

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

PRESIDENT’S REPORT By Joe Fryman

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. The following quote is found in the Grange Manual: “In winter, the season of rest from active toil, we sit down with our families, our friends and neighbors, and enjoy together the good things our labors have brought us.” As with every year, 2006 has had its share of challenges and rewards. We celebrate and thank the Lord for the good times and with the help of the Lord we get through the difficult days. 2007 will no doubt present us with opportunities and challenges also.

Since my last report we have held an enjoyable and productive Nebraska State Grange Convention in Columbus, Nebraska. I thank National Grange Ceres, Nancy Swainston, and her husband Jeff,

President of the Michigan State Grange, for attending and for their

contributions as National Grange Representatives. I also thank the delegates and all those who attended for their efforts to make our convention a success. At our convention, the Nebraska State Grange selected State Senator Cap Dierks to receive our annual Service to Agriculture Award. We all want to thank and applaud Cap for his work in making Nebraska a better place to live and for his contributions in strengthening rural America. Congratulations go to the Elkhorn V.E. Grange for winning the 2006 Grange Community Service Award.

In late October, several Nebraska Grangers attended the induction ceremony for Grange founder Oliver Hudson Kelley into the National Agriculture Hall of Fame, located in Bonner Springs, Kansas. Kelley was recognized for his leadership in fulfilling the need to establish an organization to assist rural America after the Civil War.

Also in October, I had the pleasure of escorting the National

Grange Flora, Tammy Fryman (who happens to be my wife), to the North Carolina and West Virginia State Grange Conven-

tions. This was an honor for us and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves at both sessions. Unfortunately, the new budget for the National Grange no longer provides transportation expenses for National Representatives to attend state sessions, so this may result in some states not being able to afford to have National Representatives at their sessions next year.

The 140th National Grange Convention was held in Springfield, Illinois in November. The Illinois State Grange did a wonderful job of hosting and had a particularly great delegate tour arranged. Springfield was the home of Abraham Lincoln for much of his life. The highlight of the tour for me was a visit to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. If you are in this area, it should be on your must see list. In addition to Tammy and me, Nebraska Grangers Ed and Darlene Andersen, Bob and Jeannie Jeary, Richard and Darlene Janing, Paul

and Judy Hansen and Phyllis Tooker attended the convention. Next year the National Grange Convention will be held in

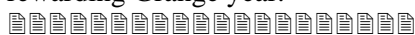
President's Report Continued

Sparks/Reno, Nevada, November 13 --17, 2007.

As we look to 2007, I encourage all of you to continue with the excellent work you are doing in your communities. This is such a vital part of what the Grange is about. I also encourage local Granges to recognize those people who have made a difference in their communities with community citizen awards. The National Grange has a Grange Family of the Year Award that Nebraska should be involved with. There are many Grange families in Nebraska that deserve to be recognized for their efforts. Let's support and encourage these wonderful people!

Remember, the winter session is an excellent time to be involved in membership recruitment. We are working at the state level to increase our efforts in this area. Delegates at our State Convention voted to allocate more resources to this endeavor. We hope to find the right person who will be able to spend additional time in building membership and assist in starting new Granges. The State Grange will do what it can to help you with your membership but the fact is each one of us must take the initiative and ASK SOMEONE if they would like to join the Grange. Let's make the net gain in membership we achieved in 2006 a trend!

I thank you for all your support and efforts in 2006 and I ask for your involvement and help in making 2007 a successful and rewarding Grange year.



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STATE GRANGE WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES PHYLLIS TOOKER

We've just celebrated Thanksgiving with all of the trimmings which made me think of all the wonderful things you Grangers have done for the WAC committee this past year. Thank you, thank you for everything you have done to help make our projects so very successful and thank you for all of the ideas that have been coming in for new and exciting projects for this coming year. First let's finish last year with the following list of all of the winners in each class in the contests as they were judged at the State Grange Convention.

There were 25 entries in the baking contest, 18 in the needlework, 35 in the craft contest for a total of 78 entries.

Winners of each class are:

Class 1 – Elegant Cup Cakes

- 1st – Marian Wilson, Riverview 392
- 2nd – Judy Hansen, Riverview 392
- 3rd – Eldine Dove, Raymond 391

Class 2 – Holiday Nut Bread

- 1st – Phyllis Tooker, Elkhorn V.E. 393
- 2nd – Nancy Miller, Western 408
- 3rd – Millie Otte, Papillion 401

Class 3 – Decadent Brownies

- 1st – Millie Otte, Papillion 401
- 2nd – Darlene Andersen, Elkhorn V.E. 393
- 3rd – Tammy Fryman, Riverview 392

Class 4 – Luscious Cinnamon Rolls

- 1st – Phyllis Tooker, Elkhorn V.E. 393

Class 5 – Decorated Pillow Cover

- 1st – Jeannie Jeary, Seward 399

- 2nd – Eldine Dove, Raymond 391
- 3rd – Irma Holstein, Riverview 392

Class 6 – Dollies and Table

Runners

- 1st – Eldine Schultz, non-member

Class 7 – Afghan

- 1st – Marion Theobald, non-member
- 2nd – Sandra Dunkel, Weissert 419

Class 8 -Embroidery

- 1st – Dorothy Daugherty, Custer Center 103
- 2nd – LaVonne McGraw, Custer Center 103
- 3rd – Irma Holstein, Riverview 392

Class 9 – Counted Cross-Stitch

No entries

Class 10 – Stuffed Toy

- 1st Darlene Andersen, Elkhorn V.E. 393
- 2nd – Nancy Armbrust, Elkhorn V.E. 393
- 3rd – Sandra Dunkel, Weissert 419

Class 11 – Quilt – Hand Quilted

- 1st – Marion Theobald, non-member
- 2nd – Irma Holstein, Riverview 392

Class 12 – Quilt – Machine

Quilted

- 1st – Marion Theobald, non-member
- 2nd – Mary Zimmerman, non-member
- 3rd – Nancy Armbrust, Elkhorn V.E. 393

Class 13 – Wall Hanging

- 1st – Nancy Armbrust, Elkhorn V.E. 393
- 2nd – Marion Theobald, non-member
- 3rd – Phyllis Abel, non-member

Class 14 – Wood Decoration or Craft

- 1st – Ervin ten Benzel, Southwest 426
- 2nd – Ervin ten Benzel, Southwest 426
- 3rd – Howard Davis, Southwest 426

Class 15 – Scrapbooking

- 1st – Joyce Everson, Elkhorn V.E. 393
- 2nd – Florence Lefever, Geneva 403

Class 16 – Plastic Canvas Item

1st – LaVonne McGraw, Custer Center 103

2nd – Ilene Collins, Southwest 426

Class 17 – Jewelry

1st – Lila Tooker, Elkhorn V.E. 393

Women’s Activities continued

2nd – Marian Wilson, Riverview 392

3rd – Leora Anderson, Southwest 426

Class 18 – Decorated flower Pot

1st – Diane Otte, non-member

2nd – Judy Hansen, Riverview 392

3rd – Ilene Collins, Southwest 426

Class 19 – Snowman – Table Top

1st – Judy Hansen, Riverview 392

2nd – Phyllis Tooker, Elkhorn V.E. 393

Class 20 – Scare Crow – Table Top

1st – Judy Hansen, Riverview, 392

Class 21 - Pumpkin - decorated

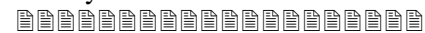
1st – Nancy Armbrust, Elkhorn V.E. 393

The WAC chairmen will be receiving the new contests and rules very soon. One of the new projects that I’m very excited about is the Linus Quilt or Blanket. The Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parents Association presented a program for the Elkhorn Grange. I wanted to know if and how the toys were being used. I found that every foster child is given a “Kit for Kids” in a back pack type container. Each Kit has a stuffed toy and a Linus Quilt tucked in as well as grooming items, pencils, notebooks, etc. They need more toys and Linus Quilts. Most of these children arrive at the Foster Home with nothing but the clothing they are wearing. The Quilts can be any size from baby blankets to twin bed size. Fabrics should be cheerful and pretty. These kids have had enough sadness and scary times and need things to cuddle and hold. I’m hoping that all of you will get busy and support both the toys and

quilts for this very worthwhile project.

We have taken some classes out and added nine new ones. Check these carefully. I’ve been trying to add classes as people ask for them. I don’t want to turn away any entry because we have no place for it. The contests and rules will be printed in this paper next time but ask your WAC chairman for the list. They will have this as soon as I clear the contests with the Executive Committee on December 10th.

I’m looking forward to another wonderful year (with all of your help). May you have a blessed holiday season.



GRANGE EVENTS CALENDAR

June 27, 2007

State Grange Legislative Meeting at Autumn Wood Bldg. in Lincoln.

March 10 or 17, 2007

Winter Grange Leaders Conference at Autumn Wood Bldg. in Lincoln

March 15, 2007

Deadline to receive Nebraska State Grange Education Aid Scholarship Application

April 30 – May 1, 2007

National Grange Legislative Fly-in

June 1, 2, 3, 2007

ReJuv Conference at the Carol Joy Holling Retreat Center, Ashland, NE

June 12-15, 2007

Nebraska Grange Tour to South Dakota

September 7, 8, 9, 2007

Nebraska State Grange Annual Convention at Howard Johnson/Riverview Inn, Grand Island, NE

November 13-17, 2007

National Grange Annual Convention, Sparks/Reno, Nevada

DEAF EDUCATION AND AWARENESS CHAIRMAN SHANNON COOKSLEY

What Did You Say?

Huh? Hm? Eh? What?

Give that another shot.

What was that?

I missed that.

Repeat that.

I didn’t get that.

I beg your pardon, say that again.

I’m sorry, run that by me again.

Speak louder, speak slower.

Excuse me? Pardon me?

I couldn’t hear you.

I can’t hear you.

I didn’t hear you.

I don’t understand you

By Reba Orton

I recently ran onto this poem while searching web sites about hearing impairment. I never gave much thought as to how many ways there are to say that you can’t hear. Does any of this sound familiar? If it does, then you are lucky because it means you can hear! Please make it your **2007 New Year’s Resolution #1. Protect your hearing and be empathetic toward the hearing impaired.**

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE SHANNON COOKSLEY

As the final days of 2006 are fleeting by, let us reflect upon the successes we have shared through our Grange experiences. Together we have made many contributions to the welfare and betterment of our communities. The Community Service reports received from each

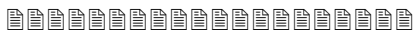
Subordinate Grange reflected the caring attitude and spirit of our organization as a whole. You all came through when I asked you to "Do it for Bob!" I am proud of you and I know he is too!

Membership/Community Service

Continued

As 2007 quickly approaches let us all resolve to make this the year to recruit new members and rebuild this great organization. Take a hard look at your own Subordinate Grange. What are you doing, or not doing, to make your meetings inviting, informative and worthwhile? Is your Grange being portrayed as a fun, exciting and progressive organization seeking to meet the needs of your community? What are the needs of your community? Do you work with other organizations for a common good? Do you try new and innovative things?

The success of the Grange organization is embedded somewhere in the answers to these questions. Can you imagine the immense satisfaction in solving this puzzle? **2007 New Year's Resolution #2.** Recruit Membership while performing Community Service.



**STATE GRANGE PROGRAM DIRECTOR
DARLENE JANING**

2005/2006 has been an interesting year. Officers attended a planning session in December to address the issues and concerns for the coming year. The State Grange hosted a Mid-year Conference at the New World Inn in Columbus, NE in March, 2006. Contests were announced for the current year. Two meetings under the direction of Membership Chairman, Shannon Cooksley, were held in Grand Island. The purpose of these meetings was to help start a new Grange in the Grand Island area.

I had the opportunity to attend one of the Ag Breakfasts with our Legislative Chairman and learn more about how the Grange functions and stays informed with our State Senators. In late April, Phyllis Tooker and I attended the ReJuv (Cornstates) Conference at Fort Scott, Kansas, hosted by Vita Tucker, Kansas State Grange Program Director. Information was received from the National Grange and ideas were exchanged on issues of the day. Some sightseeing and a music program rounded out the weekend.

Richard and I were part of the State Grange tour to Iowa. It was a fun way to get acquainted with other Grange members.

Program Directors sent in their reports in a timely manner. They were creative in their programs as they addressed local issues, and stayed visible in their respective communities. Marian Wilson, Riverview Grange, was the Program Director of the Year. The

Riverview Grange also honored a Community Citizen.

The winner of the 2006 Pen-in-hand contest was Jeannie Jeary on *What Music Means to Me*. Results of the 2006 Photo contests are:

Landscapes:

- 1st – Paul Hansen – The Tetons
- 2nd – Carolyn Cain – Beyond the Sunset

Human Interest

- 1st – Marian Wilson – what a Display (china painting table)
- 2nd – Carolyn Cain – Panning for gold.

Other Human Interest:

Groupings

- 1st – Jeannie Jeary – A Workday
- 2nd – Leora Anderson – Buffalo in South Dakota

People

- 1st – Marian Wilson – Did you Know That?
- 2nd – Judy Hansen – "Kevin" the Cowboy

Most Colorful

- 1st – Judy Hansen – The Butterfly

Buildings

- 1st – Leora Anderson – The Windmill

Black and White Groupings

- 1st – Shannon Cooksley

Best of Show –

Shannon Cooksley for Black and White Grouping.

In September, Gwenda Cogswell and I assisted in the State Grange booth at the Nebraska State Fair. I also assisted in the booth at Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island. Nebraska will be hosting the ReJuv Conference at the Carol Joy Holling Retereat Center near Ashland, on June 1,2,3, 2007.

This has proved to be an interesting and challenging year.

Report on National Convention

Richard and I attended the National Grange Convention in Springfield, Illinois in November. The non-delegate tour proved to be very interesting and informative.

The session events that we attended was a good way to refresh our minds on the many values of being part of the Grange organization.

**Program Director Report
Continued**

The Idea Fair was a great way to share with others and also learn about what and how the other states are leading their members.

A quilting service project and a crocheting and knitting area were available for anyone who was interested in participating. The finished quilt will be shared with grandparents who are raising grandchildren. The crocheted and knitted items were to be given where needed in the Springfield area. Nebraska furnished a sweater, 24 baby caps and five pair of baby booties. National Grange furnished yarn to be used during the convention and was available for taking home and completing items that would be useful in your own area. I have some to share if you are interested.

Since we had not seen the 7th Degree for some time, it was a good experience. It is amazing how technology has added in presenting the original concepts of our organization.

We give thanks for the opportunity to attend.



**Elkhorn V.E. Grange #393
By Bev Hatcher**

The September meeting of the Elkhorn V.E. Grange was called to order by President Ed Andersen at 7:30 pm. Several reports were given regarding the State Grange Convention in Columbus. Contest prizes were won by several people in the Elkhorn Grange, including the Community Service Booklet, prepared by Darlene Andersen. It took first place in the state. Several Elkhorn Grange members made a large number of toys for loving, and this brought recognition and awards to our Grange. Ralston Fire Chief Kyle Ienn was a guest at the meeting and was given a number of the stuffed toys to be used for comfort when needed on rescue squad calls.

State Grange Secretary Judy Hansen was also a guest at the meeting and she said the Grange has a web site now and she urged members to check it out.

Everyone had fun trying to figure out the collection of antique tools that were displayed, called the Golden Oldies. Program Chairman Phyllis Tooker gave a demonstration on making scarves with the Nifty Knitter which is novel in that it did not require sewing or knitting.

Hosts for the evening were Jim and Joyce Everson.

The October meeting of the Elkhorn Grange was attended by 17 people. The guest speaker for the evening was Deb Harris, resource family consultant from the Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Association. She shared information on the programs

offered by the association to help foster and adoptive families in the state. Our Grange members donated toys for loving that will be included in the "Kits for Kids" which is a bag filled with items of comfort, such as a blanket or stuffed animal, personal hygiene items and small gift certificates to purchase some clothing for the children who are in need.

Canned items were also brought by our Grange members to be given to the western Douglas County Food Bank. President Andersen reported that over 900 dictionaries had been distributed to western Douglas County third grade students in the "words for thirds" project. He thanked everyone for their participation in these projects. After the meeting, refreshments were served by Ed and Leola Ohm.

The next meeting is planned to be held in December.



**Grange Founder Kelley
Inducted into National Ag Hall
of Fame**

Oliver Hudson Kelley, founder of the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, was one of three individuals inducted into the National Agricultural Hall of Fame in Bonner Springs, Kansas on October 27. Kelley and Justus von Liebig posthumously received the honor along with former U.S. Senator Robert J. Dole.

The new inductees join 35 others who were previously honored for their contributions in the agricultural field. "They join such notables as President Abraham Lincoln, researchers Luther Burbank and George Washington Carver, and industrialists John Deere, Eli Whitney and Cyrus McCormick," said William A.

**GRANGE
REPORTS**

Steel, president of the National Grange, during the ceremony.

Steel was a keynote speaker at this event. "We are here today at the National Agricultural Hall of Fame to celebrate and honor the history of American agriculture

Oliver Kelley

continued

and the accomplishment of the leaders and pathfinders who brought us together," he said.

Steel recognized each of the inductees for their agricultural contributions, beginning with Justus von Liebig.

"His comprehensive study of plant nutrition changed the nature of scientific agriculture. He downplayed the role of humus in plant nutrition and discovered that plants needed nitrogen compounds and carbon dioxide derived from the air, as well as minerals in the soil," Steel said.

"One of his most widely recognized and far-reaching accomplishments was the invention of nitrogen-based fertilizers. He formulated the Law of the Minimum, stating that a plant's development is limited by the one essential mineral that is relatively in shortest supply. The Law has become the basis for the modern application of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium to make our record production possible."

Steel went on to pay tribute to the founder of the National Grange – Oliver Hudson Kelley. Almost 140 years after its inception, Steel leads that very same national organization into the 21st century.

"Following the close of the Civil War, Kelley was commissioned by President Andrew Johnson to tour the South to determine the status of agriculture in that area, Steel said. "It was during this trip Kelley first clearly grasped the idea that the emergence of "scientific agriculture" wasn't just about improving production practices on subsistence farms. Kelley realized

that there was a tremendous opportunity to build lasting social, cultural and political cohesion among America's farmers around the theme of continuously pursuing and adapting to progress.

"His findings spurred him to develop an organization that might lift the lives of farmers, both by giving them social outlets, and providing up-to-date farming opportunities. Over the period of a couple years and by working with associates in the nation's capitol area, the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry was established in late 1867."

In 1878, he retired as national secretary of the organization that then had more than 850,000 active members in the Grange.

Steel went on to note additional accomplishments Kelley made through the Grange. "Kelley is remembered for his drive to bring up-to-date methods to the farming community, his desire to see women recognized as equals, and his passion to see the young educated. The teaching of agriculture in public schools dates back to the late 1870's as a result of his efforts.

"The tradition of economic and political cooperation, scientific progress, and social cohesion that the National Grange and successor 'progressive' farm organizations promoted had a tremendous impact on rural and farming communities across the entire United States."

Steel moved on to pay tribute to Kansas' very own Senator Robert J. Dole. Born and raised not far from the Agricultural Hall of Fame, Senator Dole's father ran a creamery company and his mother sold sewing machines and gave sewing lessons.

"During the great depression, his family moved to the basement of their home and rented not the main house," Steel said.

"Following a stint in the service in World War 11 and his remarkable survival from severe injuries,

and his education in law, he first was elected to public service as a state legislator in 1951."

Steel told the crowd of more than 200 about the many contributions and the decades of service Senator Dole gave to the American people. His public service record included years in the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, as well as his 1996 unsuccessful run for the presidency against incumbent William Jefferson Clinton.

"He was recognized as a leader in every respect by his peers, having served as both minority and majority leader in the United States Senate.

"Every Farm Bill since 1962 had his personal touch. Every food or nutrition program for American citizens – and, for that matter, for people around the world - has his mark. Today, as we face the very different challenges of the 21st century such as national energy, security and environmental consequences of mankind's reliance on fossil fuels, our children and grandchildren will undoubtedly live in a more peaceful, secure and sustainable society due to Bob Dole's unflinching political support of, and visionary faith in, the promise of Ethanol and other bio-fuel technologies that are derived from our nation's farms and brought to us through the sustained application of the scientific principals of organic chemistry."

In conclusion, Steel said, "A questioning mind is essential for those who would serve the common good. A dream of 'what might be' is essential for progress to be made. And a commitment to carry out that dream, even amidst adverse surroundings, is a character trait in every one of the people whose pictures decorate the walls of this AG Center and Hall of Fame.

What's your dream? Do you have an idea that will bring this

divided country , or for that matter, the world closer together? Will you or someone you influence today or tomorrow solve our energy problems or help keep our

Oliver Kelly

Continued
planet livable? Or help feed or clothe the next 100 million inhabitants?

“Our challenges are every bit as great as those faced by von Liebig, Kelley and Dole.”

The National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame in the Kansas City-area town of Bonner Springs is a Congressionally chartered institution. Only 35 individuals had previously received the honor of being placed in the Hall of Fame and Kelley, von Liebig and Dole are the first so recognized since 1998.

Kelley was born in Boston in 1826 and died in 1913. In 1991 his biography was published by the University of Iowa Press (Knights of the Plow by Thomas A. Woods) and Kelley’s Minnesota farm is a living history site owned and operated by the Minnesota Historical Society. The day following Kelley’s induction into the Hall of Fame, a celebration event was held at the farm.



**Nebraska State Information
Director
Margaret E. Smith**

The Nebraska State Grange annual convention was held at the New World Inn in Columbus, Sep-

tember 8, 9, 10, 2006. Early arrivals took a tour of the Behlen Manufacturing plant.

The delegates passed resolutions favoring: stiffer penalties for persons furnishing alcohol to minors; allowing residents of the “Buffer Zone” around municipalities to vote for city officials; continuing AG education to high schools; removal of the “Marriage Penalty” on federal income tax; supporting the New Homestead Economic Opportunity Act; retention of the Federal Ethanol Tax Credit; and raising the exemption on the federal estate tax to 5 million dollars.

The State Grange opened at 8:30 am on Saturday, September 9. The report of National Grange President William Steel was read, followed by a recap of the years activities by State President Joe Fryman. Fryman spoke about difficulties faced by Grange members and community service projects that Grangers had organized to help in those situations. He also mentioned legislative work the Grange has been involved with water issues, school issues and agriculture issues. There were some fun/work projects this year: a cattle branding at the Cooksley ranch and a clean up-fix up work day at the Bob Smith ranch. Even though we are few in number we do accomplish some good things.

On Saturday, National Grange Representative Nancy Swainston spoke at the noon luncheon. She mentioned some of the projects and services that the State Grange provides in Michigan. The Community Service Awards were presented by Shannon Cooksley. 1st place went to Elkhorn V.E. Grange, 2nd to Southwest Grange at Arapahoe, 3rd to Riverview Grange at Blair, and 4th to Seward Grange.

Nancy Swainston, Ceres of the National Grange and First Lady of the Michigan State Grange, and

Jeff Swainston, President of the Michigan State Grange are both members of Kinney Grange #754 in Grand Rapids. Both are active members in their local Subordinate and Pomona Granges. Nancy also serves on the junior committee for the Michigan State Grange. Jeff served the Michigan State Grange as vice president prior to being elected president in 2002. Nancy and Jeff are both active in the Byron Center United Methodist Church where Nancy serves on the hospitality committee and Jeff plays guitar in the praise band. Nancy and Jeff have two beautiful daughters, Alexandra, who is eleven and Jessica , who is nine. Jeff is a self-employed photographer and Nancy works at a local veterinary clinic.

Phyllis Tooker of Ralston, former Nebraska State Grange First Lady gave a demonstration on binding Polar Fleece and the use of Knit Picks.

The demonstration on use of the new Nebraska State grange Web site www.nebraskastategrange.com by Chris Wittry, owner of “Tech To Go” in Omaha and State Secretary Judy Hansen from Blair, ws quite interesting. The site is attractive and appears to be quite usable.

After the banquet Saturday night, and awards were given, Kevin Cooksley presented the Grange Community citizen Award to Cap Dierks, former Nebraska state senator and current candidate for state senator, for his years of public service.

National Grange representative Jeff Swainston spoke after the Saturday evening banquet. His remarks were followed by entertainment; a piano/comedy routine by Dorothy Applebee. She did a delightful program on the history of music with several “Golden Oldie” sing alongs.

The Sunday morning program included a church service and a memorial service to honor

members who have passed on in the last year. Both were under the direction of State Grange Chaplain Gwenda Cogswell of Friend, Nebraska. She did an inspirational **Information Director**

continued

skit about a homeless lady living near a city mission. This was followed by a variety program directed by State Lecturer, Darlene Janing who did a skit featuring a “mystery box” suitcase containing all the interesting material she received at Grange conferences.

The Sunday luncheon speaker was Dr. Lou Leviticus, curator of the Nebraska Tractor Museum and former manager of the Nebraska Tractor Test Lab. He spoke about his own experiences as a Jewish refugee and prisoner during World War 11. He was orphaned by the Germans at age eleven and was left to make his own way. He has one cousin, his only surviving relative from that time. He had copies of his book *Tales From The Milestone* by (his pen name) Ben Wajikra.

Projects: “Words for Thirds” donates student dictionaries to third graders. Grangers across the state presented 1,510 dictionaries to classes across the state. Toys for Loving: 124 stuffed toys were made to be given to childrens’ homes, hospitals , or other places where comfort is needed.

After the resolution work was done on Sunday afternoon a report and slide show about the State Grange bus trip to points of interest in Iowa, in late July, was given. Next years trip will be July 12 to 15, 2007. Plan to join in the fun.



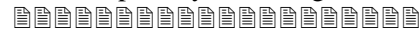
LEADERSHIP TIP
Set the Example

If you want to make your time as the leader in your Grange productive, you must first set the example. Your attitude, your words, and your actions all combine to set an example of leadership that your members will respond to.

Set the example for your members by ensuring your attitude is a positive, can do, our Grange is going places, attitude. When you show up at meetings and activities smiling and talking about how fun it is to be with your members, they will respond positively. Over time, they will adopt your attitude.

In words and action, your example is critical. Asking members for their ideas and incorporating them into the Grange goals and plans is a great start. Requesting help on projects from members and non-members shows others how to start building a team. If your Grange is late, be on time. Find ways to set the example for how things should be and those things will start to happen.

Become a better leader by setting the example in your Grange!



State Historian
Edgar Hicks

Grange History as a Vehicle
Toward Membership Growth

It seems when I say, “I’m just going to study the history of the Grange,” I wind up immersed in studying a period of American history that includes Populism (1890’s) and also the Gilded Age period that started around the late 1870’s through the 1880’s. For some reason, which I decided is due to my Grange interest, I never get beyond wanting to study a period in time that starts with the close of the Civil War and ends about 1900.

I was studying the history of the Grange and its relationship with the Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) in New York that I connected on using a Chautauqua type event to grow our membership in the Grand Island area.

The Chautauqua Institution, originally the Chautauqua Lake (NY) Sunday School Assembly, was founded in 1874 as an educational experiment in out-of-school learning. It was successful and broadened almost immediately beyond courses for Sunday School teachers to include academic subjects, music, art and physical education.

After going through a number of Grange-related archives at the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) the idea came about the society being a good ally in trying to grow the membership of the Nebraska State Grange as well as the membership of the NSHS. In conjunction with the NSHS the idea is to come up with a joint membership campaign that would be appealing to families that because of their understanding and interest in the ideals that built the Grange would be open to at least hearing about joining the two organizations. Invitations would be sent via Grand Island area churches outlining what our (Chautauqua type) intentions and interest are and asking if their meeting facilities could be used as a host location.

Do you have any comments if this is moving in the right direction? Can a family make an enjoyable event around the ideals of William Jennings Bryant (the Boy Orator of the Platte?) Bryant was a favorite of the Chautauqua tent events of the late 1890’s and publisher of the Omaha World-Herald. What do you see as a pitfall in this concept? Would our activities apply to the interest of home schoolers? You can contact

me at grangered@mail.com or 1.800.228.2316 ext. 2506.

International Grant to Gates Foundation Part of National Grange Resolution

At 140th National Grange session delegates adopted and passed....

Historian Report Continued

.033 NE International Teff Research (Ethiopia)

“WHEREAS, the four “Agriculture” policy statements of the National Grange 2006 Legislative Policies (page 25) titled Research and Extension are embodied in the Joint Teff Research Bridging Ethiopia and Kansas/Nebraska concept proposal to the bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for Global Development grant funding to the Solomon Valley RC&D (Stockton, KS) on behalf of the Kansas Black Farmers Association, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Grange write a letter of support for the Teff Research Bridging Ethiopia and Kansas/Nebraska concept proposal to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for Global Development that will pursue cooperative farming and marketing practices that will raise income and pricing control of internationally cooperating small holder farmers.”

Unfortunately, on November 27, the Solomon Valley RC&D received word that its \$1,200,000 proposal draft to the Gates Foundation was not accepted for further review. Only 45 proposals (3%) out of 1,300 made it to the next application round. Can you imagine reading 1,300 proposals! The Gates Foundation has allocated \$30,000,000 to approximately 15 to 20 grants to address farming and rural development issues in sub-Sahara Africa. There were a number of collaborations involved in this application along with the National Grange. Some of those included

where the University of Nebraska, (Lincoln, Curtis, Scottsbluff), Kansas State University (Manhattan, Colby), Celiac Sprue Association, University of Ethiopia, Mayo Clinic, and Omaha’s Sudanese Association.

January’s Nebraska Rural Development Commission Meeting being held at the State Capitol

As chairman of Nebraska’s Rural Development Commission (RDC), I am looking forward to the January 18th meeting in the Capitol Building with our newly elected senators. One of the major opportunities I shall have is to talk about the benefit of the Nebraska legislatures value-added grant initiatives during the past year. Other appointed members of (RDC) are M.L. Martin, Lance Morgan, Sandy Scofield, Tim Shafer, Heidi Phillips, Christine Peterson, Senator Elaine Stuhr, Gayle McClure, Richard Baier, Larry Cooper, Ross Garwood, Robert Gustafson, Dan Hoffman, Greg Ibach, Chuck Hassebrook, Tim Kenny, John Jordison, Marilyn Mecham, and Scott Blehm. The Executive Director is Linda Fettig of Anselmo. All RDC meetings are open to the public.



NEBRASKA STATE GRANGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 8, 2006

Nebraska State Grange met at 9:25 am at the New World Inn. Those present were Joe Fryman, Paul Hansen, Edgar Hicks, Bob Anderson, Richard Janing and Judy Hansen. Ex-officio member Erv Rolofson arrived later.

Expenditures and income for 2005-2006 was reviewed. The committee set up a proposed budget. Investments were reviewed. In November, the CD for the Deaf Fund will mature. \$500

will need to be withdrawn from balance for the scholarship before reinvesting. A motion was made by Paul, seconded by Bob that Edgar invest the Deaf Fund money into a secure bond where money can be withdrawn annually for the scholarship. The CD for Milford Grange will mature on 10/30/06. A motion was made by Judy, seconded by Richard, that the mature CD be reinvested into a CD. Motion carried.

A request from Goehner Grange to allow the Grange to transfer ownership of their hall to the Goehner Scholarship Committee was discussed. The Executive Committee requested that Goehner get an appraisal of the Grange Hall and send a written letter of intent stating the purpose of the money before a decision is made. Joe will contact Tooty Hallberg, Goehner Grange President about the two above items and also send them a copy of the guidelines in the Grange Digest.

Questions about the requirements of an “active” Subordinate and Pomona Grange have been raised. Judy will send a copy of the Grange Digest about Grange meeting requirements to all Subordinate and Pomona secretaries.

Richard Janing will be in charge of the Husker Harvest Days booth. Erv Rolofson will help with set up on Monday (September 11). Joe and Everett Holstein will go out on Thursday (September 14) and help with booth and taking down the booth. Announcement for booth workers will be given during the convention.

A support request from the National Junior Horticultural Association was discussed. The National Convention will be held in Omaha on October 6-9 and the Nebraska State Grange President has been asked to attend the banquet. Judy and Paul Hansen will represent the Nebraska State Grange at the banquet. Judy moved

A 27 –state poll of farmers and ranchers found very strong support for closing payment limitation loopholes and initiatives to

Farmer Pay Limits

Continued

strengthen rural communities and help small and beginning farmers.

The two policy options that drew the strongest agreement among all commodity program policy options in the survey were targeting payments to small farmers and eliminating the three entity rule. The three entity rule is used by mega farms to subdivide into several corporations and thereby avoid farm program payment limitation.

Support among farmers and ranchers for eliminating the payment limitation loophole scored higher than the importance placed on continued funding of farm program payments, including direct payments, counter cyclical payments, and loan deficiency payments.

Support for eliminating the three entity rule was nationwide. Even in the South, support for closing the loophole exceeded the importance placed on continuing commodity programs. Southern support for closing the loophole was greatest in Florida and Georgia.

Midwestern support was greatest in South Dakota, Iowa, and Nebraska. Western support was greatest in Idaho and Montana.

Other views of farmers and ranchers on the farm bill include: *Across the 27 states, the two top goals of producers for the farm bill are “enhancing small/beginning farmer opportunities” and “reducing dependence on non-renewable energy.”

*There is strong support among producers for efforts to start new businesses and create new jobs in rural areas. Most agreed that one of the objectives of the next farm

bill should be to enhance rural economics.

*Farmers and ranchers support free trade agreements, but by far greater margins support addressing labor, environmental, and food safety standards in trade negotiations.

*By overwhelming margins, farmers and ranchers support mandatory country of origin labeling of food products (COOL).

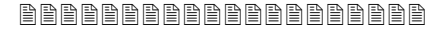
The strong support was consistent among all sizes of operations and all regions of the nation. There was also support for adoption of a mandatory animal identification system.

*Support was strong in every region for conservation programs that reward stewardship of working lands. Nationwide support for conservation programs that reward stewardship of working lands was higher than support for commodity programs. It was exceeded only by support for disaster and insurance programs in the North Central Region, however, the high levels of support for commodity programs also exceeded strong support for conservation on working lands.

*Three-fourths of producers support the Conservation Security Program that pays farmers and ranchers based on how intensively they manage their land to protect the environment. But support is cautious. Most would continue to limit the program to selected watersheds. Perhaps the limited support for nationwide enrollment reflects the administrative problems in the initial enrollments.

The poll was sponsored by the Farm Foundation and the National Public Policy Education Committee and conducted by the Extension Service in participating states. The complete report – *The 2007 Farm Bill: U.S. Producer Preferences for Agricultural Food and Public Policy* – can be found on our web site at :www.cfra.org www.farmfoundation.org.

Producers were polled in Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.



NATIONAL GRANGE NEWS

Grange Supports Alternative Energy Legislation

(Washington, D.C.) – National Grange, the nation’s oldest general farm and rural public affairs organization, strongly supports legislation currently being considered by Congress. to fund alternative, renewable, and advanced energy incentives. HR 5890 sponsored by Representative Devin Nunes (R-CA), and S 3917, sponsored by Senator Richard Burr (R – NC), create a trust fund from lease and royalty revenue generated from oil production in the Artic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The program, entitled the American-Made Energy Freedom Act, will generate approximately \$40 billion over the next thirty years and will fund a variety of energy initiatives including alternative, renewable, and advanced energy incentives. Specifically the legislation:

- *Develops a production tax credit for cellulosic ethanol (CBE)
- *Extends the \$.50/gallon Coal to Liquid (CTL) excise tax credit
- *Extends solar and fuel cell investment tax credits
- *Provides grants to improve forest bio mass for energy generation
- *Encourages conversion of municipal solid waste into fuel ethanol and other byproducts

*Creates a renewable fuel loan and grant program

*Encourages innovative energy technologies

*Opens ANWAR to exploration for energy resources

Alternative Energy Legislation continued

William Steel, president of National Grange stated, "This legislation, currently being considered by Congress, creates short term energy relief while providing long term domestic energy solutions" Steel continued," The American-Made Energy Freedom Act encourages ingenuity with the goal of increasing domestic fuel production, thus decreasing our dependence on foreign oil."

Leroy Watson, Legislative Director of National Grange agreed, "Passage of this bill would be the largest investment in American energy in our Nation's history." He concluded, "The most amazing aspect of this legislation is that domestic energy production will be encouraged without cost to the taxpayer."

The National Grange strongly urges Congress to consider the American-Made Energy Freedom Act in the lame duck session of Congress. "These last few days of the Congressional session are vital to increasing America's energy production. We firmly believe that the passage of HR 5890 and S 3917 are crucial to solving our nation's energy crisis," concluded National Grange COO Richard Weiss.

The National Grange is the nation's oldest general farm and rural public affairs organization. Founded in 1867, the National Grange represents individual Grange members affiliated with more than 2,800 local, county and state Grange chapters in farming and rural communities across the United States.



National Grange Legislative Director Participates on RFDTV Show

Leroy Watson, Legislative Director for the National Grange, recently participated in a special live-to-air panel discussion concerning rural broadband deployment on a national Rural Free Delivery television broadcast entitled "Broadband in Rural America."

National Grange recognizes that strong rural economics require access to broadband services. In today's global market, these services are critical in assisting competition between rural areas and their more urban counterparts. Information technology allows small towns to have greater, affordable access to better educational and medical opportunities. Farmers have better access to technical assistance with their crops, equipment repair, and veterinary services. The National Grange is urging Congress to consider adding broadband services to the utilities section of USDA's Rural Development in the next Farm Bill. Just as rural electric and rural telephone services have been historic missions for the National Grange and rural America, rural broadband is a vital element in rural economic development today.

"This discussion brought to light some of the real issues facing rural America and broadband deployment.. I feel privileged to represent the National Grange on such an important discussion program," said Mr. Watson.

One of the major conclusions made during the program is that sixteen percent of the United States population lives in rural areas consisting of local communities with less than 10,000 people, and these citizens are the most under served for advanced telecommunication services. Incentives need to be created to

increase rural telecommunication infrastructure, making universal telephone service available and affordable in all areas of the country.

Other panelists included Dr. Greg Powell, President, Panola College, Texas; Jill Long Thompson, former US Representative and Undersecretary for Rural Development, USDA and current CEO of a rural and agricultural research and policy think tank; Dan Phythyon, Policy Director for the Alliance for Public Technology; Chris McLean, former Administrator, Rural Utility Service, USDA, and Les Greer, CEO of DTC Communications. Excerpts from the RFDTV show are available for viewing on the National Grange web site: www.nationalgrange.org

National Grange Releases Legislative Report

The National Grange Legislative Department plans on releasing its annual report at the 140th annual National Grange Convention. The mission of the National Grange Legislative Department is to provide Grange members with meaningful opportunities for nonpartisan, civic participation in the public policy process at all levels of government. The National Grange Legislative Department also supports state, county, and community Grange legislative programs and implements .National Grange grass roots policy resolutions at the national level. "Our biggest challenge is Legislative Department in the foreseeable future will not be the successful advocacy of any particular position or policy," wrote National Grange Legislative Director Leroy Watson. "It will be the challenge of reforming our structure to make participation in Grange legislative programs relevant, rewarding and enticing to individuals in our communities who are looking for

such an organization to donate their time, talent, and experience.

We must reform our legislative programs to incorporate the best part of the new technologies to

National Legislative Report

continued

better serve our members, “ the Grange Legislative Director stated..

**Please type your articles,
double space and proof read
them. Send all of your
Nebraska Grange news to:
Edward Andersen
102 South 264th Street
Waterloo, NE 68069**

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

MARCH 22, 2007

home thinking “I’m really glad I didn’t miss that. I really enjoyed myself!”

By the time you read this, many people in Nebraska will have experienced this sense of community in a very real way. As you may have heard, Past State President Bob Smith was injured in an accident at the sale barn where he worked last winter. He remains in very serious condition in a nursing home. Grange member Shannon Cooksley organized a workday on the ranch for Bob and Margaret on July 1. Literally, people from one end of the state to the other will have come together to help these folks. When the smoke clears and the dust settles this is the essence of community and the Grange, people interacting and helping one another out. I am so proud to be in an organization with this kind of focus and concern

and friends! We all should be anxious and proud to share our sense of community with others and ask them to join us in our service to others.

A number of things demand our attention. Our bus trip to Iowa is scheduled for July 13 – 16, 2006. There may be a late cancellation so contact me if you are interested in going along.

A state executive meeting/state convention-planning day is scheduled for Saturday , July 22, 2006 at The New World Inn at Columbus, NE, beginning at 9:30 am.

Nebraska State Session is at The New World Inn, Columbus, NE on September 8, 9, and 10, 2006. National Representatives for state session this year are Jeff and Nancy Swainston from Michigan. Nancy is the National Grange Ceres. Any suggestions as to better dealing with resolutions at state session would be appreciated. I would prefer not to have this important work be the last item on the agenda.

Resolutions are due in to State Secretary Judy Hansen by August 20. Please take the initiative and time to write up resolutions on

**President’s Report
Continued**

concerns upon which you would like to see the Grange be active. I would welcome suggestions for our Annual Nebraska State Grange Service to Agriculture Award. Let me know by July 22, 2006.

Oliver Hudson Kelley, one of the original founders of the Grange, will be inducted into the Agricultural Hall of Fame in Bonner Springs, Kansas on October 27, 2006 at 2:00 pm. (Note the change of date). It would be nice to get a group from Nebraska to attend.

National Grange Convention is in Springfield, Illinois this year. Judy Hansen is in charge of arranging a Nebraska Grange trip to National Session. Contact her for details.

Have a wonderful summer and remember to enjoy being a part of your community.



EDITOR’S NOTE:

This issue has a new article named Grange Events Calendar/Deadlines. I believe this can be useful to many members and Grange leaders as a quick reminder of upcoming Grange events. I encourage each Grange and Grange Department Director to send in dates and other pertinent information regarding future Grange Events for this article. Let’s give it a try.

Editor, Ed Andersen

**DEAF EDUCATION AND
AWARENESS CHAIRPERSON
SHANNON COOKSLEY**

The Grange has a long history of support for programs to help the deaf community and has current policy regarding this very

Can it be possible that the days are already getting shorter again? It seems like we were just entering a new year and already it is half over. Tomorrow turns into yesterday in the blink of an eye. Seize the moment!

Today I would like to share a few of my thoughts on “community.” One of Webster’s definitions of community is “an interacting population of various kinds of individuals in a common location.” That sounds like the Grange to me. The one word that really catches my attention is “interacting.” For myself and I’m sure for many of you, the most satisfying, fulfilling, rewarding, and fun events in the Grange involve interaction among people. I firmly believe this concept was what really ignited the Grange in its beginning and remains the glue that binds this fraternal order together today. We humans are

for interaction with others. At times, we all have had the feeling that we just want to stay home and be by ourselves. There is nothing unusual or wrong with this. On the other hand, don’t we all remember thinking, “I just want to stay home tonight,” but end up going to the event or Grange meeting and come

important subject. In Nebraska's most recent legislative session, the Grange was on record as supporting LB 946 which would have allowed for ASL to be taught in schools as another language. However, the bill never made it out of the Education Committee. Such efforts have already failed twice in Nebraska, as most recently as 2001.

Recently in a World-Herald article, it was announced that the Nebraska State Board of Education was considering a policy that would recognize American Sign Language (otherwise known as ASL) as a national language that could be offered in elementary through high school classes. Forty-one states have already passed legislation recognizing ASL as a distinct language.

If this policy were to be adopted it would be a major victory for the deaf community. Recognizing their culture as being distinct, would enhance awareness and provide an opportunity for better communication between the hearing and non-hearing world. Offering ASL could also help children and students who are hard of hearing, but not deaf. We know that most young children learn readily at an early age, thus offering ASL classes to elementary age students could be a sound investment for our schools that would provide a great return for the future.

The key here is that this would not be another costly mandate for our schools, but an opportunity for our schools to offer more choices in their curriculums.

Each year, the Nebraska State Grange offers a \$500.00 college scholarship specifically for students who are hearing impaired, deaf or non-hearing impaired and enrolled in a deaf education curriculum. The scholarship requires a 2.5 GPA and application must be submitted by March 15. This scholarship may also be

renewed upon reapplication each year, for a maximum of four years or \$2,000.00. For more information regarding the Nebraska State Grange Deaf Education and Awareness scholarship, please contact me -: Shannon Cooksley (308) 872-2659 or kscooksley@inebraska.com The rules and application also can be found on the Education Quest website: www.educationquest.org



**STATE GRANGE
PROGRAM DIRECTOR
DARLENE JANING**

Kansas State Grange hosted the Corn States Lecturers' Conference at Fort Scott, Kansas on April 28, 29, and 30, 2006. Vita Tucker, Kansas State Grange Program Director, served as conference director. A welcome from Pat West, Kansas State President, got the meeting off to a fine start.. A get acquainted mixer set the mood for the rest of the conference.

Saturday morning presentations were : Communication and its Importance in the Grange, Gardner Grange Museum project, bracelet craft, insights from 1895 eighth grade exam from Salina, Kansas, and the many uses of the banana.. The presentation of Krystal Kandles given by Phyllis Tooker, Nebraska State Grange Women's Activities Chairman, was well received.

A round table discussion addressed current issues of the mid west Granges and the challenges that are before us. This was

followed by a trolley ride of historic Fort Scott and a chance to visit the military post and to learn more about the area. The

**Program Chairman Report
continued**

evening's entertainment was local music at the Country Jamboree.

Jamie Klenklen, Kansas State Grange Chaplain, led the Sunday morning inspirational time. Kevin Klenklen, National Grange Executive committee member gave an update on the National Grange.

A big thank-you to Phyllis for going with me and sharing her project with the others. New ideas and enthusiasm made the conference a success. The Nebraska State Grange will host this conference in 2007. Ideas for presentation topics are always welcome.

Now is the time to start thinking about those pictures that you have or will be taking and deciding which ones you will be sharing for the photo contest. Yes, there is a Pen-in-Hand contest this year. The topics are: 1) Try reading some Ted Kooser poems (national poet laureate from Garland, Nebraska. Write some poetry of your own. 2) Are you observing six small wonders each day? What did you learn? 3) How does music refresh your soul?

Each day offers us an opportunity to enrich the lives of others. Enjoy these summer days for they will pass way too quickly.

In faith, hope, and charity,
Darlene Janing...



**MEMBERSHIP AND
COMMUNITY SERVICE
SHANNON COOKSLEY**

Community Service

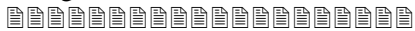
I hope you all have been working hard on your community service projects! The report will be coming to your Grange's

Community Service Chairman soon.. Don't forget to report every little thing your Grange has done! The deadline for all reports to be received by me will be August 20. They have to be in by that date so I can have them judged and the information sent to the National Grange in order to receive MONEY for the four place winners!

Please consider these reports as a MOST WORTHY project this year in honor of your State Community Service Chairperson, Bob Smith, as he continues to recuperate from his accident.

Membership

Are you using the valuable information and enthusiasm you received from Ed Luttrell last spring? Are you remembering to invite people to your meetings and events? If not, this is your reminder – FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY are still valuable recruitment tools for the modern Granger!



committee in the 2006 session so with a lot of those issues probably being introduced along with who know how many new bills, it promises to be a busy session in 2007.

The Secretary of State John Gale is planning to present a proposal to the legislature to require the age of petition circulators to be no younger than 17 years. He has observed people as young as 15 years who were being paid to circulate petitions without any knowledge of what the petition was all about. His reason for the age of 17 years being that is the age when a person is eligible to register to vote and run for public office.

Gambling interests are at it again to have a proposal on the November ballot to allow one casino in each of the three congressional districts in Nebraska. Boyd Gambling Inc. owner of a large number of casinos, has contributed the bulk of the 1.2 million dollars to fund the effort. Opponents say even if the July 7 deadline is met the proposal will not be allowed on the ballot in November because it is too similar to the one defeated in 2004.

The Nebraska State Grange is in the process of joining with a coalition of Nebraska farm organizations and commodity groups to support the 25x25 effort. 25x25 is a national effort to supply 25% of the nation's energy by the year 2025 with the use of renewable sources such as ethanol, biodiesel, biomass and wind and hydro power. Leroy Watson, the National Grange Legislative Director has taken part in two summit meetings held in Washington, D.C. to familiarize and gain the support of Congress.



**GRANGE EVENTS
CALENDAR/DEADLINES**

July 1 Smith Ranch Workday

For info, call Shannon Cooksley: 308-872-2659

**Calendar/Deadlines
continued**

July 13-16 Nebraska Grange Bus Trip to Iowa Sites For info, call Joe Fryman 402-426-5773

July 22 at 9:30 am State Grange Executive meeting/Convention planning at The New World Inn, Columbus

August 20 Nebraska State Grange News deadline

August 20 Community Service Reports due to Shannon Cooksley

August 25-September 4 Nebraska State Fair – Grange booth

Sept 8-10 Nebraska State Grange Annual Meeting at The New World Inn in Columbus

November 14-18 National Grange Annual Meeting in Springfield, Illinois - Nebraska State Grange planning a bus trip – for info contact Judy Hansen 402-478-4288

**STATE WOMEN'S
ACTIVITIES
PHYLLIS TOOKER**

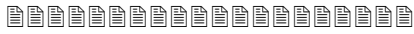
Now would be a good time to plan what you will be bringing to the Nebraska State Grange Convention. We need things for both the Country Store and for the contests.

As you are cleaning and come upon something that you think someone else might be interested in, put it in your "Grange Box." If you are like me, I have this wonderful idea but unless I put it

**STATE GRANGE
LEGISLATIVE REPORT
RICHARD JANING**

A little more than six months from now the Nebraska Legislature will be back in session. A large number of bills were left in

many dangers in the use of fireworks.



want to win, but they believe that with hard work they are going to win. In your Grange, winning means that we will successfully fill needs of our members and in the community.

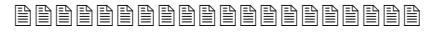
Expecting success begins with your attitude. A why not, let's try it, we will find a way, of course we can, attitude leads to success. Negativity will always take you away from achievement. Potential members are attracted by an attitude that we are successful and will be successful into the future.

The second aspect of expecting success is that you have to expend effort in order to be successful. You hold an extra meeting, you spend a little extra time planning, you ask someone to participate, or you try something new. A little hard work doesn't ensure success, but without that dedicated work success can be very elusive.

Expect success in you Grange and watch the incredible happen!

A final benefit is that when the person decides to join, all of you will feel accomplishment and may be willing to do it again soon, perhaps by yourself.

Work together to ask people to join and watch your Grange grow.



NATIONAL GRANGE NEWS

LEADERSHIP TIP OF THE MONTH

National Grange
Leadership/Membership Director
Ed Luttrell

If you want to be an effective leader in your Grange, you must step back occasionally and take a hard look at things. Just as when you're deep in a forest you may only be able to see trees, when you are deeply involved in your Grange activities you may not be able to see if you are moving toward your vision.

It is a leader's responsibility to see that the Grange teams are working on goals that move the Grange toward their Vision. If a team or member gets sidetracked, you must guide them back to the goal. Guiding and teaching is the best method to get teams back on track. Members can become so involved with what they are doing that they don't understand the "big picture."

Stepping back is nothing more than taking time out of your day to evaluate your goals, plans, and

TWO : Work Together

Asking someone to join the Grange can be a little scary to many members. That is because they haven't done it in years or maybe ever. That is why it is important to work together to recruit new members.

There is strength in numbers, especially when you ask someone to join. Having a partner, or even two, will help you be successful in

Membership Tips Continued

asking people to join your Grange. You will gain confidence because you know the other member or members will help you out if you forget something or are at a loss for words.

Another advantage to working together is that "your team" will help each other stay on track and to identify the potential members' needs. Then you can share how your Grange can fill those needs.

NATIONAL GRANGE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's happening all across the nation! Granges and Grangers are active, building character in individuals, and conducting projects and activities that build better communities for today and tomorrow.

From Waldoboro, Maine where Barbara Wyllie is leading a project to have hundreds of caps, booties, and tiny sweaters knitted for neonatal units, to Riverside, California where the local youth share a common facility to raise their broilers and turkeys in cooperative style.

From Pembine, Wisconsin's Annual Community Halloween Party to Cibolo, Texas where the Grange works with their Cub and Boy Scout Troops, insuring a quality of life experience for kids.

Off the coast of Washington where Lummi Island Grange makes sure every baby born on the island gets books to read every month until they start school.

And all across the country third graders are getting dictionaries, veterans are getting lap robes, and nursing home residents are being cheered by visits and gifts.

Grangers are at work, building character in people, and in turn, building communities. Small Granges and large Granges too! No project is too small or too big when the desire to assist is there. As the old saying goes, "Where there is a will, there is a way."

Malcom Gladwell in *The Tipping Point* tells how a small act can begin an epidemic, like how one yawn in a group can get the entire group yawning in a short time.

Let's start a Grange community-building epidemic this summer!

Grange Supports Keeping Rural Wireless Phone Service with E911

Enhanced 911 (E911) is a location technology mandated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that will allow mobile and cell phones to process 911 calls and enable emergency services to find the geographic position of the called.

The FCC's E911 program consists of two phases. In 1998, Phase one required carriers upon valid request by a local Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), to report the telephone number of a wireless 911 caller and the location of the antenna that received the call.

In 2001, Phase Two asked wireless carriers to provide far more precise location information. It required that all mobile phone companies offer either handset or network-based location detection capability so that the caller's location is determined within a 100-meter accuracy.

The FCC regulation required that each company must have 95 percent of all cell phone customers

covered by E911 technology by December 31, 2005.

The National Grange strongly supports the goals of E911. However, it also has a concern that the strict enforcement of the December 31, 2005 for the 95 percent penetration of location-capable handsets unnecessarily inconvenienced customers who continue to use older handsets. It further undermined rural public safety by preventing access to 911 if carriers were forced to drop rural subscribers who have older handsets.

The Grange believes that if there is no prospect of public harm, cell phone companies should be given additional time to work with their customers and insure that their cell phone handsets are updated. In this perspective, the Grange recently submitted comments to the FCC to support requests for limited relief seeking an extension of the 96 percent handset penetration deadline through June 30, 2007. The Grange's comments were covered by *Communications Daily* newspaper on February 1, 2006.

Journal of Proceedings Now Available

The 2005 National Grange Journal of Proceedings is now available. Subordinate and Pomona Granges, as well as individuals, can purchase their first copy for

Journal of Proceedings Continued

\$5.00 shipping and handling and each additional copy for \$7.00. Granges and individuals can also purchase a CD including PDF versions of the 2005 Journal of Proceedings, the 2006 Digest of laws, and the 2006 Legislative Policy Book for \$3.00 shipping and handling.

You must have Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0 or higher to view the files. Free versions and updates of

Acrobat Reader are available at www.adobe.com

Please send your orders, including your name, address, and telephone number of books and/or CDs you wish to purchase. All checks should be made payable to the National Grange. Please print your information so it is legible to prevent the delay of orders.

Great Plains Selected for 2011 National Grange Convention

The Board of Directors continues to move forward and believes that the National Grange should find exciting cities to hold future conventions.

Due to the large space requirements of the Annual Convention the National Grange starts looking at different cities and states five years before the convention.

The Board had approved the Great Plains as the region in which Convention 2011 will be held. The National Grange will be looking at various cities in these states: Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Hotel Selected for 2010 National Grange Convention

During the February 2006 meeting, the Board of Directors voted on the convention headquarters hotel for the 2010 National Grange Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The convention headquarters hotel will be the Hilton Charlotte University Place. The Hilton Charlotte University Place is conveniently located in the growing northeast section of the city, only 15 minutes from the Charlotte Douglas International Airport and easily accessible via major interstates 77 and 85.

The beautiful lakeside hotel facilities will accommodate all the needs of the convention. Also, there are dozens of restaurants,

retain shops, and nightlife venues within a short walking distance of the hotel.

1 2 3 4 5

Bush Administration Responds to the Grange's Blueprint for Rural America

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Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy in the Treasury Department Mark J. Warshawsky sent a letter to National Grange President Bill Steel on behalf of Treasury Secretary John Snow and President Bush to respond to the Grange's five-point priority issue plan, Blueprint for Rural America 2006.

The letter focused on how the Administration is working on health care. The letter says, "The President's 2007 budget) proposals include full income and payroll deductibility for Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and HAS qualified health plans regardless of whether the employer or individual finances them; a tax credit to help low-income individuals purchase health insurance in the nongroup market; and expansions of Association Health Plans."

Warshawsky also said he believes that the president's goal of providing every American an electronic health record (EHR) in 10 years will particularly benefit rural Americans, because EHRs will greatly improve." Following

Elkhorn V.E. Grange #393

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