

MERRY CHRISTMAS /HAPPY NEW YEAR

In November we traveled to Reno, Nevada to represent Nebraska at the National Grange Convention. We are blessed with many wonderful opportunities offered by the Grange. It is such a pleasure and wonderful experience to meet and associate with so many interesting people from across this great nation.

Please note the many important upcoming events and dates reported elsewhere in this newsletter. Sign ups for the Nebraska State Grange summer bus trip to northern Missouri July 10-13, 2008 are being taken. Let me know at your earliest convenience if you plan to go along. I already have new people to our trip signing up.

Highlights and news from the 2007 National Grange Convention:
Election of Officers - *re-elected Master, Ed Luttrell – Oregon
Overseer, Jimmy Gentry – North Carolina
Lecturer, Judy Sherrod*, Tennessee
Steward, Jay Pfeiffer – Texas
Asst. Steward, Roger Bostwick – Kansas
Lady Asst. Steward, Beth Merrill – New Hampshire
Chaplain, John West* - New Hampshire
Secretary, Henrietta Keller* - Illinois
Treasurer, Joe Fryman – Nebr.

Gatekeeper, Chip Narvel - Delaware
Ceres, Nancy Swainston* - Michigan
Pomona, Judy McCann* - Oklahoma
Flora, Linda Chase – Massachusetts
(Jay Pfeiffer moved from Gatekeeper to Steward)
(Jimmy Gentry moved from Exec. Committee to Overseer)

Executive Committee/Board of Directors:

Phil Prelli ,Connecticut
Pete Pompper, New Jersey

Also serving the Board:

Marty Billquist, Montana
Betsy Huber, Pennsylvania

Assembly of Demeter

High Priest, John Valentine* - Indiana
Priest Archon, Dan Bascom – New Hampshire
Priest Annalist, Bruce Croucher – New York

This was the first Regional Convention – HOSTING STATES for the convention were:

Alaska, Idaho, Washington, Montana, Oregon, Wyoming, California, Colorado

EVENING OF EXCELLENCE

Talent show participants from 13 states

PRESIDENT’S REPORT JOE FRYMAN
--

Season’s Greetings from the Fryman’s and from the Nebraska State Grange. We wish all of you a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Since our last newsletter we have held a successful State Grange Convention in Grand Island at the Riverside Inn. Tammy representing the National Grange as National Flora, and I thoroughly enjoyed attending the Colorado State Convention last October.

President's Report

Continued

Two sign-a-song participants
Three speech participants
Eight youth ambassadors from seven states

FAMILY OF THE YEAR

Winner – McKee Family, Alaska
Runner Up – Dixon Family, North Carolina
Runner Up – Chamberlain Family, Massachusetts

EIGHT STATES RECOGNIZED FOR A NET GAIN IN MEMBERSHIP

New Jersey, Kansas, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Tennessee*, Virginia*
(*Three years in a row)

DUES INCREASE – Beginning January 2008, dues to National Grange will increase by \$2.00 per member per year.

THANK YOU – to Brother Bill Steel for his leadership over the past four years as National Master, but also for many decades of leadership and participation in Grange at all levels. Best wishes in future endeavors.

THANK YOU – to outgoing National officers who served faithfully during their terms, and to the newly elected National officers best wishes in your new positions.

THANK YOU - to the host states for making the Nevada convention a delight. It was the first “regionally-hosted” convention and it was well orchestrated! Well done.

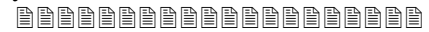
The 7th Degree this year was a little different - but beautiful. It was in the ballroom at the hotel, so no theater stage and therefore no front state drapes/curtains. But, between Act 1 and 11, when the stage participants were changed, our attention was directed to a

large screen which showed photos of the seven founders and gave much history about the organization. WELL DONE. It was beautiful. Thanks to the team for this addition, and thinking “outside the box”.

SHOWCASE OF EXCELLENCE

This room featured winners from the eight hosting states as well as three items from other states. There were few states that sent three items this year. Community Service notebooks were displayed as well. Many states did send their winning notebooks. Also in the room were tables from the Dictionary Project, regalia and jewelry for sale, youth T-shirts, etc.

Thank you to all Grangers for your support and encouragement in 2007 and I look forward to a successful and fun 2008 Grange year.



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**Community Service
Shannon Cooksley**

Dear Grange Friends,
I hope this writing finds you well and still delighting in the joys and magic of the holidays.

As I reflect upon this past year I think of the many missed opportunities for service to my community. Yes, I have given dollars to support those projects that I thought worthy, but did I really give of myself to make sure that those projects were accomplished? Did I choose the worthiness of the projects based solely upon how many dollars I

have budgeted for giving, when I could have donated some of my time instead?

These are some of the difficult questions we need to ask ourselves as we prepare for a new Grange year. Are we doing everything we can in our communities to see that local projects are accomplished? Are we truly seeking to make a difference and let the public know what the Grange does? Are we coming together as a Grange to accomplish projects that can only be achieved by joint efforts? If we don't have dollars to contribute to a project, doesn't it make sense to give some of our time or skills?

As we ponder the answers to these hard questions, please remember that the viability of a community or organization is found within its citizens working toward a common goal. It is the sense of community that keeps us close. It is the sense of community that keeps us strong and it is the sense of community that keeps us working to get things accomplished.

May your 2008 Grange year begin with a sense of pride and enthusiasm in what you are about to do for your communities.



“Thanks” from Grange Deaf Education Scholarship Recipient
Hello Members of the Nebraska State Grange:

I'm attending Rochester Institute of Technology. I'm pursuing a bachelor's degree in Biology. The college has excellent service for the deaf and hard of hearing students. I have met many people, not only from New York but from across the country. I have been playing Intramural sports such as volleyball, soccer, and basketball. I also joined a club called Campus Crusade Christ which meets every Thursday. Thanks for all your support.

Heath Focken
Decorative separator line

**Update on Bob Smith
And Family**

Another year has gone by without much progress in several areas. Bob remains at Mother Hull home in Kearney. He showed some improvement in January and was working well with the therapists but by February he had some seizures and his meds had to be increased and he became more lethargic. The doctors finally agreed to change him from Dilantin to Tegritol which did seem to help for a while. By May he was feeding himself again and working with therapy but through the summer he gradually became less alert and all therapy ended again. Neither of the neurologists in Kearney would see him as one didn't do seizures and the other didn't do Workman's Comp. It was just so difficult to transport him anywhere else without any assurance that it would make a difference. There is finally a new neurologist in Kearney that will see him. He is changing the anti-seizure meds again to see if that might help. Bob is gradually being switched over to Kepera so we will see if that helps. It is supposed to be less sedating.

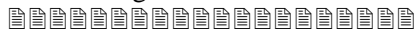
Aside from all that, he seems to be content, has no pain and isn't worried about anything. He is getting excellent care where he is and I don't have plans to move him. I don't know where else he could get the care he needs and have easy access to his doctors. He is not very portable at this point. It takes two aides and a lift to get him from bed to chair or wheelchair and a van with a lift to take him anywhere else. It takes more time to load him up than it does to get to the doctor's office.

The rest of us are fine. I traded the old Caprice to Russell and bought a Toyota RAV 4 with "all wheel drive" that should get me back and forth when I need to go. The Caprice had nearly 250,000 miles on it.

George and Alice are still in Omaha selling Toyota parts and finding mental health services for those who need it. They have three grandchildren presently. Russell is still at Auburn, training horses and has half custody of his two boys, ages five and three. RP and Beth are still ranching. They have two in college, two in high school and two in grade school. Their son-in-law Patrick, is graduating from UNK now. Elissa will graduate a year from now and has been hired to teach in Callaway the second half of next year. Randall and Christi are in Hampton, Nebraska where he is pastor of the Lutheran Church there. Their little Audrey was a year old in August.

I am trying to have some sort of life. I did enjoy the Grange trip to South Dakota in July. We are in the process of getting metal siding on the last of the buildings so they will be preserved and I hope to repair the front porch this next summer.

We do appreciate all the care and concern from all of our good Grange friends. Thanks from all of us. Margaret



Scholarship Deadline

Scholarship applications and information for the Nebraska State Grange Scholarship have been sent to all Subordinate and Pomona secretaries. Additional forms may be downloaded from the Nebraska State

Grange web site: www.nebraskagrango.org or from State Secretary Judy Hansen. Deadline for applications is March 15.

Grange Events Calendar

January 26, 2008

Legislative Workshop – Autumn Woods, Lincoln 9:30 am

July 10-13, 2008

Bus Trip to Northern Missouri

July 18-20, 2008

Great Plains Youth Conference (Nebraska Hosts)

September 19-21, 2008

Nebraska State Grange Convention
Riverside Inn - Grand Island

November 11-15, 2008

National Grange Convention Connecticut

Nebraska Grange web site:

www.nebraskagrango.org

National Grange web site:

www.nationalgrango.org for policies and reports

Need Pictures and Articles

Please send pictures of Grange events or community service projects or information for the web site to State Secretary Judy Hansen, 20657 State Highway 91, Blair, Nebraska 68008. We need your input to keep the Nebraska State Grange web site current and interesting.

**STATE GRANGE
WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES
PHYLLIS TOOKER**

Each Women's Activities Chairman has a copy of the 2008 Contests & Rules but here is your own individual copy. Keep this for reference as you plan what you can enter at the State Grange Convention in September. The new contests have been requested by some of you so I'm looking forward to some wonderful and different entries.

The Linus Blankets, stuffed toys and preemie items are great ways for the Grange to help foster children. We will collect these at the State Convention. The blankets and stuffed toys that we make are a great way to help the Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parents Association. They tuck a stuffed toy and blanket in each "Kit for Kids" that is given to every child. The children usually arrive at the foster homes with nothing but the clothes that they are wearing. These blankets and stuffed toys are something for a frightened child to hold and to hug. Please help us with making and providing the stuffed animals, the Linus Blankets and preemie items. The preemie items were taken to a hospital in Grand Island after the Convention. Look the following contests over carefully as you will find some things missing from last years but you will also find some additions. Have you noticed that if I demonstrate something at the State Convention that there will be something related to it in the next year's contest? This year it is the elegant cupcake. We hope you will bring lovely cupcakes such as those that sell for \$2.00 each at some of our stores.

2008 Contest Rules for Baking – Sewing – Needlework – Crafts

Baking Contest:

Cash prizes will be awarded – 1st, \$6.00 – 2nd, \$4.00 – 3rd, \$2.00
 CLASS 1 – Elegant Cupcakes
 CLASS 2 – Sweet or Savory Muffins
 CLASS 3 – Nebraska Apple Recipe
 CLASS 4 – Chocoholics Delight
 CLASS 5 – Men's Choice
 (All food entries must be a baked item that does not require refrigeration.) All baking entries become the property of the State Grange Women's Activity Committee and will be served, sold or auctioned off during the State Grange Convention. Must include recipe with entry. Must be a Grange member to enter the baking contest.

All Contest Items Must Be Completed in 2008

Handiwork-Needlework-Crafts- Etc.

Cash prizes will be awarded – 1st, \$5.00 – 2nd, \$4.00 – 3rd, \$2.00 (unless otherwise stated)
 CLASS 6 – Decorated Pillow Cover – (throw pillows, not pillow cases) Can use any media
Knit or Crochet:
 CLASS 7 – Doilies and Table Runners – (Any kind of thread and yarn may be used)
 CLASS 8 – Afghan
 CLASS 9 – Knitted Clothing (sweater, etc.)

CLASS 10 – Tatting (Any Item)

Embroidery and Cross Stitch:

CLASS 11 – Embroidery
 CLASS 12 – Counted Cross Stitch (Any item can be made and any type embroidery floss may be used.)

Quilts:

Cash prizes will be awarded – 1st, \$10.00 – 2nd, \$8.00 – 3rd, \$7.00
 CLASS 13 – Quilt – Hand Quilted
 CLASS 14 – Quilt – Machine Quilted
 CLASS 15 – Wall Hanging (Keep it small enough to display easily.)
 Class 16 – Quilted Table Runner

Crafts:

Prizes – 1st, \$4.00 – 2nd, \$3.00 3rd, \$2.00
 CLASS 17 – Wood Decoration or Craft
 CLASS 18 – Scrapbooking page or pages (Only what is needed to tell the story – not a whole book..)
 CLASS 19 – Plastic Canvas Item
 CLASS 20 – Jewelry – (Create your own)

General Rules:

In all of the above contest categories, the work must be solely that of the contestant. All contests (except baking) are open to Grange members and non-members. Professional, designers, teachers or anyone earning their living in these fields MAY NOT enter. A label must be attached to each entry with the following information – Contest category, contestant name and address along with the Grange name and number. You may enter as many items as you wish, but you are only eligible to win once in each category.

Judging:

All entries will be judged using the following criteria, workmanship, general appearance, design harmony of color, and suitability of article to purpose.

Toys for Loving:

The Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parents Association can use all of the toys we make, They use them to fill "Kits for Kids". These go all over the state. The person who makes and turns in the largest number of toys will receive a cash award of \$20.00. The person or Grange that makes and turns in 20 or more toys will have their names entered in a drawing for \$20, \$15, or \$10. The winner of \$20 for making the most toys will not be eligible for this award.

Linus Quilt or Blanket:

The Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parents Association presented a program for the Elkhorn Grange and at that time we learned that a blanket or quilt is also tucked into

Women's Activities
continued

the "Kits for Kids". These can be any size from baby blanket to twin bed. These need to be pretty and bright – something cheery. Please make some of these and bring them to the State Convention.

Items for Preemies:

These were very well accepted at a local hospital this last year and hope to contact a different hospital this year.

The Dictionary Project:

Student dictionaries are available for \$1.75 (Webster's Dictionary) or \$1.70 (Student Dictionary doesn't have any other title but is also very nice and both have many extras in the back.) These prices include shipping. I have sample copies for you. It is recommended that these dictionaries be given to third grade students each year. Third graders are learning to spell enough to use a dictionary. I'm hoping individuals or Granges will adopt a school or schools and provide these dictionaries. Your donation is tax deductible. The address for ordering these is as follows:

The Dictionary Project
P.O. Box 1845
Charleston, SC 29402

Contact person is Mary French and the phone number is 843.856.2706

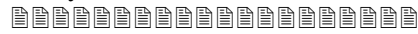
Be certain to report this to the State Grange as both Women's Activities and Community Service projects.

The Ronald McDonald House:

Collect tabs from any can that has a pop top opening and bring them to State Grange. The Ronald McDonald House has realized about \$10,000 from these in past years. Considering all the help they give to families with sick children, it would be wonderful if we could support them with this project which really doesn't cost us

anything. I know others are doing this but many tabs are still missed.

Keep this newsletter so you can refer to it all year. Start on your projects as part of your New Years Resolutions and you will be ready next September with no last minute rush. (Now if I would only follow my own advice.) Have a wonderful holiday season. See you next year.



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETS**

The Executive Committee of the Nebraska State Grange met at Autumn Woods in Lincoln, NE on December 8, 2007. Present were Joe Fryman, Richard and Darlene Janing, Edgar Hicks, Bob and Leora Anderson, Erv and Marcy Rolofson, Richard Schell, Ted Doane and Paul and Judy Hansen.

Executive Committee Chairman, Richard Janing, called the meeting to order at 9:30. The minutes from the previous Executive Committee meetings in September were approved as amended.

An update on members was given: Millie Otte of Papillion is currently undergoing dialysis, Judy Wulf of Blair is recovering from hip replacement surgery and injury to spine, Gwenda Cogswell of Friend is recovering from knee surgery. Laretta Wonderlich of Salt Valley Grange recently passed away. Ted Doane reported that Waverly Grange will be hosting a 100th birthday party for long-time Grange member, Evelyn Weese, on December 29, 2007. All Grangers are invited to the party, which will be held from 2-4 at the Four Seasons in the East Mount Towers in Lincoln. Judy will send information about address and details to the secretaries.

Officers were reminded about the newssheet deadline. Upcoming events were reviewed.

Annual bus trip to northern Missouri – July 10 – 13

Great Plains Youth Conference (Nebraska is the host) July 18-20

State Grange Convention – Riverside Inn in Grand Island – September 19-21

National Grange Convention – Connecticut – November 11-15

Suggestions from the 2007 State Convention were reviewed.

- 1) getting the budget to delegates prior to the state session so they can review prior to the convention
- 2) including members other than delegates in committee meetings, etc.

Joe Fryman presented highlights from the National Grange Convention held in Reno. Past State Grange Master, Robert Jeary was remembered at the Memorial Service. The elected slate of officers was presented: Ed Lutell was elected National Grange Master. Master Luttrell's goal is to visit every Grange state in the upcoming year. Joe Fryman was elected as National Treasurer. The 2011 National Grange Convention will be held in Tulsa with Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska as hosts. Meetings to discuss 2011 Convention will be held to discuss each state's involvement.

Officers reported on meetings and dinners that they attended representing the Nebraska State Grange: Nebraska Rural Radio Association – Paul and Judy Hansen; Farm Bureau – Bob and Leora Anderson. Due to inclement weather no one attended the REA dinner. Edgar Hicks reported that he made a presentation at Kentucky State University about the Grange.

Financial status of investments were reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Bob Anderson, seconded by Erv Rolofson, that the money from the deaf scholarship be withdrawn from the Foundation Money market (to be repaid when the Deaf Education bonds mature). Motion

Executive Committee Meets continued

carried. The finances will be reviewed again in January.

Judy Hansen reported that the Foundation Savings Account has been closed and put into a money market account at Edward Jones. The Salt Valley Grange CD matured on September 17. The interest money has been sent to Salt Valley Grange and principal reinvested into a 10-month CD at Washington County Bank. It will mature on July 14, 2008, earning 5.1% interest.

Joe Fryman asked each person present to give three goals or objectives of what we want Nebraska State Grange to do in 2008.. Ed Luttrell will ask for an action plan when he visits. He will help if there is an action plan. Richard Janing reported that Lewis Campbell has declined to be the membership recruiter due to the time commitment needed to be effective. Joe asked for suggestions for a membership chairman.

The Legislative workshop will be on January 26, 2008 at Autumn Woods in Lincoln beginning at 9:30 am. Bills and policy will be reviewed. A motion to co-sponsor an AG Legislative breakfast was made by Bob Anderson, seconded by Paul Hansen. Motion carried.

It was suggested that the quarters of the news sheet be revised, especially the date of the news sheet prior to the State Convention so that members can have schedule and motel information available to them. Joe will check with Ed Andersen about changing the dates.

The State Fair Booth was discussed. Many felt that distributing giveaway items with the Grange name would be a more effective communicative device. A discussion on whether the booth needed to be manned every day or to just cover the heavier attendance

days. The fair booth will be discussed at a later meeting.

Judy will work with Chris Wittry on updating and freshening up the web site.

A communication from the AG 40 group was read. Judy Hansen moved that the AG 40 dues be renewed, seconded by Paul Hansen. AG 40 will be having a meeting on December 21, 2007 at UNL East Campus from 9 am to 1 pm. Ted Doane will represent the Nebraska State Grange at the meeting.

The Nebraska State Grange has received a letter from the IRS stating the rules about tax filing for nonprofit organizations. National Grange has sent e-mails that this would be forthcoming.

National Grange dues have been increased \$2.00 per year. Subordinate dues will be \$25.00 which reflects the \$2.00 increase.

Phyllis Tooker reported via phone that she and Darlene Andersen had attended two craft fairs (Fairbury and Tekamah). Total sales of the Krystal Kandles were 31 with profits of \$478.00. They have been asked to sell at other craft fairs. The WAC contests have been determined. Information about the contest will be sent in the news sheet and to WAC.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

Judy Hansen, Nebraska State Grange Secretary

<p>STATE GRANGE PROGRAM DIRECTOR DARLENE JANING</p>
--

The U in Jesus

Before U were thought of or time
had begun

God stuck U in the name of His
Son.

And each time U pray, you'll see
it's true, You can't spell out JesUs
and not include U.

You're a pretty big part of His
wonderful name, For U, He was
born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the
reason He died.

It even takes U to spell crucified.
Isn't it thrilling and splendidly
grand He rose from the dead, with
U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold
trumpet blew,

And this word resUrrection is
spelled with a U. When JesUs left
earth at His upward ascension,

He felt there was one thing
He just had to mention. "Go into
the world and tell them it's true
That I love them all – Just like I
love U"

So many great people are spelled
with a U

Don't they have a right to know
JesUs too? It all depends now on
what U will do,

He'd like them to know, But it all
starts with U.

This little poem was an e-mail gift. Think about it as you reach out to others during this Christmas season. The challenges of a new year will soon be here. Example seems to be a good way to show what the Grange does for a community. Even if is small it is one small step at a time. We wish you the many blessings of Christmas.

**STATE GRANGE
HISTORIAN**

**History Hickups
*Grange Archives***

On Saturday, December 8th at our Executive Committee meeting in Lincoln, Erv Rolofson shared some of the historical documents of Lincoln’s Capital City Grange #425 I think should have a home at our state’s Historical Society.

Capital City Grange’s history is just one example of the life of a Nebraska Grange that should have its chronicles preserved for future generations to reflect and draw benefits from. Every time I am on the UNL east campus and enter Filley Hall, I think of the contribution that Dr. H. Clyde Filley made to Nebraska as president of the Nebraska State Grange from 1950 --1956 and as a voice in Capital City Grange.

Since that Sunday afternoon spent at Blair, a few months ago, going through records stored at Riverview Grange... I have been trying to define what constitutes a “Nebraska Grange Archive.” Now Erv shares the life of Capital City, and I am ignited with more octane.

Archives are retained past records that become insignificant (or relatively so) in the context of the present. Such records exist in all levels of government and in both public and private businesses. The retention, organization, storage and management of archives is a massive task, as one may well imagine that has any exposure to our records in Blair. For the most part, the state of all archives can be summed up in a single word: neglected.

In today’s world, the accumulated data and records of the past, and especially of the distant past, have little to no significance in the context of either present or future strategies or operations. Even the major lessons

of history are rationalized away, so it is small wonder that the detailed records of the past get no attention. In an information age characterized by rapidly evolving communications and easy access to virtually everything of the present, the past is lost. The focus is on today and tomorrow, and little of yesterday is seen as relevant in projecting what tomorrow or the day after may bring. Surely this is a mistake?

When I read about Pan American Airways records, I thought about the value of Grange history dating back to post-Civil War Washington, D.C. In the wake of the demise of Pan American, its archives were obtained by the library of the University of Miami (Florida), a rare instance of foresight. Pan Am was an icon of American aviation and its records are a treasure trove of aviation development history. That said, Pan Am records are hardly a focus for the library staff and they remain largely unorganized. Given that they attract little attention from anyone, this fate is understandable. It is up to the researcher to take the time required to conduct the search.

I think about all the hours over the years that have gone in to put together Grange community activity books. As time passes and archives are not accessed, whether by inattention, neglect or policy, the greater the chances they will never be seen again. Someone at some point will make the case that no one cares about them, that they are of no value and would best be discarded. I think about this as I see agricultural history books that have the “discard” stamp on them being sold by libraries on eBay.

For the AG historian, great treasures remain to be discovered, recognized and drawn together to reveal their significance in the context of history. It is likely that few researchers will devote themselves to the required efforts

as records age. The fate of Grange history resting in archives may be in the hands of today’s postal history collectors, like myself, who want to share the story about rural free delivery (RFD) and other Grange ephemeral events.

When will I be ready to share my philatelic Grange exhibit with the public? It has been over 10 year of acquisitions in my domestic archive!



**LEGISLATIVE REPORT
DICK JANING**

The time is just around the corner when the Nebraska Unicameral will convene for the 2008 60 day session.

The location of the State Fair will be on the front burner. Two bills dealing with the Nebraska tractor test law were left in committee in 2007, so they will no doubt be heard again along with many others; taxation, education, etc.

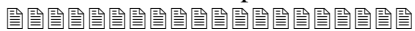
The Grange legislature committee and officers will be holding a meeting on January 26, 2008 at 9:30 am at the Autumn Wood Community building in Lincoln to prioritize pending legislation on which the Grange should take a position. If a bill is introduced that you have an

**Legislative Report
Continued**

interest in, come to the meeting with the bill number or phone the bill number to me at 402.759.4715 or 402.759.1119. For those coming to the meeting, bring a sack lunch, drinks will be provided.

Directions to the Autumn Wood Community Building are as follows: For those traveling via Interstate 80, exit at Exit 403 (North 27th Street). Travel south on North 27th a little more than one mile to a traffic light, (T.O. Haas on the left). Turn right onto Folksway Blvd. Drive on Folksway to Enterprise Drive (one block), turn right onto Enterprise, then proceed north to Blaine Drive, turn right onto Blaine Drive, going one block east to dead end, turn left onto North 26th Street Place for one short block and turn left again to the Autumn Wood Community Building for the meeting site.

For those coming from downtown, take 27th Street north, (crossing Superior Street) to Folksway Blvd. Turn left on Folksway and follow the above directions from that point.



EDITOR –ARE YOU AWARE?

**Antitrust Modernization
Commission (AMC)**

Following a three-year study, the AMC released its report on federal antitrust laws on April 3, 2007. The AMC is a 12-member, bipartisan commission created by Congress to examine the antitrust laws and to submit its findings to Congress and the President. The AMCs report recommends imposing sunset provisions to Capper-Volstead limiting antitrust immunity, the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act, and other agriculture-related immunities.

Capper-Volstead is often referred to as the “magna carta” of farmer-owned cooperatives. The Capper-Volstead Act provides limited antitrust protection for agricultural producers to “process, prepare for market, handle, and market” the agricultural products they produce on a cooperative basis. Absent Capper-Volstead protection, farmers and ranchers would not be able to market their production through a cooperative without risking felony violations of the Sherman Act and other antitrust laws. In other words, without Capper-Volstead, cooperatives would not be able to exist.

Removing the immunity would harm all farmer cooperatives, large and small, that market their products on a cooperative basis. It also would damage the businesses that conduct business with them, including suppliers, buyers, Farm Credit System banks and other lenders, and risk management entities.

To date, no specific legislation has been introduced that would implement recommendations which would include sunset or terminating Capper-Volstead Act subject to congressional re authorization. It is always possible that such legislation could be

introduced or come up as an amendment on another bill..

It should be noted that Deborah Garza, who served as AMC Chair, was recently named the new Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Regulatory Matters within the Department of Justice’s Antitrust Division. In that capacity, she will have responsibility for agriculture, energy, transportation and other regulatory matters.



**ATTENTION ALL
GRANGES**

2008 Annual Electronic Notice
Filing Requirement

Why are You Getting This Notice?

Our records indicate that you were not required to file an information return last year because you normally have gross receipts of \$25,000 or less. However, your filing requirements may have changed. Because of legislative changes, you may be required to file an annual electronic notice for tax periods beginning after December 31, 2006.

New Notification Requirement for Organizations With Gross Receipts of \$25,000 or Less

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 requires you to file an annual electronic notice for tax periods beginning after December 31, 2006, if you are not required to file Form 990 (or 990-EZ). Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax, because your gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less.

If you are a section 509 (a) (3) supporting organization generally, you must file a paper or electronic Form 990 (or Form 990-EZ) even if your gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less. However, if you are a supporting organization of a religious organization and your

**Attention All Granges
continued**

gross receipts are normally \$5,000 or less you may file an annual electronic notice instead of Form 990 (or Form 990-EZ).

The annual electronic notice is due by the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of your tax period. For example, if your tax period ends on December 31,2007, the annual electronic notice is due May 15, 2008.

What Information Will the Annual Electronic Notice Include?

The notice will require you to provide the following information:

- 1) Organization’s legal name,
- 2) Any other names your organization uses,
- 3) Organization’s mailing address,
- 4) Organization’s web site address (if applicable),
- 5) Organization’s employer identification number (EIN),
- 6) Name and address of a principal officer of your organization,
- 7) Organization’s annual tax period,

Verify that your organization’s annual gross receipts are still normally \$25,000 or less, and indicate if your organization has terminated (is no longer in business).

How Does the Organization file the Annual Electronic Notice?

The IRS, though its E-Postcard initiative, is developing a filing system for the annual electronic notice and will be publicizing filing procedures upon completion of the filing system. For the latest information about filing the annual electronic notice, you can:

- 1) Sign up for Exempt Organization’s EO Update, a regular e-mail newsletter that highlights new information posted on the charities pages of irs.gov. To subscribe go to: www.irs.gov/eo and click on “EO Newsletter.”
- 2) Check our web site at www.irs.gov/eo

What Happens if the Organization Fails to File the Annual Electronic Notice or Return?

If you fail to file the annual electronic notice or Form 990 or Form 990-EZ for three consecutive years, your tax-exempt status is revoked as of the filing due date of the third year. Similarly, if an organization is required to file an information return under Internal Revenue Code section 6033 (a) (for example Form 990, Form 990-PF or Form 990-EZ) and fails to file for three consecutive years, its tax-exempt status is revoked as of the filing due date of the third year.

Can an organization Have its Tax-Exempt Status Reinstated if it Was Revoked for Failing to File for Three Consecutive Years?

If your tax-exempt status is revoked for failing to file the annual electronic notice or information return, such as Form 990, Form 990-EZ, or Form 990-PF for three consecutive years, you Must apply (or reapply) for exemption using Form 1023, Application for Recognition of Exemption, or Form 1024, Application for Exemption Under Section 501(a), and pay the appropriate user fee. Reinstatement of tax-exempt status may be retroactive if you can show that you had reasonable cause for not filing the annual electronic notices or information returns.

Keep This Letter for Your Records

Be sure to keep a copy of this information for your records and provide a copy to future officers. It will serve as a reminder of your requirement.



GRANGE REPORTS

Elkhorn V.E. Grange #393
by Bev Hatcher

Fourteen people attended the October 16th meeting. Phyllis Tooker reported that she and the Eversons have recently delivered dictionaries to David City and Bellwood schools and they plan to deliver to the Ralston schools soon. President Andersen set a date for delivery of dictionaries to the Douglas County west school in Valley.

Grange members enjoyed reading the many thank you notes from students who had received the dictionaries. Phyllis Tooker read a thank you letter from the Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Association for our donation of toys and Linus blankets.

Paul and Judy Hansen were guests that evening and they showed their video of last summer’s Grange bus trip to South Dakota.

Program Director Phyllis Tooker gave a demonstration on frosting cupcakes for the holidays.

Fourteen people were in attendance at the November 20th meeting. Guest speakers for the evening were Marcy and Steve Hawkins of the Heartland Pioneers, a group of people who help those in need. They have a similar program as the Grange in making stuffed toys and donating them to rescue squads, police departments, and other agencies for children in crisis.

Plans were made regarding the purchase of a holiday tree for the Elkhorn Life Center. Members donated Christmas ornaments and will continue to decorate the tree for different holidays throughout the year.

NATIONAL GRANGE NEWS

National Grange Supports Permanent Extension of the Inter- net Tax Freedom Act

The National Grange recently contacted the Congressional rural Caucus and strongly urged them to support a permanent extension of the Internet Tax Freedom Act before it expires on November 1, 2007 for the benefit of rural and farming communities across the United States. Congress's failure to extend this moratorium could subject rural consumers to burdensome new levies on their current Internet access, create new barriers to expansion of high speed Internet services and/or limit future high speed Internet technology choices to millions of farmers and rural consumers who currently lack access to these technologies.

Since 1998, Congress has wisely determined that Internet users should not be subject to state or local taxes, including discriminatory multiple tax jurisdictions. The current prohibition protects Internet consumers regardless of the technology they use to access the Internet or their geographic location. Tax free access to the Internet reduces the burden of isolation in farming and rural communities by providing family farmers and rural residents with the same access to information, technology, education, health care, public safety and commercial opportunities as residents of urban and suburban communities. It increases the productivity of our nation's family farms and rural small businesses by giving those farms and businesses access to a global marketplace of information and services. It strengthens civic participation in our society by giving rural residents an equal voice with other Americans in their expression of free speech, in their communications with each

other and in their active participation in the political process.

Congress has twice before prudently extended the prohibition on Internet taxation in 2001 and 2004. The National Grange supports a permanent extension of the Act for the benefit of our nation's family farmers and rural residents.

**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 21, 2008

COALITION LETTER OPPOSES CLEAN WATER RESTORATION ACT

National Grange joined a coalition writing to speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, opposing legislation entitled the Clean Water Restoration Act (H.R. 2421), sponsored by Rep. James Overstar. A similar bill, S. 1870, has been introduced by Sen. Russell Feingold in the Senate.

The Clean Water Restoration Act seeks ostensibly to restore protections under the Clean Water Act lost due to Supreme Court decisions in 2001 and 2006 and to clarify which waters would be subject to regulation under the act. The Coalition is concerned, however, that the Clean Water Restoration Act would achieve the opposite: It would expand the scope of the Clean Water Act far beyond its original intent while increasing confusion over what is and isn't to be protected. In addition, we believe the bill runs counter to the principle of an accountable government as it seeks

to transfer legislative power from elected officials to those appointed for life. These short comings have significant implications for retirees, families, farmers, ranchers and owners of small businesses – many of whom have a significant portion of their net worth tied up in homes, lots or other real estate. With the real estate market already down and foreclosures due to sub prime mortgage problems likely to drive it down further, the last thing that we need is government regulation that would diminish property value further.

The Clean Water Act was intended to prevent pollution of "navigable waters" of the U.S., the Court's decisions limit the federal government's previously wide latitude to define "navigable" and exert federal authority. Isolated, non-navigable waters, for example, are no longer subject to regulation. Isolated drainage ditches with insignificant, intermittent flows also are no longer being subject to federal authority under the Clean Water Act.

The Clean Water Restoration Act would restore the virtually limitless regulatory power federal agencies had assumed in contravention of Congressional intent. The bill would give federal agencies authority over "all interstate and intrastate waters," including non-navigable waters. The bill would also permit Congress to abdicate its legislative responsibilities. It defines "waters of the United States," in part, as "all waters...to the fullest extent that these waters, or activities affecting these waters, are subject to the legislative power of Congress under the Constitution," effectively deferring to courts to determine what waters are subject to regulation. Further, the bill's reference to "activities affecting these waters" could give federal agencies the ability to assume expansive authority over not only water, but land and the air, too

