



Master's Column



Oliver Orton, Master
100 Grange Place
Cortland, NY 13045
607-756-7553
E-Mail
Oliver@nysgrange.org

National Grange happenings!

The annual National Grange session always proves to be not only a learning experience, but an educational and informative event. Much time is devoted to committee reports and recommendations of the many resolutions submitted by the State Granges. New York ended up with a good "batting record" in that of the 16 resolutions submitted, nine

were adopted, three were found to be current policy, while only two were found adverse and two withdrawn. Space doesn't allow a discussion on each and every one of our State resolutions, thus a short summary is included. Major ones adopted included opposition to the amended Clean Water Restoration Act, recycling agricultural plastics, child identity theft, toy safety, and in country Vietnam veterans with presumptive conditions and prostate cancer. Those judged to be Grange policy already were health care reform, lowering Credit Card rates, and the Law of the Sea Treaty. **(To check the details of each of these resolutions, refer to your November issue of the Empire State Granger.)**

The following Grange Law resolutions, although none originated in our State, were adopted by the delegate body and will affect each and every Subordinate Grange in the nation. All Subordinate (Community) Grange meetings are now open to the public. You may continue to use the ritual, sign and salutation, password (now optional), etc., with non-members present. The Opening and Closing ceremonies, in their entirety, may now be placed on a power point presentation to be used as a teaching tool, to introduce the Grange meeting and ritual to others. There is a new Alternative Installation Ceremony which clears up some of the language and shortens each officer's responsibilities and there is a new category of membership called E-membership. This E-membership will allow an

(Continued on page 2)

The Legislative Log



Roger Halbert
Legislative Director
31 Spring Street, PO Box 321
Gilbertsville, NY 13776
607-783-2691
rhalbert@stny.rr.com

In the next month, the 2010 Legislative Manual will be sent to key Grange leaders of Community and Pomona Granges. The updated version shows all of our positions adopted at our annual meetings since 2005. It also includes the listing of the recently appointed Co-Chairs of our Standing Committees. During the year, if you have questions on some topic regarding our State Grange's position, contact any of the Co-Chairs listed for assistance, or you are always welcome to contact me directly. By the way, if you do not receive a hard copy of the Legislative Manual, you can go to the State Grange website, www.nysgrange.org and all of the position statements and policy are at your disposal. This is an appropriate time to publicly thank Diane Bassette Nelson for sharing her expertise and time in developing and updating our State Grange website. ALL MEMBERS should visit this site...and regularly...as it is always current and informative, providing Diane has been notified and given the information. Thanks, Diane!

Our first regional legislative meetings are fast ap-

proaching. The first is scheduled for Orange County on Saturday, April 17, to be held at First Presbyterian Church, Denton, New Hampton (near Goshen, off Rte 84). Confirmation of details and presenters will follow to the counties near Orange County, but save the date NOW. Other regional legislative meetings will be held in Allegany County, May 1; Albany County, May 22; and Genesee County, October 2. All of the regional legislative meetings start at 10 a.m. and conclude around 12 noon.

Please note that a change is necessary in the date for the 2010 State Legislative Day held at Headquarters in Cortland. The new date is SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18. Due to parents' weekend in Cortland, all of the motel rooms double in cost and as many Grangers plan to arrive the night before, we decided it is best to move one week earlier. Please note this on your calendars!

We look forward to your active participation as legislators of our Order in 2010. Let us be mindful citizens and take an active interest in the issues that confront us as our elected leaders influence legislation in Albany and in Washington, D.C.

IT'S ONLY MY OPINION

A new year...a new beginning! Isn't that generally what we think of when we turn our calendars? Lawmakers squandered much of the 2009 legislative session fighting among themselves for power in 2010...this goes for both Albany and Washington, D.C. Let's keep this discussion to state... and in 2010, they must fight for tax-weary

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this Issue

Leadership/membership National Master visit	Pg 3
Lecturer Column Community Involvement/ service	Pg 4
Youth Secretary Family Activities	Pg. 5
Sports Historian New Members Chaplain's Corner	Pg 6
Junior Grange	Pg 7
Youth Weekend Stone Church Grange Calendar Save The Grange Name	Pg 8

(Continued from page 1)

Master's Column

individual to affiliate with the National Grange only and will they receive whatever electronic communications are sent out. States will be notified when someone sign up for E-membership and then it will be their job to convince them to join a Subordinate Grange. The use of alcohol in Grange Halls, meeting places and at meetings or activities is still prohibited, however a State Grange may allow the use of alcohol at non-Grange rented functions, providing the renter secures a legal liquor license according to the laws of that state or municipality. Delegates also approved a special certificate, instead of a formal letter, for 80 and 85 year member recognitions and if you are a current member of the military or a veteran, you may Salute the Flag in the opening ceremony by using the proper military salute of your service or by placing the right hand over the heart.

National delegates also adopted resolutions requesting an overhaul of the current milk pricing system in order to keep dairymen in business and supported exempting farms from estate taxes.

(Continued from page 1)

Legislative

New Yorkers.

It is no exaggeration that New York, with one of the heaviest tax burdens in America, has literally become the tax hell. And it's not just state income taxes that are wearing citizens down. Nearly 60 percent of New York taxes are imposed locally. They're those notorious taxes which are among the highest in the nation. They're also ever-rising school, city, town, village and fire district taxes, to name a few.

Is it any wonder that millions of New Yorkers have fled to states such as Florida and North Carolina in recent

decades? In those states, taxes are less onerous, state spending is kept in check and government doesn't have so many costly mandates imposed on local governments and schools.

Amongst a myriad of possible culprits when it comes to New York government's mess, I offer these three:

- **Reduce property taxes.**

The state comptroller is projecting a \$2 billion shortfall in school funding when federal stimulus money runs out in 2011-2012. Add to that the double-digit pension fund increase that local governments must find a way to pay, and citizens could be facing escalating property taxes—10 percent increases and higher—are predicted. Reform is imperative.

Both the governor and a state commission on property tax relief have called for capping annual growth in the property tax levy, 2010 is the year that it must get done. Schools, which account for 60 percent of local taxes, must also reduce spending. The state should stop pushing requirements that trigger increases in operations of school districts.

I'm not just picking on "school aid." Medicaid ranks up there too, and I would be the first to admit it (and Medicaid represents about 80% of annual revenues for my place of business). However, New York has extremely liberal Medicaid eligibility policies, covering more services and individuals than in any other state (thus the fact always bantered around "New York has the highest amounts allocated to Medicaid of any other state" No duh!). Elder-care (including nursing home subsidy for those unable to pay for their nursing home stay) attrib-

utes to just 26.5% percent of NYS's total Medicaid expenditures. The vast majority goes to indigent care for those who qualify, quite liberally in many cases, in many of the programs that Medicaid covers in NYS. This says nothing about the vast Medicaid fraud that accompanies the abuse of the program. The state leadership must continue full efforts in recouping and eliminating the billions of dollars lost in this way!

- **Redesign government.** Amazingly, New York has more than 10,521 layers of government. A new state law that becomes effective in the spring empowers citizens for the first time to take action that could force government consolidations and possibly save millions of dollars annually. New, less costly ways of providing taxpayer services must become a reality.

- **Implement a spending cap.**

State government's operating spending grew from \$52.8 billion to \$77 billion from 2002/03 to 2007/08, at an average rate of 7.9 percent. Out-of-control spending must stop. Don't get me wrong, I don't believe one would say I am an ardent supporter of Governor Paterson (it appears many—most?—stand with me in that corner) but Governor Paterson has proposed a spending cap that would limit budget growth to the average rate of inflation from the previous three calendar years. If such a cap had been in place, analysts say the annual spending growth during that

time period would have averaged a respectable 2.6 percent. A spending cap would also help the state wean itself from federal stimulus funds that will soon go away.

In passing the state budget last year, the costs for a family of four increased more than \$1,300 in new taxes and fees, according to Executive Director, Brian Sampson, of Unshackle Upstate. According to the 2006 U.S. Census Bureau statistics, New York ranked 49th out of 50 in state and local per capita spending with \$12,505 in state and local funds allocated per person per year and \$34,088 per household per year. New York's tax-and-spend culture and fiscal gimmickry cannot be sustained. The recession has forced citizens to live within their means. They deserve no less from elected representatives who in 2010 must start building a new New York State...or they should be prepared to find other jobs come election time.

Hey, it's only my opinion.

Museum Calendars

Museum Calendars are ready Calendars with pictures of Grange Historic Occasions are available for sale. The Calendar is for 2010. The cost is \$8.00 or \$9.00 if they need to be mailed. Immediate purchases can be made from Roland Shea, 4672 Bear Path Road, Munnsville, NY 13409, Tel: 315-495-6791.

The Empire State Granger
Published 6 times annually
The New York State Grange
100 Grange Place
Cortland, NY 13045

Phone (607)-756-7553 FAX (607)-756-7757
E-MAIL NYSGRANGE@NYSGRANGE.ORG

Third class postage paid at Cortland, (#57). Subscription Rate a portion of member dues is paid as a subscription to the Empire State Granger.

Editor Bruce M. Croucher
Executive Committee: Richard Church, Chair, Oliver Orton, Master, Stephen Coye, Overseer, Virginia Conner, Grange Secretary, Roberta Harrison, Executive Committee Secretary, Dennis Hill, Roger Halbert

Postmaster: Forward address changes to
100 Grange Place, Cortland, NY 13045

LEADERSHIP and MEMBERSHIP



Vinnie and Al Kirmss
1362 SR 143
Coeymans Hollow, NY
12046
518-756-8721
avkirmss@aol.com

We are using this month to close out the old year and jump into the new. New York State Grangers have a lot to praise themselves for in the 2009 year and a lot to look forward to in 2010

As we have told you before at the National Session – November 10 – 15 - in Cromwell, CT. National Master Ed Luttrell issued a challenge to all State Masters. He placed a US map on the wall and asked each State Master to record on the map the number of Granges his State would organize, the number reorganized and the number of Junior Granges that would be organized and reorganized. New York State Master, Oliver Orton, pledged to organize one new Grange, reorganize three Granges in need of assistance in increasing membership, organize one new Junior Grange, and reorganize three Junior Granges in need of assistance in increasing membership. The Membership/Leadership committee accepted this challenge to help NYS meet the State Master's pledged four community Granges. I am proud to announce that this year New York State Grange reorganized one Community Grange – Putnam Valley #841 in Putnam County, revitalized two Community Granges - Yorktown #862 in Westchester County and North Star #686 in Herkimer County, and reorganized four Junior Granges - Smithville

#620 in Broome County, Putnam Valley #32 in Putnam County, Patroon #38 in Ulster County and Yorktown #168 in Westchester County. The reorganization of Almond Junior Grange #319 in Allegany County has been started and will be completed by next State Session. We met our pledge of revitalizing/reorganizing 3 Community Granges and surpassed our pledge of revitalizing 3 Junior Granges. For this New York State Grange should be commended. I know that this coming year we can do as well or better. As New York State Master, Oliver Orton and we have said many times all we need is the right attitude and to ask. Part of membership is getting new members. Again the most important thing in getting new members is a positive attitude. If Grange members have a positive attitude they will spread the word and others will want to become part of the fun. At this time we would like to recognize some Community Granges that took the largest number of new/reinstated members during 2009.

- 1st place—11 members**
Wharton Valley Grange
Otsego County
- 2nd place—9 members**
Bethlehem Grange
Albany County
Mt. Pleasant
Oswego County
Yorktown Grange
Westchester County
- 3rd place—8 members**
East Pembroke Grange
Genesee County
Millers Mills Grange
Herkimer County
Butternut Valley Grange
Otsego County

Another, way of determining the growth of the Grange is to look at the number of Granges that had a net increase in membership. These Granges took in enough new/reinstated members to offset any loss of members. I just received the data from the National Grange and very proud to state that New York

State Grange had 39 Granges that showed a net increase in membership between July 2008 and June 2009.

There were also 81 Granges that had no change in membership. These Granges are also to be commended they are still actively working on their membership. For every member they are losing they are recruiting a new member. They have a very good chance of a net gain if they continue to get new members. State Master, Oliver Orton and we are very proud of New State Grangers and challenge them to do better this year!

For 2010, the committee members, Rose Trask, Sue Eccleston and us, developed a new handbook for Membership/Leadership that has many new tools and ideas for membership committees. We are asking Pomona and Community Grange Membership/Leadership committees to take a more active and aggressive roll toward their jobs. The Grange at all levels needs to realize that this committee is as necessary to the Grange as any other committee. We cannot continue to give them a back seat allowing them to say meeting after meeting "NO report, Worthy Master". We have developed a Membership/Leadership Essay Contest for both Community and Junior Granges. We are asking the Community Grange Membership/Leadership Committee chairperson and Junior Leaders to send in an Annual report. These all will be due September 10, 2010. We are planning some degree days across the state so that all Grangers can have a chance to see the ritual that tells the Grange story and explains our symbolism. The National Membership/Leadership Director Rusty Hunt will be holding a regional Advance Leadership conference April 16-18 at Ravena Grange in Albany County. Registration and

housing information can be found on the National Grange site www.nationalgrange.org. We will work with the State Officers, Special Deputies and other Grange Leaders by having a Special Workshop March 27 at State Headquarters so that as many as possible from New York State will feel qualified to attend the regional conference.

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 are always available to help any Grange that wants to improve its image in the community and sell itself to get new members. We have many brochures and powerpoint presentations that we can make available to your Grange. You can always contact us at avkirmss@aol.com or 518-756-8721.

National Master to visit NY Grangers

April 1st and 2nd, 2010, National Grange Master, Ed Luttrell will be visiting in New York State. This is an excellent opportunity to meet the leader of the National Grange. Brother Luttrell served as the Mater of the Oregon State Grange and was a delegate to the National Grange Convention. He followed New York State Grange's Roger Halbert as the National Membership director. He is a very dynamic speaker. Please check the calendar of events for specific times and locations.

State Lecturer



Sharon Croucher
2514 County Road 25
Clifton Springs, NY 14432
315-462-3067
E-mail croubr@fltg.net

Even though spring may seem far away, the May 1st Lecturers/Family Activities Day at headquarters will be here soon. It is time to line up entries for the 2010 Art and Photo contests which will be held at this time. Pomona Lecturers need to send winning entries to the State Grange headquarters by **April 15th**. Contest details are in the handbook. The talent contest will also be held on May 1st. I know that we have many talented Grangers. Let's have a good number of participants. The Best of Show will be invited to perform at a variety of events throughout the year culminating with the "Evening of Excellence" at the National Grange Convention in Charlotte, NC next November. See the handbook for details. Pomona Lecturers should send the form with entries to the State Lecturer by **April 15th**. The form will be coming in the mail.

I recently returned home from the Northeast Leaders Conference which was held in Brattleboro, VT. The lecturers spent their meeting time planning for the 2010 Northeast Lecturers Conference. It will be held August 2-5 at Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center, VT. The new National Grange Lecturer, Pete Pomper and National Grange Leadership/Membership Director, Rusty Hunt will present workshops. The State Grange Lecturers will also be doing workshops. The high-

lights of this conference are the theme programs put on by each state. New York will be presenting a program entitled "A Vacation to the Thousand Islands". I will need lots of people to participate so please plan to attend and bring a carload. The conference is open to anyone. I do not have a price as yet. Perhaps Pomona or Community Granges could hold fundraisers to defray the cost of the conference. It is a worthwhile experience.

Does your Grange have or ever did have a painted curtain for the stage? Christine Hadsel, Project Director, Vermont Painted Theater Curtains spoke at the Northeast Leaders Conference. Her group has been locating and restoring these folk art treasures in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. About a third of the curtains that have been located belonged to Granges. She hopes to extend the search to New York State. The curtains typically have a scene painted in the center with local advertising surrounding it. They rolled up and down. I remember one being in the Odd Fellows Hall where our Grange met for many years. Recently someone from our local Historical Society contacted me because it had been found stored away in the village hall. I never thought it belonged to the Grange since we did not own the building but low and behold the Grange emblem and the name of our Grange are printed on the bottom of the curtain. Since we still do not have our own building the Historical Society had it restored and it is now on display in the Chamber of Commerce office. It has brought back many memories. They are a treasure of folk art and local history. If you find one, save it! I think you will be hearing more about this in the future. In the meantime, it could make a great topic for a lecturer's program.

I would like to close with

a thought for February, the month of wintry cold and of love and affection.

**Nobody ever added up
The value of a smile;
We know how much a dollar's worth,
And how much is a mile;
We know the distance of the sun,
The size and weight of earth
But no one's ever told us yet
How much a smile is worth.**

Keep smiling!

Community Involvement



Debbie Vail
6 Deforest Lane
Lagrangeville, NY 12540
Phone—845-724-5417
FAX—845-724-4217

This fall we had 2 very successful Community Involvement / Service workshops. The first was in November at the Seneca County Pomona Grange meeting, the second in December at Wayne County Pomona. Both events were well attended and many questions were answered. Vince and I both would like to thank all the members for their Grange hospitality and a GREAT lunch.

As promised below is a list of the winners from this years Community Service Reports.

1-25 Members:
1st - Clifton Springs # 1042 Ontario County
2nd - Smithville Valley Grange # 1397 Chenango County
3rd - Sylvan Grange #825 Dutchess County
HM- Smithville Center # 512 Chenango County

26-50 Members:

1st - East Pembroke #1157 Genesee County
2nd - Marcellus Grange # 464 Onondaga County
3rd - Villanova Grange # 604 Chautauqua County

HM- Kelley Grange # 1301 Chenango County

51 + Members:

1st - Butternut Valley # 1533 Otsego County
2nd - Stanford Grange #808 Dutchess County
3rd - Ross Grange # 305 Chautauqua County
HM- Smithville Valley #1397 Chenango County

2009 National Community Service Report Winners

1st - East Pembroke # 1157 Genesee County
2nd - Butternut Valley #1533 Otsego County
3rd - Clifton Springs #1024 Ontario County
4th - Smithville Valley #1397 Chenango County

In 2010 you will see an increase in prize money in each of the membership categories.

1st \$100.00
2nd \$75.00
3rd \$50.00
4th \$25.00

We will continue to give any county that sends in 100% of the reports for that county \$10.00.

A reminder to all Granges that ALL Community Service reports are DUE to me by September 1, 2010. This change occurred due to the time it takes to judge all of the reports and the need to get all the paper work for awards to the National Grange so that we can give the awards out at our State Session in October.

NYS will be hosting the Northeast Leaders Conference in January 2011 in Latham, NY. This will be a good opportunity for us all to show our NYS Grange hospitality to our New England Grange neighbors.

Youth



Youth Director
Denise Kelsey
6912 Macomber Road
Oakfield, NY 14125
Tel: 585-948-5682
kelseyd44@yahoo.com

"The Winter Youth Weekend was held at the Wide Awake Grange Hall in Phelps, Ontario County, from January 15 - 17. Approximately 25 Youth members and friends attended from Genesee, Ontario, Steuben, Onondaga, Washington, Columbia, and Dutchess Counties. This was a relaxed game-filled weekend with some ritual week included. We went through the Opening & Closing Ceremonies without the use of a manual as well as reviewed the ceremonies for Receiving Honored Guests and Draping the Charter. Katelyn Chamberlain (Washington County) led a workshop on how to plan Lecturer's Programs. To all the Lecturer's in New York State - don't be afraid to call on these Youth to help with your programs throughout the year - they certainly proved they can create interesting and entertaining programs! We also began planning for the Drill Competition in July. We will have 2 teams this year - one from Eastern NY and one from Western NY with Sarah Gearing (Columbia County) and Heidi Henderson (Onondaga County) as Team Captains. Since we blew last year's competition out of the water with one team in 2009, imagine the possibilities we will have with 2 teams in 2010! We had the privilege of having the following State Grange Officers/Directors

with us for all or part of the weekend: Sarah Gearing - Lady Assistant Steward; Allen Henderson, Gatekeeper; Dave Crane, Camp Director; and Bob & Pat VanLare, Past FAC Directors. Brother & Sister VanLare also explained how the Robert Earlandt Legislative Award Program works. Unfortunately, National Youth Director Charlene Espenshade was unable to be present at the last minute due to her son's illness and job restrictions.

We also visited the Adams Family Dairy Farm and some of us milked a cow for the very first time! Of course, we held one of our favorite activities - bowling! Congrats to Diane Adams (Ontario County), Julia Masti (Steuben County), and Allison Orton (Dutchess County) for the highest scores - all over 100! We were treated to Square Dancing at the Hopewell Grange Hall on Saturday night. Thanks to Hopewell Grange #472 for this special treat - you definitely know how to party! Square Dancing is now one of our favorite activities along with Bowling and Dartball!

Special thanks to Wide Awake Grange #747, especially Ken Livermore, Diane, Stacy, and Jason Adams, and all the other members who helped put this weekend together from cooking the meals to sweeping the floors!

Be on the look out for information on our Spring Youth Weekend, which will be held from April 9 - 11 at the Butternut Valley Grange Hall in Gilbertsville, Otsego County, and they are already planning some fantastic activities for us. We will be having our Youth Ambassador Contest at this Weekend - any Youth members between the ages of 16 & 22 can apply for this prestigious award and experience! Information for this can be found on the National Grange Website as well as from the State Youth Director. The Public Speaking

and Sign-A-Song Contests will be held in conjunction with the State Lecturer's Talent Contest on Saturday, May 1st at Headquarters in Cortland. We hope to see an increased number of Youth and Young-at-Heart members at these events as well as more of our State Officers and Directors! See you in April!"

State Grange Secretary



NYS Grange Secretary
Virginia Conner
100 Grange Place
Cortland, NY 13045
607-756-7553
Virginia@nysgrange.org

I want to take a little space here within my column to say THANK YOU to all Grangers who sent cards, called by phone, sent e-mails, attended calling hours and the funeral service for my Mom, June B. Lacey. Your words of encouragement during the days of hospital stay and nursing home from December 5th to her passing on January 5th were a blessing to me as I struggled with balancing time with Mom and here in the office. I appreciate your patience in not getting supply orders to you quickly or calls answered. Thanks again for your condolences.

Reminder - The dues increase to \$6.00/member/quarter begins on the March 2010 quarter. The family plan increases to \$14.50.

The 2010 Directory is expected back from the printer the week of January 25th. We are ready to send it out as soon as it arrives.

The 2009 Grange December 2009 dues report form is included in the State Grange Handbook in the Junior sec-

tion. The June form is also there and they are both red pages. Remember this is a two year Handbook; therefore, there are two years of report forms included. Be sure to send the correct year.

I will be away from the office Feb 7th to March 25th.

I close by sharing with you my life verse: Isaiah 40:31

Family Activities



Brenda Noble
7973 Telephone Road
LeRoy, NY 14482
585-768-6632

The craft and handiwork contest will be the end of April for the Conference which will be May 1. When doing the quilted wall hanging be sure to have a dowel or method of hanging it. This year the quilts will be bed size and next year will be baby quilts. The knitting category will be any item as well as embroidery.

Continue to help support Special Olympics for the Lecturers' and Sports department.

Please plan to attend the Lecturer and Family Activities Conference May 1, 2010.

Are you preparing
for the art and photo contest?
Do you have some
members who like to play golf?
NY Grange has a program

Sports Chairman



Gerald Batsford
1199 Church Street
Cortland, NY 13045
607-835-6127
gablal1652@yahoo.com

The New Year is here and we are sponsoring the Special Olympics for the next two years. The Sports Department wants to "Build a Better Community" as a project. Please have a fund raiser and send us part of it earmarked Special Olympics. Please note that all donations should be sent to State Grange c/o the State Secretary earmarked Special Olympics. This way we can keep a record of who has donated and have the treasurer send one check to them. All who used this as a community involvement project in the past can still use this again. I would like to thank all of the Granges that have donated already at State Session and I will have a list as they come in future issues of the Granger.

I have been asked by the State Master to continue to head the Sports Department for another two years and have told him that I would as I believe we still have interest in our programs. If anyone has some new ideas for our programs I would like to hear from them.

Last year we had an increase in our programs and I hope we can continue to stay the same this year or add to them.

Dart ball should have their games played by April 1st 2010 and please let me know by the 15th of April so I can plan on how many regions will be playing this year. The Dart Ball tournament will be held on April 25, 2010 at State Grange Headquarters.

Please note the new entry fee will be \$25.00 per team per region. \$10.00 per team will be for the Special Olympics from the Sports Department. Bowling will be held June 6th 2010 and Golf will be July 11th 2010 so plan your teams for this year's events.

I would like to thank all Grangers who help support our Sports Department of the NYS Grange.

Historian

Carol Bailey 3033 Middle
Sodus Road
Lyons, NY 14489
Phone—315-946-4379

DID YOU KNOW...

That Grange references turn up in unexpected places? While reading one of my recent copies of *Architectural Digest* an ad caught my eye. The ad showed a painting by Andrew Wyeth called "Sloop Day". In the foreground are tables and behind is a white building with Acorn Grange No. 418 emblazoned on a sign.

While Ray and I were traveling to Minnesota to visit his daughter, we stopped at a Cracker Barrel restaurant in Wisconsin Dells, WI. Above the fireplace mantle was a large picture of Oliver Hudson Kelley, one the founders of the Grange.

So you never know where Grange references may pop up. Keep your eyes open and you may be surprised.

At the election of officers at state session Jerry Batsford was reelected Steward and his sister Cindy Bullock was elected Pomona. Have we had another brother and sister as officers at the same time? Let me if you know of any or other family group.

On another topic it was brought to Virginia Conner's attention at state Grange, there are two omissions in the 1973-1989 NYS Grange History Supplement. For the years 1985 to 1987 Katherine Skinner, Chautauqua Co. served as Ceres. Bonnie Trainham, Jefferson Co.,

served as Flora 1985 to 1987. Their names were omitted so if you own one of those histories you may add them.

I attended a meeting here in Wayne County for town historians and historical societies recently. It dealt with green strategies for historic buildings. There were many ideas and helpful information to improve these structures. As many Grange halls fall under the category of historic structures (more than 50 years old) I am willing to mail you the information if you are interested. Call me at 315-946-4379.

Since State Grange I have completed an application for the Steuben County Hall of Fame for Francis McDowell's inclusion. As one of the founders of the Patrons of Husbandry it is a well deserved honor.

Ray and I expect to be in Texas by Christmas and return in early March so if you have questions, comments or information please save them until our return.

Scholarship Applications are
Due April 15, 2010
Call State Headquarters
1-607-7553
Denise (agriculture, Susan
Freestone (any field), Caro-
line Kark (deaf), June Gill
(nursing), PACC
Cornell
Student Loans also available

New Grange Members

- Delaware Co.
Walton #1454
Benjamin Vandermark
Jeffrey Wood
Colonel Harper #1508
Megan Eklund
Elizabeth Smith
- Dutchess Co.
Stone Church #1561
Fred Caquiat
- Genesee Co.
Corfu #142
Jennifer H. Slenker
John P. Slenker
Stanford #418
Destry R. Mullen
East Pembroke #1157
Kathleen Houlihan
- Jefferson Co.
Champion #18
Estella Hart
- Monroe Co.
Fairport #467
Shawna Pickering
- Onondaga Co.
Taft Settlement #473
Eileen Breed
- Otsego Co.
Westville #540
Douglas Bennett
Jeffrey Conroe
Hinman Hollow #1331
Caren M. Kelsey
- Rensselaer Co
Hoosick #1127
Louise Cuik
Mary Remancus
- St. Lawrence Co.
Massena #704
Janet LaCombe

Chaplain's Corner

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self seeking. It is not easily angered. It keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7

"And now abideth faith hope and charity (love), these three- but the greatest of these is charity (love)" 1 CORINTHIANS 13:13
Do you recognize the "faith, hope and charity" phrase? Now you know where the seven founders may have been looking when they gave us foundations for the future.

Love and music support one another. May your hearts be uplifted with melody and harmony.
P.S. Get well and sympathy cards, designed by past National Chaplain John West, are still available through the National Grange, 1616 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20006 or call 1-888-447-2643

Junior Grange Page

The Northeast Leaders Conference was held January 8-10 in Brattleboro, Vermont. National Master Ed Luttrell spoke on 2010 and Beyond. Listening to his views of where we are, as a Grange today, our successes, our challenges that lay ahead as well as our activities and goals. We need to work as a TEAM. Each individual person is unique and we all must work together for everyone to grow and be part of the group. In a TEAM, each individual working together is more effective than one person working alone. To accomplish any goals, we need Junior members/youth, families, retired persons, the new members and our experienced members, our friends. Have you asked a friend or neighbor to join the Grange lately? Now is the time for action. If we want to improve our community, it needs to start with us. You CAN make a difference; all you have to do is think of the possibilities.

Many ideas and plans are shared at these conferences just as we find knowledge when Juniors and Leaders meet in New York. We as Grange members and Junior member advisors must take a leadership role in preserving and growing our membership, our organization. I believe we must keep what is presently established, re-grow current membership, in our Junior Granges. Take a look at your current Junior membership. Are there members who haven't attended/participated lately? Why? What can be done to get them interested and active again? Do they have friends that may want to come with them? Are things happening to keep them interested? Have you asked your older members to take a leadership role? Lead a workshop, a game, pick a merit badge and get a group together to work on it!

Outstanding Junior Grange Leader Report

Congratulations to Mindy Jo Eldred Smithville Valley JG #620 who was recognized at National Grange and received a trophy and prize money! New York State is so proud of its Junior Granges and Leaders!

2009 National Writing/Art Winners

I recently received and have returned the 2009 entries with the following awards:

Writing: 6 and under

1st Haley Yorkey Cayuga,
2nd Allison Lasher, Dutchess
3rd Emily Cody Dutchess
7-8 1st – Eli Fox, Genesee
2nd-Indigo Fox, Genesee
9-11 3rd – Hannah Yorkey, Cayuga

12-14 2nd – Teresa Thomas, Albany
Honorable Mention,
7-8 Jillian Cudney Dutchess

9-11 Lauren Good, Genesee
Heather Goettel, Dutchess

Art/Drawing: 6 and under

2nd - Ruth Jackson, Cayuga
7-8 1st – Eli Fox, Genesee

2nd – Jillian Cudney, Dutchess
9-11 2nd – Nichole Navaretta, Schenectady, **3rd**

– Allison Truttling, Washington
Honorable Mention: 6

and under, Jomni Tarbell, Genesee

Emily Cody, Dutchess; **7-8** Indigo Fox, Genesee

9-11 Jacob Gervais, Dutchess

Congratulations to all New York Juniors! We had more entries than last year, and I hope for more this year!

2009 Junior Craft Winners

Age 9-11

1st Heather Goettel
Pleasant Valley, Dutchess
2nd Mallory Keough
Whitehall, Washington
3rd Jomni Tarbell
East Pembroke, Genesee

1st Nichole Navaretta
Schenectady
2nd Mallory Keough
Whitehall, Washington
3rd Kristina Wilmont
Cayuga Lake, Cayuga

1st Tessa Taft
Cayuga Lake, Cayuga
2nd Andrew Pierce
Ravena, Albany
3rd Mallory Keough
Whitehall, Washington

1st Mallory Keough
Whitehall, Washington
2nd Hannah Yorkey
Cayuga Lake, Cayuga
3rd Mackenzie Ormsby
Almond, Allegany

1st Allison Bolio
Pleasant Valley, Dutchess
2nd Vincient Ciampaglione
Stanford, Dutchess
3rd Samantha Duttry
Curriers, Wyoming

Age 12-14

1st Victoria Cella
Ravena, Albany
2nd Shelby Moore
Cayuga Lake, Cayuga
3rd Ashley Jensen
Whitehall, Washington

1st Victoria Cella
Ravena, Albany
2nd Holly Williams
Lewis Co
3rd Annie Kelsey
East Pembroke, Genesee

1st Quanesha VanNess
Ravena, Albany
2nd Teresa Thomas
Ravena, Albany
3rd Holly Williams
Lewis Co.

1st Ken Ciampaglione
Stanford, Dutchess
2nd Holly Williams
Lewis Co.
3rd David Greenough
Whitehall, Washington

1st Holly Williams
Lewis Co.
2nd Ashley Jensen
Whitehall, Washington
3rd Kenly Ciampaglione
Stanford, Dutchess

Peanut Butter Balls

Age 5-8

1st Aiden Heffley,
Almond JG, Allegany
2nd Colin Rozelle
Pleasant Valley, Dutchess
3rd Jomni Tarbell
East Pembroke, Genesee

Design a JG Medallion

1st Matthew Duttry
Curriers, Wyoming
2nd Jillian Cudney
Pleasant Valley, Dutchess
3rd Jensen Keough
Whitehall, Washington

Recycled Plastic Lid

1st Haley Yorkey
Cayuga Lake, Cayuga
2nd Jacob Roulo
Almond, Allegany
3rd Alina Aubin
Ravena, Albany

Cinnamon Scents

1st Haley Yorkey
Cayuga Lake, Cayuga
2nd Tyler Niet
Pleasant Valley, Dutchess
3rd Keriana Davis
Whitehall, Washington

Decorated Wall Hanging

1st Alina Aubin
Ravena, Albany
2nd Ryleigh Ormsby
Almond, Allegany
3rd Jillian Cudne
Pleasant Valley, Dutchess

Special Other Craft

Individual – Shannon Russo Ravena, Albany Co. Blue ribbon

Michael Navaretta Glenridge, Schenectady Co. Blue ribbon

Quinton Tarbell East Pembroke, Genesee Co Blue ribbon

Holly Williams Lewis Co. Blue ribbon

Group – Cayuga Lake JG, Cayuga Co, Meta Reister, Leader Blue ribbon

Christopher and Lauren Good East Pembroke JG, Genesee Co Blue ribbon



Above: 22 youth members attend the Winter Weekend at Wide Awake Grange. Grange Trivia Challenge and Lecturer Program workshops were held. The youth also enjoyed bowling and attending a local Grange square dance.

Save the date -April 30, 2010. Four Granges in 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.

Stone Church Grange #1561 in Dutchess County held an Awards Dinner on Sunday, January 10, 2010 and recognized two faithful members. State Master Oliver Orton presented Shirley Hewlett, Secretary, with her 55 year seal and Norman Benson, Treasurer, with his 65 year seal. Dutchess County Pomona Grange Secretary Ryan Orton presented 5th Degree pins to 5 new Pomona members from Stone Church Grange: Charlie & Karen Witschard, Craig Benson, Arlene Iuliano, and Fred Caguiat. Stone Church Grange was revitalized last year and has taken in 4 new members with a few additional prospects! Congratulations!



Picture Identifications: (Left to Right) - Shirley Hewlett, Norman Benson, Karen Witschard, Charlie Witschard, Fred Caguiat, Craig Benson, Arlene Iuliano, Oliver Orton, Ryan Orton



Save

The Grange Name

Calendar of Dates for 2009-2010

January 1, 2010 – Junior Grange Annual Dues Report due to State Secretary
 March 27, 2010 - State Officer, directors and special deputies workshop, Cortland, 10 AM - 3PM
 April 2010 – Grange Month Activities
 April 1, 2010 - National Master visit, Mayfield Grange, Fulton County, 6:30 - 9:30 PM
 April 2, 2010 - National Master visit, Livonia Grange, Livingston County, 6:30 - 9:30 PM
 April 9 – 11, 2010 – Youth Spring Weekend at Butternut Valley Grange in Otsego County
 April 15, 2010 – Lecturer's Art & Photo Contest Entries due at Headquarters
 April 15, 2010 - Talent Contest entry notifications due to State Lecturer
 April 16 - 18, 2010 - Advanced Leader training by National Grange, Ravena Grange, Dutchess County
 April 17, 2010 – Regional Legislative Conference, Orange County
 April 20, 2010 – FAC Craft and Handiwork Entries due at Headquarters
 April 25, 2010 – State Dartball Tournament at Headquarters
 May 1, 2010 – Lecturer's & FAC Workshop and Lecturer's Talent Contest at Headquarters
 May 1, 2010 – Regional Legislative Conference, Allegany County
 May 22, 2010 – Regional Legislative Conference, Albany County
 June 6, 2010 – State Bowling Tournament at Cort-Lanes in Cortland
 June 30, 2010 – Junior Grange Membership Report due to State Secretary
 July 10, 2010 – State Golf Tournament, Location TBA
 September 1, 2010 – Junior Grange Kelley Farm Donations due to Director Gail Chamberlain
 September 1, 2010 – Robert Earlandt Memorial Award due to Youth Director Denise Kelsey
 September 10, 2010 – Membership/Leadership Subordinate & Junior Grange Annual Report due to Directors Al & Vinni Kirmss
 September 10, 2010 – Applications for National Youth Programs and Awards due National Youth Director Charlene Espenshade
 September 15, 2010 – Family of the Year entries due to State Lecturer
 September 15, 2010 – Community Service Reports due to State Director Debbie Vail
 September 15, 2010 – Sally Benson Memorial Award, Pen-in-Hand Writing Project and Lecturer's reports due to State Lecturer
 September 18, 2010 – State Legislative Day at Headquarters
 October 2, 2010 – Regional Legislative Conference, Genesee County
 October 15, 2010 – Junior Grange Craft Projects due at State Session
 October 15, 2010 – Lecturers Symbol Craft entries due at State Session

The fight is not over and your support is still needed. If you have not already done so, please make a donation for this cause and send it to the New York State Grange. Grange Leader's were updated at the Northeast Leaders' Conference regarding the ongoing work of Trademark Protection. The Tyson Food infringement has been settled. Tyson Food will no longer market using the Grange name. The Aldi's food market chain is in final negotiations to desist from using the Grange name. Several others have been notified and will agree to respect the trademark. Each infringement that is noticed requires the engagement of attorneys and is very expensive. The National Grange is preparing a draft for a congressional bill to give the Grange the same protection as many other traditional groups such as Boy Scouts, Red Cross and the Olympics. When this legislation passes, we will have a much easier time protecting our name from use by other groups.