh 50 years Gold Sheaf



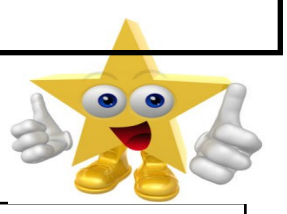
Robert Tabor 40 years



Kathleen Liddle 50 years Gold

Now is the time!

Across the country states are achieving a net gain in membership. Many have made this goal repeatedly in the last few years. New York State is within easy reach of a net gain in membership it will only take each Grange in the state to gain one new member.



Be a star and add a few new members to

New York State Grange Information Email

Scan this QR Code and fill out the form to get updated information from NYS Grange

Get news from New York State Grange in your inbox!!!!

Grange Sports opportunities



Be sure to sign up for the State Grange "Corn Hole tournament. It is a fun game that all can play. Old and young alike can have really good time.

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/