



# New York State Grange

Newsletter

January, 2010

## **Sarah Gearing Trimble Legislative Experience**

Sarah Gearing of East Chatham Grange #1066 was the 2009 John Trimble Legislative Award winner. Sarah traveled to the 143rd National Grange session in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Sarah served on the Agriculture Committee at this session and contributed to the work. She also assisted the legislative department in preparing reports to be acted upon on the floor of the session.

Sarah was particularly interested in a resolution involving the legalization of industrial hemp. She believes that once people become educated on the differences between industrial hemp and marijuana they will be more willing to consider the idea of legalizing the industrial version of the plant.

Sarah was pleased to be able to speak to the issue on the floor of the session. We should all be very proud of this member of our Grange for receiving this honor.

## **Come and Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Grange Headquarters**

The staff at the NG headquarters is also working very hard to make this celebration a wonderful experience for those attending. A building rededication ceremony is being planned. A special one of a kind memento for this event is being designed by the Sales Department and will be available for sale onsite. A brochure listing tourist sites to see including Grange related locations is going to be created by Jen Dugent and available for those attending.

The IT and Administrative Departments are working together to develop an easy to use online registration. It will be very important that registrations are made early especially for large groups as there will only be a limited number of tickets available. The tours of the building will be on a "timed" basis the earlier the better. Eventually it will be important that individuals register. If they just show up we cannot guarantee entry tickets or a tour of the building that day.

Youth and Junior Grange members from the Eastern region will be assisting during this event acting as tour guides and building ambassadors. Junior and Youth Directors Anne and Charlene have already made the plans for this weekend and have an exciting Washington, D.C. experience planned for the Juniors and Youth at the National 4-H Center and throughout the city.

We are also locating campgrounds in the Washington, D.C. area for those members who prefer to camp at Grange events.

As the registrations start to come in it will give us an idea of negotiating room blocks for those attending. We will attempt to locate hotels in the area near Metro stops to get attendees to the event. The Metro is the easiest way to get around DC and for those flying in they can take it from either Reagan National or BWI airports.

## **Community Involvement**

Debbie Vail  
845-724-5417

I hope every one had a blessed Christmas and a healthy & happy New Year.

First Vince and I would like to thank every one for their prayers and cards when his brother-in-law Dick Fox passed on in Delaware the last day of State Session. On our way home we went through Wayland NY where Dick grew up.

I would like to thank all the Granges for sending their Community Service reports this year. Our judges had a hard time finding the winners. They were very good and showed off the hard work our Granges. Congratulations to all our winners a full list will be in the next Empire State Granger. Next year our prize money will increase; with the top prize in each of the 3 membership category will be \$100.00. The top 4 in each membership category will receive prize money.

## **Family Activities**

Brenda Noble  
585-768-6632

The handiwork and crafts contest is coming soon. The wood working stays the same as it has been. When you do a quilted wall hanging make sure it has a way to hang up. If it goes to the Big E in Massachusetts this is a require-

ment. This year we will have bed size quilts, and in 2011 will be baby quilts. We added the categories for any item of knitting and embroidery. We will still send 1<sup>st</sup> place items to the Big E for the categories we have items for. They were very impressed with the items we sent in September. Also the judges for our contests are always impressed with the work everyone does. We need more people to enter the contests! If you have any questions please let me know.

## **State Secretary**

Virginia Conner  
607-756-7553  
Virginia@nysgrange.com

Reminder of dues increase to \$6.00 per member per quarter and \$14.50 per family plan per quarter beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. The new amount will be reflected on your quarterly report due in March 2010. The increase will cover the National Grange dues increase.

## **State Lecturer**

Sharon Croucher  
315-462.3067

The new year has arrived and winter seems to have settled in for an extended stay. The new snow is sparkling in the wintry sunshine. Nature creates beautiful sculptures as she drifts and piles the snow around objects in the yard.

This time of year usually

brings two thoughts to mind. On one hand we want to hunker down by the fire and not venture out until a least April. On the other hand, the new year makes us think of the future and new beginnings. Perhaps this is a good time to experiment with some different programs and activities at Grange. Severe weather will sometimes require canceling a meeting. However, there are also the times when there isn't much business and it seems easier to call off the meeting rather than go out in the cold. If there is an interesting or fun activity planned people will make the effort to come. We worry about asking a speaker to come if attendance is low. If the welcome is warm and the audience is interested, I think most speakers will feel it is worth their time. Perhaps you could invite someone to speak about Autism or Special Olympics.

The Art and Photography Contest will be here soon. April 15th is the deadline for entries. Winter provides many opportunities for lovely photographs or paintings. To encourage participation, consider sponsoring a photography or painting workshop. Invite the public to come to the workshop. The contests are for Grange members only but others could benefit from the workshops. It is another way to introduce the Grange to the community. It will also help our amateur photogra-

*(Continued on page 3)*

# Historian

Carol Bailey  
315-946-4379

## DID YOU KNOW...

The first master of NYS Grange was George D. Hinckley, a charter member of Fredonia No.1? A native of Chautauqua County, he had served as master at Fredonia. He was elected master at the organizational meeting of New York State Grange in November 1873. At the first annual session in March 1874 he was elected to a full two year term.

By 1880 Hinckley, who was in declining health, had moved to Pennsylvania to live with his son. On November 29, 1886 he died at his son's home at the age of 61 years.

In addition Grange Hinckley was active in civic affairs in his locality. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Fredonia Normal School (now SUNY Fredonia) for six years. His wife was the first Ceres of State Grange.

During his administration there was a large growth in membership and many mutual fire insurance companies were formed. He encouraged the formation of county councils for cooperative ventures. He was an advocate for women and appointed a committee to outline how women could be of service to the Grange. Regional deputies were replaced by county ones

at his suggestion. New York State Grange was incorporated also.

Under his leadership New York State Grange opposed liquor traffic, supported women's suffrage, provided relief for western states devastated by grasshoppers,

His picture is in the Grange museum along with all the other masters. Many need reframing and cleaning before they are ready for viewing by the public. Would anyone like to help work on this project?

## Save the date April 30, 2010

Save the date -April 30, 2010. Four Granges of Wayne County will celebrate 135 years of Grange. Clyde, Eureka, Lincoln organized in 1874 Newark followed in 1875. The celebration will be at Clyde Grange Hall on Route 31 in Clyde.

The evening will start with a social hour at 6 p.m. followed by a pot luck dinner at 6:30. The Clyde Community Players will present some vignettes of these Granges' history. There will be musical entertainment also. Please join us in Wayne County as we celebrate.

## Membership Tip

We all know that we want to get new members in the Grange. One of the things we want from them is their time. I know a

(Continued from page 2) Lecturers and artists to advance their skills.

I am still hoping to hear from you about your Granges and your communities. I am anxious to learn how each Grange is unique but also the common bonds which make this organization great.

**Membership tip continues**  
couple that would make great Grangers; they are already active in the community. They have three young boys that are in soccer, football, basketball, art classes, and 4-H. This couple helps out with the PTO, the political parties, the school, and all of the local activities like rodeo and parades. So why aren't they Grangers already? They are already too busy! Then why am I doing all those same things right alongside them and yet I still have time for Grange? I found myself making excuses for them without even asking them to join the Grange. When I did ask them they gave me the answer I was expecting, "We are too busy to join one more thing." That's when I answered, "I am doing all the same things you are and I am a Granger." I gave them a short explanation that the Grange just wants you to work with us on these same projects and bring fresh new ideas to the Grange, so we can benefit from their perspective and add our voice with theirs. You see, once you find people doing the things that you have dreamed and planned for at the Grange, asking them to join and help the Grange get involved with their cause is easy.

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Cortland, NY 13045

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# New York Grange Newsletter

Eureka Grange had 52 members, children and friends in attendance for their annual Christmas party on December 11. The party always begins with a pancake and sausage supper cooked by the men. Christmas cookies are the traditional dessert.

Lecturer Jason VanLare opened the program with a candle lighting that utilized the Graces and other officers. Then the Christmas story was highlighted through words and carols. Pat Miller of Newark joined us to provide piano accompaniment for the carols. While singing "Here Comes Santa Claus" he mi-

raculously appeared to the joy of everyone but especially the children in attendance. Santa's pack held gifts for the little ones and the adults enjoyed a gift exchange.

Check out Facebook to see pictures from the party at Eureka Grange. With the tool kit provided by National Grange, Shy and Deb Fuchs set our page up. They have also set up a page for Wayne Co. Pomona Grange and will be assisting other granges if needed.

The mural that we have housed for a year is nearly refurbished and will be rehung in the spring. Carol and

Lane Bailey and Ray Anstee have done some painting on it. Many community members and the Wayne County Council for the Arts have been repainting it since last spring. It is 12 by 32 feet so it was a massive undertaking. Scenes include landing of the first settlers in Lyons, a streetscape and the Erie' Canal aqueduct that was in Lyons. Have a Merry Christmas and see you in the spring.

## Go Grange!!!