



The

New

# York State Grange

Newsletter



August, 2011

## State Master

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It is a pleasure to greet you as the 29<sup>th</sup>. Master of the New York State Grange. I will freely admit that the honor and attendant responsibilities were unexpected at this point, however upon accepting the office of Overseer the commitment to do the job if called on was part of the obligation of the position. So we're here, and we intend to do the best we can to move this great organization forward.

A little bit about myself, I've made my home in Ravena, NY (Albany County) since the mid 1970's, retiring from the New York State Senate in 2009 after 38 years of service in the central administration of that body. My original home was in Smyrna, NY (Chenango County) where I grew up on a 400+ acre dairy farm. Following college we spent four years teaching music at the former Georgetown Central School. I belong to Ravena Grange

1457, and have been a Granger since Eisenhower was President. (If you count the Junior Grange years it puts it back to Truman!) I'll let you do the math. We've had the privilege of serving in many offices from Junior on up to State and have enjoyed them all.

Preparations are underway for our Annual Session being held at the Hudson Valley Resort in Kerhonkson, NY. We encourage each county to have their full quota of Delegates, as important decisions in relation to the focus of the organization are made at State Sessions, and Delegates are an important part of the process. Visiting Grangers are welcome as well. Come and enjoy the learning experience as well as the fellowship. Should you like to check out the resort there is a lot of good information on their website: [www.hudsonvalleyresort.com](http://www.hudsonvalleyresort.com).

In closing I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Brother Oliver Orton for his leadership over the past three and one half years as Master, and subsequent to that State Junior Director for many years, as well as a host

of other elected and appointed positions. It was a pleasure to be part of the team, working for the betterment of the Grange. Thank you Oliver. Leadership changes are a fact of life in all organizations. The key is to pick up where the former left off, and resolve together to move forward. With help from you, we can do that.

## Leadership/ Membership

Al and Vinni Kirmss  
518-756-5721

As you know, we have often mentioned the four steps necessary for successful membership recruitment. The first step is to set the stage. We just returned from a Mediterranean cruise where we had an interesting setting of the stage. As we were waiting to disembark for a shore excursion a man approached us and asked if we were farmers or worked with or for farmers. We answered that we were part owners of my parent's old farm but that we, as my par-

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(Continued from page 1) *Leadership/ Membership*

ents had done, rented the land to a neighbor for his use and had no hands on connection to the farm. We asked why he had asked. He answered that he had seen us wearing our Grange passport holders. We had hardly paid much attention to them but apparently people had noticed them. He said that he thought that the Grange was for farmers only and had actually disappeared. We explained that the Grange definitely was still very active. We also explained that though the Grange was originally formed to help farmers after the Civil War it was now directed to rural life in general not just farming. We told him some of the things that the Grange was doing today at all levels – Subordinate, Pomona, State and National. He was very interested and continued to ask questions. He told us he was from Tulsa, Oklahoma. We told him that Oklahoma had some very active Granges and that the National Grange session was to be held in Tulsa in November. We told him to please stop by if he had a chance and guided him to the National Grange web site for more information. By then we had to leave to disembark but hopefully we started his interested in our organization.

This just shows that even

though you may forget that you have Grange paraphernalia on other people may notice. This can happen anywhere at any time. We must continue to set the stage and be ready to talk to people about the Grange.

And always remember:  
*The Grange is a family fraternal, community service organization with roots in agriculture. We develop personal leadership skills in our members and strengthen our communities through local involvement. Faith, family, patriotism and activism are the foundation of our values.*

**We are America's Family Fraternity!**  
**WE ARE THE PLACE TO GROW!**

We have a lot to be proud of and a lot of good things to sell. We are not a secret; let's get everyone to know the Grange. We are always available to help any Grange that wants to improve its image in the community and sell itself to get new members. You can always contact us at [avkirmss@aol.com](mailto:avkirmss@aol.com) or 518-756-8721.

## **Family Activities**

Brenda Noble 585-768-6632

The report forms for the year have been sent out. I would like everyone to send them back by September. Please report anything you did even if you weren't able to do the activities in the program. I

can report them in my annual report to State Session in October. I read every report and we try to make changes whenever possible.

The judging for the Chocolate Cakes will be Saturday at State Session. They are to be delivered to the room on Saturday morning.

We need 3 ornaments for the National Session Christmas Tree. If anyone would like to donate one you can give it to me at State Session and I will send them in.

## **Youth**

Julia Masti  
607-776-3625  
[mastifarm@aol.com](mailto:mastifarm@aol.com)

There were 15 New York youth who attended the Northeast Youth Conference. We stopped on our drive up to Maine and went to York beach and swam in the Atlantic Ocean.

Congratulations to the following speech contest winners: Prepared speech 19 and under 2<sup>nd</sup> place Teresa Thomas Bethlehem Grange, 20-29 2<sup>nd</sup> place Heidi Henderson Baldwinsville Grange, Elevator speech 20-29 1<sup>st</sup> place Heidi Henderson Baldwinsville Grange, Impromptu speeches 19 and under 2<sup>nd</sup> place Benjamin Kauppi East Pembroke Grange, 3<sup>rd</sup> place Sara Recktenwald North Cameron Grange, 20-29 1<sup>st</sup> place Heidi Henderson Baldwinsville Grange, 30+ 1<sup>st</sup>

place Julia Masti North Cameron Grange. New York took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the drill competition. Congratulations to the drill participants and the speech participants for doing such a great job this year. Coming up next is working the ox roast on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 4-10 shift. If you can work please call Heidi at 315-447-4005.

Pictures of the youth at the Northeast Conference will be in the next Granger.

## State Grange Fundraiser

I have been contacted again about selling Gertrude Hawk Candy Bars which would benefit both the Community Granges as well as New York State Grange.

Candy Bars would sell for a \$1.00 each with the Community Grange (Junior also welcomed) earning \$23.00 and NYS Grange \$22.00 on a variety of 100 candy bars sold.

In order to keep all of the money as profit, candy would have to be picked up at State Grange Session at Hudson Valley Resort in Kerhonkson (October 21-25) or at State Legislative Day in Cortland on September 24th. Orders may be communicated to me in advance at the below listed avenues.

In order to minimize the bookkeeping, candy must be gotten in quantities of 100

bars at \$77.00 (\$55.00 towards cost of candy and \$22.00 to NYS Grange). Hopefully payment can be made at the time the candy is picked up. I would appreciate if writing a check, that it is made payable to my attention so that I can pay for the candy and also settle up with NYS Grange.

Thanks for your interest in helping with this worthwhile project.

Roberta Halbert

P.O. Box 102

Gilbertsville, NY 13776

PH 607-783-2445

E-mail: berth@frontiernet.net

## State Lecturer

Sharon Croucher 315-462.3067

As I write this, the Northeast Lecturers Conference is fast approaching. I am busily putting the final touches on New York's program and workshop. By the time this newsletter is published the conference will be part of history. Thank you to the New York delegation for being willing participants in our program. A special note of thanks goes to Shirley Tabor for writing the lyrics to the New York Song and to Irene Fassett for her help as well. Thank you to Joan Hadlock for designing the New York quilt block again this year.

So far I have heard of two picnics and a bus trip in celebration of Grange Gathering Day. I'm looking forward to receiving pictures and stories

of more events. I will forward them to National Grange. E-mail is great but you may send them by regular mail also.

Several items are due to me by September 15- Community Grange Lecturer's report, Pomona Grange Lecturer's report, Pen - Hand writing submissions and Sally Benson Award entries. I can't stress strongly enough how important the reports are to me! They provide valuable information about what is happening in our Granges that in turn gives us direction for the future. Submissions for Pen - in - Hand and the Sally Benson Award were very low last year. I hope to receive many more this year.

A new Grange year will soon be upon us. With that in mind, I close with the following quote.

"Success is often achieved by those who don't know that failure is inevitable."

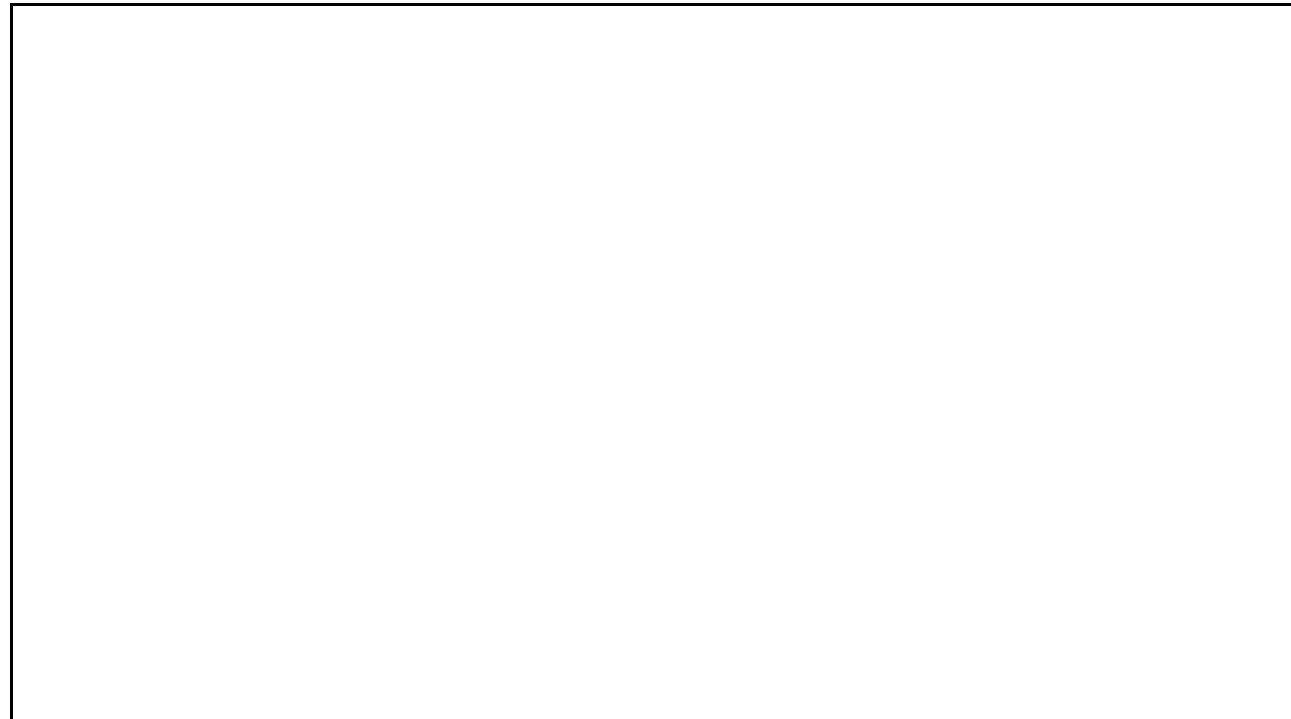
Coco Chanel

Please send reports and pictures of your Grange Gathering Day events. We want New York to lead the Nation in our participation! Let's hope that Granges across the country have made this a terrific event! Send to: Sharon Croucher 2514 County Road 25, Clifton Springs, NY 14432 E-mail croubr@fltg.net

New York State Grange  
100 Grange Place  
Cortland, NY 13045

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## Submissions for Empire State Granger

We are very interested in publishing positive articles about Granges. If you have an event or participate in a Community Service, please submit an article. Include original pictures, (not copies from a newspaper). Typewritten or electronic submissions are preferred (no FAX).

Send To: Bruce  
Croucher, 2514 County  
Road 25, Clifton Springs,  
NY 14432 or E-Mail to  
croubr@fltg.net

# Empire Farm Days

New York State Grange sponsors the Family Tent at the Farm Show, August 9, 10, 11. There are exhibits and programs daily. Be sure to stop and visit with fellow Grangers.

## Calendar of Dates, 2011

August 1 - 4 - Northeast Lecturer's Conference, Bridgewater College, Massachusetts  
August 9 - 11 - Empire Farm Days, Seneca Falls, Visit the Grange Tent  
September 1 - Community Service Reports and Scrapbooks due to Debbie Vail, Director  
September 3 - Grange Day at New York State Fair  
September 15 - Lecturer's reports, Pen-in-Hand, Sally Benson Award applications due to State Lecturer  
September 15 - Membership/Leadership Essay Contest & Annual Report for Community & Junior Granges due to Al & Vinni Kirmss, Directors  
September 15 - Robert A. Earlandt Memorial Award Application to State Youth Director  
September 23 - Executive Committee, 10 am Friday  
September 24 - State Legislative Day at Headquarters  
October 1 - Degree Day, Freedom Plains Grange Hall, Dutchess County, 2 p.m.  
October 21 - 25 - 139th Annual New York State Session, Hudson Valley Resort and Spa  
October 21 - Junior Grange Craft Projects and Lecturer's Symbol Craft are due at State Session  
October 22 - Chocolate Cake Entries due at State Session  
October 22 - 6th Degree Conferral at State Session, 7:30 p.m.  
October 25 - Executive Committee, following State Session  
November 8 - 12 - 145th Annual National Grange Session in Tulsa, Oklahoma