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Cortland, NY 13045

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Granger Elected Ag. Society President



**Dave Tetor, Stanford
Grange, Dutchess County is
New York State
Agricultural Society
President**

Dave Tetor has lived in Clinton Corners NY for 38 years (Town of Stanford, Dutchess County). He is 67 years old, married (for almost 45 years), to Louise Weeks Tetor (a farm girl from Steuben County). They have 3 grown
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The Legislative Log



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In the last article, I challenged each local Grange to spend some time in dialogue with their elected officials. If you don't invite them to a Grange meeting... or visit them in their district offices, a Grange can take five minutes to drop a few lines to them on a post card. Trust me, if your Senator or Assembly representative hears from as few as five constituents on the same issue, that begins to say something to them, calling each one to take notice. We do have a voice, particularly when it is a collective voice from many.

I figured that I need to practice what I preach! At our last local Grange meeting, we took a few minutes to let our elected officials know that we want them to represent us on some issues that we feel are extremely important to rural New York State. We took the most recent brochure that gives the 2011 Legislative Priorities for the New York State Grange (they are available at State Grange Headquarters, 607-756-7553 or you can check out the listing on our website: www.nysgrange.org ... it is as simple as that!). With two

or three sentences taken from the priority listing and including the person's name, address and name of the Grange, the process is really very easy and a brief communication asks for action in each respective house. It also encourages a follow-up note from them, in return, to indicate their intent or reasons why they disagree with our position. Either way, the status of the Grange member and Grange as a whole is elevated... just by visiting with the elected representative for a few minutes. If you don't know the addresses of your representatives, they are also available at State Grange's website. In my Grange's example, we sent 35 post cards... and now we anxiously await to see the reply from our Senator and Assembly Member (on the state issue that each member thought to be a major concern. It took all of ten minutes during our business meeting!

Take time to let your voice be heard! It really carries more weight than a single letter from the Legislative Director of the New York State Grange. I challenge you to take up this exercise in an upcoming Grange meeting... and let me know the numbers and which elected officials were contacted. I will be sure to mention your Grange in a future article if you follow through on this! If you feel your efforts would be more effective on the county level, there is no reason why the Pomona Master and/or Legislative Chair cannot coordinate such an attempt to a successful conclusion.

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Master's Column



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This article is from Rusty Hunt, Leadership/Membership Director of the National Grange

Grangers interested in growing and evolving the organization should take heed instead of finding fault, and then dismissing a new idea. Give new ideas a chance to mature and evolve. They may surprise you.

First of all, **Listen**. Don't be one of those Grangers who think they must have all the answers. Don't be the person who is waiting for a break in the conversation to insert what he or she wants to say next. Instead, listen carefully and deliberately. Put judgment aside and just take in the ideas you hear. Give it time to sink in and see if there is a place for this idea or a form of it. Remember, it is important to the person that is giving the idea!

Second, ask a **Question**. There is no quicker way to extinguish the potential of a new idea than by making a statement instead of asking a question. Positive or negative statements can have a nullify-

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Master

ing effect. By judging new ideas as good or bad cuts short any prospects of idea evolution. Ask questions that encourage input, accountability, and analytical thinking. You want to show interest and make sure the idea has been thought out fully.

And last, you want to **Clarify**. Clarify, don't assume. Double check that what you hear is what is being said. Sometimes we automatically assume that we know why the person is presenting the new idea because of the context of the discussion before the idea was presented or because of the person's past ideas. We need to make sure that we fully understand the idea as the presenter intended.

New Ideas are what bring freshness to our Granges and keep us from doing the same old things. Even old ideas need to be revised from time to time with new ideas on how to make them better. New ideas and new members go hand in hand. With new ideas, Granges become more appealing to new members and new members will always come with new ideas. So, let's give them both a chance to help us grow the Grange.

(Continued from page 1)

Legislative

The first of the 2011 Regional Legislative Conferences are fast approaching. The first will be held at Oak Grove Grange in Dutchess County on Saturday, April 9, starting at 9:30 a.m. Invited guests include Senators Stephen Saland and Greg Ball; Assemblymen Kevin Cahill, Joel Miller, and Marcus Molinaro; and U.S. House Member Nan Hayworth (Senator William Larkin and U.S. House Member Chris Gibson were also invited and have already sent regrets due to prior commitments). The local Grange will be preparing a luncheon at \$7 per person following the conclusion of the program

around 12 noon. Please make meal reservations by Wednesday, April 6 with Jean Baker at 845-226-1429 or e-mail to: Richard.Faulkner@Verizon.net .

The second regional conference is slated for Adirondack Grange, Lewis County on Saturday, May 7, also at 9:30 a.m. We plan to invite Senators Joseph Griffo and Patty Ritchie; Assembly Members Ken Blankenbush, Addie Russell, and RoAnn Destito; and U.S. House Member Bill Owens. Adirondack Grange will prepare a luncheon for the attendees before we head for home... please make your reservations with Delores Young, 315-543-2979 by Wednesday, May 4. Cost is \$7 per person.

Both of these events give Grange members an opportunity for quality time with those who represent them in Albany and in Washington, D.C. Let's show them that their valuable time is well spent when they visit the Grange and seek or input!

I look forward to seeing and visiting with many of you on the Grange circuit in upcoming months.

IT'S ONLY MY OPINION
By Roger J. Halbert, Legislative Director

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act...what is it? Where is it going? And what's in it for the common John and Mary Doe? Before the new Congress arrived in D.C. in January the "lame ducks" made haste on their promise of health care reform...just in case the new guys coming in moved too slowly or abandoned what the old guard had set out to accomplish.

In layman's terms, there are tax credits for small businesses to cover employees; kids can stay on their parents' policies until they are 26; co-pays for preventive care went away. But for most Americans, the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has not brought about the cozy feeling of a new dawn in health care but

just another bone for the strictly partisan groups to pull and tug on. While the House appear ready to dismantle piece by piece, the Senate will smugly stand their ground. And then lawyers are challenging the constitutionality of central components of the law in federal courthouses and are likely to carry their arguments all the way to the Supreme Court. Republican governors are supporting such lawsuits and resisting the law in their respective states even as they take millions in federal funds that come with it. Physician groups, hospitals, insurers and drug makers reluctantly got behind the measure last year and continue to show lukewarm support unless the law shows stability and predictability. History may prove a useful guide...the creation of Social Security in 1935 and Medicare in 1965 spawned lawsuits and promises of repeal too...but neither program was scaled back and, in fact, were greatly expanded upon.

Possible targets may include the new requirement that businesses with 50 or more employers provide health benefits and there appears bipartisan support to repeal a provision requiring businesses to file tax forms for vendors from whom they purchase at least \$600 in goods or services. There is talk that some deals may have been struck with the pharmaceutical industry during the reform debate that may be called into question. The real test could happen in March when the House must initiate legislation to fund the government through September

2011.

On another front, as reference was made above, 20 states have filed suit to stop health care arguing that Washington lacks the authority under the Constitution's commerce clause to force people to purchase health insurance. As one Judge from Florida's northern district recently said, "If Washington decided everyone needed to eat broccoli because broccoli makes one healthy, could it mandate that everybody has to eat a certain amount of broccoli each week?"

At a time when so many state treasuries are running short, one wonders when "Washington" will pick up most of the tab for the 16 million people who will be added to the Medicaid rolls in 2014, paying \$434 billion in additional program expenditures over the next 10 years. It speaks of "Washington" being this invisible and beneficent philanthropist when we all know full well, who "Washington" really is.

In the meantime, one can go to the Administration's reform website, www.healthcare.gov and there is a nifty calendar that tells you, down to the exact date, when provisions of the law are scheduled to become effective. This whole thing is a bit of a tease and the big ticket items don't kick in for years (coverage to 32 million who are currently uninsured—2014; insurers' to cover pre-existing conditions—2014; closing of the doughnut hole—the massive gap in Medicare prescription costs—2020). Until then,

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Legislative "My Opinion"
most Americans may be left wondering what the point of it all was. The law's authors wanted to keep the 10-year cost of the bill under \$1 trillion to avoid socking it to the Treasury Department or huge transitional costs in the middle of a recession (or before Obama's re-election campaign in 2012). Talk about dirty politics!

The real question that faces the lawmakers and we, the constituents is: How much more dangerous does it become over time if some of the parts of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act get scratched? Equally important, maybe more so, if you ask me, is whether its benefits can outrun its critics' concerns of the Act. While there may be really good benefits for many millions of people, I still wonder what kind of a hole we dug for the next generations. We learn early in life that if you have dug yourself into a hole, you do not continue to dig, to get out. The shovels in Washington, D.C. are fast at work.

(Continued from page 1) **Ag Society**
sons, all living in Dutchess County and 5 grand children. Dave was born and raised on a family farm in the Finger Lakes. His parents and maternal grand parents were active in Grange and Uncle George and Aunt Elizabeth Tetor were also active in NY State Grange. He graduated from Cornell College of Agriculture in 1965 and went to work for the USDA Soil Conservation Service, mapping soils in Monroe County. Six months later, he was drafted by the Army and spent four years in the service. The last three years he was the Commanding Officer of a large communications unit in West Germany. They had 30 sites all over Germany and at headquarters in Heidelberg. He had a top secret unit develop-

ing tactical computers to be used in the field in Viet Nam. His oldest son was born in Germany. They returned home with family in December 1969. Dave worked at Cornell for six months, developing Cooperative Extension's computerized personnel system. He was hired as Agriculture Program Leader in Herkimer County in the fall of 1970. They moved to Dutchess County in December 1972, and Dave was Agricultural Program Leader in Dutchess until December of 2000, when he retired. Dave has been very active in many community endeavors including; Dutchess Land Conservancy Board since 1983 and on the Board of the Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency for the same time period. Served on Pine Plains School Board for eight years, being President for seven years. Served as Town Supervisor, Town of Stanford, for twelve years. Active member of the local Farm Bureau and serve on two State wide committees. Active with Stanford Grange for several years and finally joined about ten years ago. Last year he was co-chair of the Ag and Environment Legislative state committee. He has been active on the Board of the NY State Agricultural Society, and was elected as President in January. He has been doing two daily Farm and Agriculture radio reports for over twenty three years, and remains active with the Dutchess County Fair (for almost 40 years), the Dutchess County Dairy Committee, Northern Dutchess Alliance (President this year), Stanford Ag Committee and a few others.

Congratulations!

**Support Junior
Grange**

Pomona Lecturers Trip to Rhode Island

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There is still room on the Host's Fund's May 31st-June 3 trip to Newport, Rhode Island. The trip includes tours of "The Breakers"—the summer cottage of Cornelius Vanderbilt, and the Elms Mansion, where the tour includes the area where the servants worked. A step-on guide will point out other "cottages" and tell stories of the people who lived in them. We will visit the National Museum of American Illustration to see the work of favorite artists. The Newport Coast is rocky and beautiful, and we will see it from land, and from the sea, as we will have a harbor cruise on Narragansett Bay. For a change of pace, we will enjoy a play and lunch buffet at the Newport Playhouse. Rhode Island was founded on the principles of religious freedom, and welcomed people of different faiths. Newport is the home of the Touro Synagogue, the oldest in the United States. We will tour this renowned house of worship. If 20 passengers are interested, there will be a "Ghost of Newport Walking Tour," at an additional cost of \$20 per person for those who wish to participate.

The cost of the trip, which is \$584 per person in a double occupancy room; \$574 in a triple; \$569 in a Quadruple, and \$719 in a Single Room, includes the transportation, luggage handling, 3 nights lodging at the Best Western Mainstay Inn, 3 continental breakfasts at the Inn, 2 evening meals, a lunch buffet and performance at the Newport Playhouse, the services of a step-on guide, admission and tours of the 2 mansions,

the National Museum of American Illustration, and the Touro Synagogue, and the Newport Harbor Cruise.

Passengers may board the bus in the Syracuse area, in Rome, and Albany. If you would like a full itinerary or more information, contact me--Kathleen Hughes, 8972 East Floyd Road, Holland Patent, NY 13354, 315-865-8334. Non-Grange members are welcome on the trip. I would appreciate your help in getting the word out to non-members. If you know a place where you can put up posters, contact me, and I will be glad to send you some.

Plans are also in the works for a one-day trip to the Eastern States Exposition, also known as the "Big E," in Springfield, Massachusetts. It is tentatively set for September 19, and will include transportation, admission and a private tour of the Grange Building. I will have the full information ready for the Lecturers & Family Activities Workshop on April 30.

Use the Grange Trademark

If you are using the Grange emblem or the word Grange in a title of your advertising, you can assist in protecting the trademark by using the trademark symbol TM

This symbol should be near the word or emblem to let everyone know that these are trademarks of the Grange.

The Grange has expended nearly \$1,000,000 over the past few years to protect the name of the Grange. Please do your part!



LEADERSHIP and MEMBERSHIP



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In our last article, we talked about the need to evaluate our membership and our community in picking projects for your Grange to do. We also talked about the need to include all members and all committees in the process of picking and the process of doing the projects. We indicated that a good place find suggestions for projects that do this is the 2010-2011 New York State Grange handbook.

Once your Grange has decided on a project or projects the success of these projects depend on the leadership of the Grange. Rusty Hunt, National Leadership/Membership director sent out a very important tip in January for Grange leaders that will help and encourage all leaders to lead Grange projects to a successful end. It is titled *Lead with Passion*. This is the tip,

“What does “passion” mean to you? John J. Murphy calls passion “the fire within.” Good leaders will have that fire. We will be able to see that fire in the way they work and play in the Grange. Their fires are fed by positive energy created by success, and that success is a product of their passion, sparking fires in others.

To lead with passion, a good leader must be able to courageously cast off fear, doubt, and limiting beliefs. This will allow the leader to give peo-

ple a sense of hope, optimism, and accomplishment. Think about the great leaders you know or have read about. It’s true; they have given people hope for the future, inspired optimism, and showed measurable accomplishments.

So, as the leaders of the Grange, how are we to lead with passion? First, we must believe in the Grange and that others can benefit from the Grange. Second, we must have the desire to work with others and want them to see how great the Grange can be. Last, we must want them to see us as a good example. Leading with Passion is like bringing light in a world of uncertainty and inspiring others to do the same.

I see many Grangers out there that love the Grange and spend countless hours working for the Grange. They never miss a meeting and are first to sign up to help with the next program or project. But they never share that feeling of satisfaction they get with others. They seem to keep the feeling all to themselves. We need to share the feelings we have for the Grange with others and invite them to experience those feelings too. We need to let others see and hear the fire that burns within us so that it might initiate a spark of passion within them!”

Granges Leaders must demonstrate a positive attitude toward the Grange and its community, and fulfill the needs of the Grange and Community members. As a Grange Leader, you are vital to your Grange’s success by doing the little things that make a big difference in growing the Grange. You set the stage for other Grange Leaders and Members to become successful recruiters. The more you are doing to meet the needs of your membership and your community the happier and more enthusiastic your members will become. Then the easier it becomes to attract new mem-

bers to participate in your Grange. We commend you for taking a leadership role in the future of your Grange. We know that you all want the best for the Grange and will bring out that desire in a real Passion as you lead the Grange this year.

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.

Chaplain's Corner

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“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.” Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

“Teach us to number our days aright that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” Psalm 90:12

“We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

“Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if

we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

God's valentine to everyone: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Our thoughts and prayers are with those whose loved ones have passed into eternal life. Let us especially remember Ramona Sebring, Yates Co. who served as State Flora from 1976-1977.

National Grange Announces Diane Szkutak New Junior Grange Director

Greetings from the State of Massachusetts! As I write this, I am just in the early days of serving this organization as the National Junior Director. In the months ahead, I look forward to meeting Junior Grangers from across the country at the Regional Youth Conferences. I want to share a little bit about myself. I had the privilege of growing up in a Grange family. My dad being the Past Master of the Massachusetts State Grange, Northborough Grange and Borough Pomona and a member of the Assembly of Demeter, and my mom being a Past Junior Grange Superintendent/ Junior Director, Past Master of Northborough Grange and Borough Pomona, member of the Assembly of Demeter. Both my brother and sister being Past Masters of Northborough and Upton Junior Grange. In Grange, I joined in 1964 at the age of 4 ½ years old holding my first offices as Flag Bearer. I am a member now of Uxbridge Grange # 200, but grew up in Northborough Grange and Borough Pomona both Granges in Massachusetts. I am a Past Master of Northborough Junior Grange

(Continued on page 6)

Cornell Ag Teacher Ed. Program

Teacher certification to remain at Cornell

By Stacey Shackford

The pathway to teacher certification will remain open to Cornell students, despite the phased closure of the Department of Education, which was announced in October.

Months of consultations with faculty, staff and students have culminated in a strategy that will not only enable current students to earn the degrees intended upon their enrollment, but will allow future students to pursue teacher certifications in specialized topics across the Cornell curriculum, including agricultural science, earth science, biology, chemistry and physics.

Additionally, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) has announced its intention to hire two lecturers in agricultural and science education to assist

with teaching and advising. It will also maintain the popular education minor, which is the route most undergraduate students follow when pursuing a career in teaching, and will continue with the scheduled reaccreditations of its teacher preparation program, Cornell Teacher Education, through the Teacher Education Accreditation Council. Under the new structure, students interested in science teaching careers will complete their science major and then continue with courses in the education minor, finishing with a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) that can be completed in two additional semesters.

Incoming freshmen and transfer students are also being encouraged to apply to the agricultural science major, with a concentration in education.

Meanwhile, faculty from the Department of Education

will be integrated into other departments, a move that is expected to foster new collaborations and generate greater access to grants, laboratory and instructional resources.

"Although the decision to close the Department of Education was difficult, it has opened the way for the development of a more effective structure to better serve our students and stakeholders," said Kathryn Boor, the Ronald P. Lynch Dean of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

"The new teacher preparation program will be more closely aligned with other CALs and Cornell departments, allowing for more cross-fertilization between agriculture and science content, as well as pedagogy," Boor added. "Many departments are eager for these faculty members to join their ranks and contribute in mean-

ingful ways."

Cathy Jordan Longley-Cook, who received her MAT in education with a focus in earth science in 2005 and now works as a teacher in a school near Boston, said she believes the Cornell program's focus on content-area teacher preparation is one of its major strengths.

"I was educated as a scientist and a teacher, not just a teacher," she said. "It was invaluable to learn about classroom management, lesson planning, literacy and education philosophy through the lens of the science classroom, because it really is different from other subjects." "What makes us proud of our program is having bright, motivated students with deep content knowledge, who understand political and social contexts, global and local issues, and the ability to connect research to practice, including scientific and education research," said Barbara Crawford, associate professor of education and director of graduate studies in the field of education. "As faculty members we believe these qualities set our Cornell teacher preparation program apart from others."

Danielle Sanok '13 said the undergraduate curriculum has given her the opportunity to grow outside of the normal contexts of a typical education program. "Agriculture education has exposed me to new passions such as leadership development, animal science and horticulture, as well as new learning strategies, traveling and more," Sanok said.

Stacey Shackford is a staff writer at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Calendar of Dates, 2011

April - Grange Month (Choose any Week to Celebrate!)

April 9 - Legislative Regional Meeting, Dutchess County

April 15 - Art and Photo entries due at headquarters, Talent entries due to State Lecturer

April 20 - FAC Crafts, Handiwork, Quilt Project, Needlework Entries due at Headquarters

April 24 - State Dartball Tournament at Headquarters

April 29 - May 1 - Youth Spring Weekend, Albright Grange, Cortland County

April 30 - FAC/Lecturer's Conference including Talent Contest at Headquarters

May 7 - Legislative Regional Conference, Lewis County

May 31 - June 3 - Bus Trip to Newport, Rhode Island, Benefit: National Hosting Fund

June 5 - State Bowling Tournament, Cort-Lanes, Cortland

June 30 - Junior Grange Membership Report due to State Secretary

July 8 - 10 - Northeast Youth Conference, Maine

July 10 - State Golf Tournament

August 1 - 4 - Northeast Lecturer's Conference, Bridgewater College, Massachusetts

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 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.

November 6 - 12 - 145th Annual National Grange Session in Tulsa, Oklahoma

Support Grange

Youth

Sports



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gablab1652@yahoo.com

Spring is just around the corner. You should be ready to have some fun as winter comes to a close. We have changed the date of the Dart Ball Tournament to May 1st as the last Sunday of April this year is Easter Sunday. Our rules always have us on the last Sunday but we have to change the date. Please let all your team mates know of the change.

We have a team from the Youth Department coming this year to help us make up the loss of the team from the western region. We will start at 9:00 a.m. Please call no later than April 10th 2011. That will help get our prizes and refreshments in line for the day. Remember the entry fee is \$25.00 per team and cost of donuts are \$1.00 per person.

Start planning your bowling and golf teams as the sports programs get under way and I hope that we can have as many teams as last year or more. We are still sponsoring Special Olympics and all denotations will be gladly accepted.

The first part of April, I will attend the program planning weekend to set our goal for the next two years. If you have any questions please call or email me. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our events again this year.

Cayuga Lake Grange 100th

“Please save the date and join us! Cayuga Lake Grange #1210 is celebrating 100 years, Saturday, May 7th at 1 PM. The party will be at the Ward O’Hara Agricultural Museum, Au-

burn (Cayuga County). It is located on Route 38A, Emerson Park, northern end of Owasco Lake. “

Family Activities



Brenda Noble
7973 Telephone Road
LeRoy, NY 14482

The Chocolate Cake contest will be **without** frosting in a square, disposable pan. I have had questions about this change, so I wanted to remind everyone. The new score sheet that came with the report forms in June has the correct scoring. There were some errors in the original.

Remember to have the crafts and handiwork to Cortland by April 20. Everyone plan to attend the conference on Saturday April 30. We hope to have another great turnout!

Community Involvement



Debbie Vail
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Lagrangeville, NY 12540
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FAX—845-724-4217
E-mail—Dvvail@aol.com

It’s been a long cold winter making it difficult to get out and about. We can now look forward to the snow melting and the warmer days of spring. With the new life of spring we can wake up our Granges with new life and enthusiasm. We can get working on our Community

Service projects which hopefully involve the community. Look ahead to our annual report with pictures and fun at our events. If we all asked 1 friend to a meeting or event just think of how many new members our Granges can get.

The BIG coffee cup has been found. Mary from Headquarters E-mailed me and reported it was brought back from State Session and was safe and sound in Oliver’s office. Please let’s start collecting now so that we can fill that cup at session in October. If every one put the cost of 1 hot beverage at one meeting a year in a jar, and then put that in our cup to donate to the food pantry along with the groceries It would be wonderful.

The program Directors will be meeting in Cortland in early April to discuss program for the next 2 years. If you have nay ideas or changes you would like to see in the department please let me know by e-mail or snail mail (traditional mail). Every opinion is valuable to the process. Reports will continue to be due and arrive at my home by September 1, 2011 the same as last year.

Our NE Leasers Conference in January was well attended by our NY Grangers as well as Granges from the New England States. The conference next year will be held in Connecticut near Hartford. We met our goal of 140 people in attendance even with all the snow. We hope every one had a good time and learned something new or of interest to them.

Again thank you to all who helped and attended the NE Leaders Conference. All those who helped or donated to the NYS Penny Social held in Dutchess County at Oak Grove Grange. With out Grangers and Granges as a big family we could never carry out our events. We all know that all we need to do is ASK and help is always there.

(Continued from page 4)
National Junior Director # 93, and held many offices within Northborough Grange and now serve as Lecturer of Uxbridge Grange and Lady Assistant Steward in Worcester-Norfolk Pomona # 10. I was appointed in 1982 as a Junior Deputy under Past National Master Brother Robert Barrows, and in 1997 as Co – Director of the Massachusetts State Grange Junior Committee by Past Master Kathleen Peterson. In 2005 I was appointed to the Youth Committee by our present Master Calvin C Chase Jr. and in 2009 was appointed as Co-Director along with my son Christopher to the Youth Committee by the same. I have a loving husband, Robert, and two sons Christopher & Michael, who live in Northbridge, MA. Looking forward, I am a firm believer in our Junior and Youth programs. As outlined by our National Master Ed Luttrell, the Junior & Youth are and will continue to be a vital part of our organization. The Grange offers a unique opportunity to our youth. We must work together to capitalize on our strengths in order to prepare the youth and young adults to become advocates for our communities and rural America. It has been said and I am a true believer of this that the Juniors are our hope of tomorrow, without them we will have no Youth. Grange is truly a special organization. It is the one organization that is truly designed for the betterment of the entire family.

Please save the date and join us! Cayuga Lake Grange #1210 is celebrating 100 years, Saturday, May 7th at 1 PM. The party will be at the Ward O’Hara Agricultural Museum, Auburn (Cayuga County). It is located on Route 38A, Emerson Park, northern end of Owasco Lake. “

State Lecturer



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Spring is on the way and so are many exciting Grange events! April is the time to celebrate Grange Month. National Grange has sent a packet of materials to each Grange. This year's theme is "Connecting Communities through Service". This fits well with our theme of "Building Better Communities With Love". We have much to celebrate about this great organization. Use this opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of your Grange and how those accomplishments benefit the community.

Everyone is invited to attend the Lecturers/Family Activities Conference Day at the State Grange Headquarters on April 30th. Plans are not completely finalized yet, but it will be a full day of information and fun. The Art and Photo entries will be on display as well as needlework and woodworking entries. The talent contest will be held that day. We also expect the Youth Department to hold their Public Speaking contest. All County winners in Art and Photo should be sent to the State Grange Headquarters by April 15th. The talent entry form should be mailed to me by April 15th.

Lecturers – please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire you received and return it to me! We will be developing the next two year program on April 2nd. Your responses will play an important role in that process. Thank you to those who have already responded.

The Lecturer's Depart-

ment is still encouraging contributions to Special Olympics and the Museum Memorial Brick project. Be sure to indicate that your contribution is a Lecturer's project.

National Grange has designated July 16, 2011 as "Grange Gathering Day". The goal is to have Grange events happening on that day all across the country. It can be any type of event and can be held at the local, county or state level. Save the date and stay tuned. More information will be coming.

Think Spring! Before you know it, the tiny crocus will poke its colorful blossom above the snow.

VVS FFA is Ag. Soc. Chapter of the Year

Vernon-Verona-Sherrill FFA Receives NYS Agricultural Society's FFA Chapter of the Year Award

The New York State Agricultural Society awarded the FFA Chapter of the Year Award to the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill FFA Chapter at its 179th Annual Agricultural Forum on January 6th in Syracuse. The New York State Grange sponsors this award, inviting chapter officers to attend the Society's Forum and presented the "golden tractor" rotating trophy.

The Vernon Verona Sherrill FFA chapter - or VVS as they're most commonly known - is a program from Oneida County that has excelled in every way this past year to be recognized as New York State's Chapter of the Year.

VVS FFA members, taught and advised by Mr. Keith Schiebel and assistant advisor Mr. Mark Peavey, develop leadership, personal growth and career success through the agricultural education courses offered at their high school. The VVS FFA

chapter is student-led and graduates of the program walk away from their experience in the Vernon Verona Sherrill Ag program with knowledge of production agriculture, government relations, conference organization and large-group presentation. Each Ag program in NY is unique and focuses on local agriculture as a basis for their instruction, but VVS FFA's work with maple syrup production has yielded attention on state, regional and national levels.

FFA members at VVS are involved in every aspect of the production, marketing and support of the maple syrup industry in NYS. Students are involved in tapping trees, running lines, harvesting sap in buckets, and boiling the sap into syrup. They bottle and sell the syrup in a store that is student managed and operated. Each year, the FFA members work with their teacher to host multiple maple-related events. The agriculture program at VVS takes this central theme and uses it to teach students a variety of lessons that provide them with a resume full of experiences and a practical knowledge of real-world life skills.

From running evaporators to assuring product quality, from hosting conferences for field experts to managing \$80,000 in earnings, this FFA chapter proves that they are more than just an after school extracurricular activity. FFA prides itself on being an integral part of a member's education, and the members at VVS FFA are the perfect example of what can happen when you take classroom education OUT of the classroom.

Their leadership, personal growth and career success is commendable; it's hard to believe that this has all been accomplished by "a group of kids." VVS has shown a passion for agriculture and a dedication to their community - with a sense of fun that is contagious.

National Grange Long Term Care Program

If you've been putting off on receiving information on the National Grange Long Term Care Insurance Program, it's time to take another look.

At the National Grange we understand the importance of this coverage and want you to feel the security of knowing your retirement is protected. We have developed a program that offers long term care plans from various carriers to allow you the flexibility of choosing coverage that tailors to your needs at competitive prices. In addition, you and your family members may qualify for discounts on premium.

To understand the terms of this special offer or how to enroll, contact LTC Financial Partners (LTCFP), one of the country's largest and most experienced Long Term Care Insurance Agencies. LTCFP has developed a comprehensive program to provide all the information you need to determine if coverage is appropriate for you and your family.

For more information call toll free 866-471-4072 ext 2486 or visit

www.GrangeLTC.com

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

Distinguished Grange Award N.Y.S. DAIRY EXHIBITS INC. NYS Grange NEW YORK STATE FAIR

As reported briefly in the November-December issue of the Empire State Granger, the New York State Grange was one of three State Granges nationwide to receive the Distinguished State Grange Award at the National Grange convention. The other two were the Maryland and Idaho State Granges. Many have asked what the criteria were to be so designated. There are a total of 14 categories, each assigned with points based upon the importance of the activity, program or event. You do not have to complete each category and are awarded points based upon the one you did do. Your New York State Grange participated or completed the following: (1) **Contribute \$1 per member to the National Convention Fund (20 points)** NY contributed well over \$6500 (2) **Submit a 2010-2011 membership mailing roster with phone numbers and e-mails, if available (15 points)** We sent in a copy of our Directory. (3) **Complete and submit all State Quarterly Reports and dues on time. (15 points)** Virginia Conner, our very efficient State Secretary is always on schedule. (4) **Net gain of at least one Junior Grange (10 points)** We had a net gain of 5 new Junior Granges. (5) **Have a State representative at 3 National events (10 points)** The State Master attended the National Master's Conference, the Northeast Youth/Junior Conference, the Northeast Leaders' Conference and the Northeast Lecturer's Conference. (6) **Submit at least 1 article to The New Grange (5 points)** Our historian sent in an article re: the induction of Grange Founder Francis McDowell into the Steuben Co. Agricultural Hall of Fame – unfortunately, it was not published, but we claimed the credit. (7) **Submit at least 1**

article that shows positive publicity or public relations' activities by your Grange. (5 points) Several articles have appeared in newspapers throughout the State about the positive effect of the NYS Grange. (8) **Host a State Junior or Youth Event (10 points)** Our Junior Department held a Leadership/Informational workshop and the Youth Department held two State Youth Week-ends. (9) **Host a State Legislative event (10 points)** Our Legislative Department held two regional conferences and a State Legislative Day inviting local, State and Federal legislators to share their views. (10) **Make at least 4 legislative issue contacts with state and/or federal public officials (10 points)** State and Federal legislators receive a copy of our Legislative Handbook each year as well as the personal contacts made at the legislative conferences. (11) **Submit at least one statewide winner for competition or display at the National Grange Convention. (5 points)** We sent to National Convention two art/photo and one FAC project, all of which were state winners. (12) **Submit a Community Service Report to National Grange (5 points)** The winner of our State Community Service contest was on display at National session.

Thus, NYS Grange completed 12 of the 14 categories and received enough points to be designated a Distinguished State Grange. We are also well on our way of reaching the required points for the 2011 award. All Subordinate Granges are eligible for the Distinguished Subordinate Grange Award which has different requirements. Please contact Headquarters and we will see that you get an application form.



The above picture was taken of the current and past members at the annual meeting of the Corporation in December. From L to R Keith Severson, Bruce Widger and Ralph Bratt

First formed in 1952 and reorganized in 1976, the New York State Dairy Exhibits Inc. pursues fostering a better public knowledge and appreciation of the dairy industry and dairy products. This is done through the medium of advertising, exhibits, and other proper activities displayed and conducted principally at the Dairy Building at the New York State Fair. The committee consists of representatives of the industry, selected from the various corporations involved in production, manufacturing, sales, and promotion.

The New York State Grange has been a member, and represented almost all years since its reorganization

in 1976. Brother Ralph Bratt from Baldwinsville served many years until 2001. His service was respected and appreciated by the committee. For nine years from 2001-2010 the Grange was represented by Brother Bruce Widger from Marcellus with equal appreciation. For eight of Brother Widger's years, the New York State Grange provided and gave the promotions brochures used during Dairy Day of the Fair.

Our new representative on the Committee will be Brother Keith Severson of Marcellus. His years ahead should be as exciting and successful as those enjoyed by Ralph and Bruce.

Earlandt Legislative Award



The Bob Earlandt award is presented to youth members who have an interest in the Legislative work of the Grange. The award was established in the memory of Bob Earlandt, a Granger from Wayne County New York who was very active in the

legislative program of the local and state Granges and a firm supporter of Grange Youth. The winners spend time at the state capitol.

Pictured above (front row L-R) Heidi Henderson, Daniel Russell, (back row L-R) Ryan Orton and Katelyn Chamberlain