



New York State Grange

Newsletter

March, 2010

State Master

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Every Subordinate and Pomona Grange, through your Secretary, as well as State Officers, Directors and Special Deputies have received a packet of materials about many important dates, activities, events, et. al. happening in the NYS Grange. Please make sure your Granges are made aware of these materials.

The National Grange theme for Grange Month in April 2010 is NOW IS THE TIME. As quoted by our National Master Ed Luttrell, "Now is the time for each member to welcome new members into the Grange. Now is the time for Granges to share the benefits and advantages that Grange membership offers to every person of good character. Now is the time for each Grange to ensure that every member is given the opportunity to reach their full potential."

Now is the time for Empire State Grangers to give serious attention to the various activities and happenings about to take place. Read the excellent Special Edition of the Empire State Granger recently received and

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Corrections

Correction to Empire State Granger: National Master will be at Livonia Grange, Livingston Co. on April 1 and at Mayfield Grange, Fulton Co. on April 2.

April 16-18 Advanced Leadership is at Ravena Grange, Albany Co.

Legislative Conference Dates

Saturday, April 17

Regional Legislative Conference, Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, New Hampton, Orange County. Light breakfast foods at 9:30 a.m. Conference starts promptly at 10 o'clock

Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther has already confirmed attendance. Other invited presenters include: Assemblymen Frank Skartados and Greg Ball; Senators Vincent Leibell and John Bonacic. (Senator William Larkin has returned regrets at press time), and U.S. House Members John Hall and Maurice Hinchey. A light luncheon will be available at the conclusion of the meeting. Call Beverly Martin 845-733-4825 or at grange-time@hotmail.com to place reservations for the meal count.

Saturday, May 1

Regional Legislative Conference, Cuba Grange Hall, Allegany County. Light breakfast foods at 9:30 a.m. Conference starts promptly at 10 o'clock. Senator Catherine Young has confirmed her interest in attending. Other invited presenters include: Senator George Winner and Assemblymen Daniel Burling, Joe Giglio and Jack Quinn.

State Lecturer

Sharon Croucher 315-462.3067

There are two major events coming up in the spring. The first is the Pomona Lecturers Association bus trip April 20-22 to Lancaster, PA. There may still be time to join the trip.

Contact Kathy Hughes, Oneida Co. Pomona Lecturer for more information. The trip is always great fun.

Don't forget to join us in Cortland on May 1st for the Family Activities/Lecturers Day. The agenda has not been finalized but we promise to provide

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Community Involvement

Debbie Vail 845-724-5417

Vince wants to thank every one for their prayers and cards. As of the writing of this column he is still in a rehab in a local nursing home. We hope he will be home with in the next few weeks.

Workshops will be held in: Jefferson County March 6th and Albany County April 27 @ 7 p.m. If any other Granges would like to host a regional workshop or for their Pomona please drop me a line.

Family Activities

Brenda Noble 585-768-6632

The craft and handiwork contest will soon be here. Remember Juniors are always welcome to enter any of the contests if they would like to. Please let me know if you need your items back. The projects will be displayed May 1 at the Conference, but I will need to display some items at State Session in October.

All Family Activities Directors will be receiving a letter in the mail. We are asking for recipes to make a recipe book on Canning and Freezing that will be printed at Headquarters. I need them by May 1. We are also continuing to collect recipes for the Northeast Cookbook on Salads, Soups, and Appetizers. They need to be to me by March 30.

Sports

Jerry Batsford 607-835-6127

Spring is almost here and Dart Ball teams should be ready

to play at the State Grange Tournament on April 25, 2010. Please call me before April 15th. This year the entry fee will be \$25.00 per team with the increase of \$10.00 going to the Special Olympics from the State Sports Department.

Also a reminder that all donations for the Special Olympics should be mailed to the State Secretary with the check ear marked Special Olympics so we have a record of who donated.

Some Pomona's and Community Granges are sending them in and I want to thank them for their support.

I will be sending out Bowling Teams Entry forms at the end of March. If you need an entry form please email or call me so I can get one out to you.

Leadership/ Membership

Al and Vinni Kirmss
518-756-5721

Is this membership in your Grange? The Master asks the Membership/Leadership chairman, "Is there is any report?" It was a year ago that I first asked that question. Has your Grange changed its attitude toward the membership/leadership committee? Is it still the same old thing? If it is then please take a look at the new handbook for 2010 and 2011. This year there is a whole new plan for the Membership/Leadership committee. First of all there is an essay contest for 2010 the topic is "What does the Grange mean to me? The directions are in the handbook. All entries are due to us by September 1, 2010. Secondly, there is a community involvement project that we are

asking each Community and Pomona Membership/Leadership committee to take part in. Again please check your handbook. Thirdly, April is Grange Month. Has your Grange started planning for this – an open meeting, Granger and Citizen of the year awards and inviting town officials. If not YOU need to start immediately! Finally there are several forms included in the handbook to help the committee. The most important of these is the new Membership/Leadership annual report. This is to be filled out by every Pomona and Community Grange by September 1, 2010. What we are saying is PLEASE CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP/ LEADERSHIP HANDBOOK – it contains a lot of information. Also, remember to ask your Grange - Does your Grange consider Membership/Leadership only getting new members when they wander in or come on a chance comment of a member that maybe they should join? If this is true you need to renew your view of membership. You and your committee need to become aggressive and find ways to get people to join. You need to find out what the people in your Grange's community need and want. What will make the people notice your Grange and want to join? Then your Grange needs to figure out how you can fill these needs. The people need to feel that the Grange will give them something of value or make them feel needed and more a part of the community. If they feel that all they will be doing is attending another meeting that really gets little of real value done then they will not be

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(Continued from page 1) **Master** order copies for your suppers, open houses, bake sales, community days, county fairs, and the like. This issue will impress the non-Grange public with our structure, values, programs, and activities that make Grange membership all worthwhile. Plan to welcome the State officer or other personnel who will call to set up a date to visit your Grange – they will be there to spread the good word of the NYS Grange and offer any help to assist you with your activities. Check out Grandma's recipe box for canning, freezing, pickling, drying, and preserving ideas that can be submitted for the new Family Activities Cookbook being organized. If you are within an hours driving distance of Livonia, NY (Livingston Co.) or Mayfield, NY (Fulton Co.), plan to take a car load of members to enjoy meeting our National Master as he visits these locations on April 1 and 2. Brother Luttrell will both excite and invigorate you with his positive attitude of the importance of the Grange today. Give serious thought to participating in one, if not both, of the membership/leadership training sessions planned for our state on March 27th at Headquarters in Cortland and on April 16-18 at the Ravena Grange Hall in Albany Co. Commuters will be most welcomed on April 16-18, and you can meet the National Master again as well as Rusty Hunt, the dynamic National Membership/Leadership Director who has organized scores of Granges throughout the nation. If someone in your Grange feels they have some artistic ability, or even if they don't, encourage

them to enter the design contest for a logo to be used when the Northeastern states host National Grange in Manchester, NH in 2013. Share the top ten Legislative Priorities of the NYS Grange with you local, county and state legislators showing them that our efforts are one of the few grassroots organizations in America today. Spread the word of the various Grange scholarships and loans available to students, and adults, too, from our Scholarship Program. Anyone going to or returning to college for a few extra credit can use financial help today.

Thus, this brings us back around to Grange Month, April 2010, NOW IS THE TIME. Our beloved Rural Family Fraternity will improve and increase our strength when it's membership puts into action the multitude of service projects, educational programs, membership and leadership training sessions, legislative actions, and just plain fun things we do. Exactly where do you fit into this picture?

(Continued from page 2) **Leadership** interested in your Grange. If there is another Grange nearby these same people may be interested in that Grange if it offers them more. Each community Grange needs to let everyone know who and what they are. **THAT IS THE JOB OF THE MEMBERSHIP/LEADSRHIP COMMITTEE AND ITS CHAIRMAN – TO SELL YOUR GRANGE.** We, as Directors, hope that all Community Granges have or will have such a committee and that they will

work to accomplish this. Remember:

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

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

We have a lot to be proud of and a lot of good things to sell. We are not a secret; let's get everyone to know the Grange. We are always available to help any Grange that wants to improve its image in the community and sell itself to get new members.

(Continued from page 1) **Lecturer** an interesting and informative day. All art, photo and needlework entries will be on display. The talent contest and the Youth Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song contests will be held. Pomona Lecturers should send Art and Photo entries to the State Grange Headquarters by April 15th. April 15th is also the deadline to send the talent entry form to me at home.

All lecturers should have received a mailing containing information and report forms. If you did not receive yours, please let me know.

Flower Bulb Sale

State Grange will have another flower bulb sale. Details will be in the next issue of the Empire State Granger.

**New York State Grange
100 Grange Place
Cortland, NY 13045**

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Junior Grange News

Gail Chamberlain 518-499-1028

Junior Grange members are having winter fun whether it is outside sledding, ice fishing, skating or other winter fun or inside writing a story about their family, drawing or working on various crafts. What have YOU done today? Have you helped your Junior Grange, helped JG membership with your children, grandchildren, neighborhood children? All children need leadership and encouragement. The state JG member/Leaders conference is April 10 from 10-1 at Freedom Grange in LaGrangeville, Dutchess county. Who should attend Junior Leaders, Junior members, and older Junior Members, Parents (regardless if they are Grange members), Grange Members, Pomona Members, Any one interested in Leadership training/Grange, OJAY's – Older Juniors and Youth ages 12-14

Workshops will include making a current craft, overview of state and Junior programs, ritual, Grange history, updating information, discussions, membership building etc. Lunch will be after. Bring a car load. Information/registration is in the latest JG news or contact me for more information. I send out the JG news to any and all Grange members to keep YOU informed of events/activities and information you may want to share with others. If you are not on my mailing list or e-mail and want to be, just let me know.

JG dues are coming in. The Dues report is in the Grange Handbook and I included a copy in the JG news, dues are sent to the State Grange Secretary. Dues must be paid prior to entering any crafts/contests.

**State Fair
Emily
Ormsby
607-587-8747**

With all the snow on the ground it hardly seems possible we need to be thinking about the 2010 New York State Fair. Preliminary plans for the Grange Building are underway but there is still time to include your suggestions and ideas. I am always open to names for entertainment, display ideas and willing demonstrators. I plan to base the large corner display area on Going Green and welcome your help and input. Don't hesitate to contact me by phone, email or snail mail.