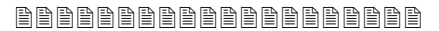


HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE 4th OF JULY



the Grange competes for the time and energy of our members with many other good organizations and activities. I believe most would agree that the Grange should attempt to fill a need, whether it is social, economic, community based, or other. Unfortunately, we sometimes believe that folks are going to magically flock to us and all we need to do is sign them up. While this may happen on occasion, the majority of the time we need some sort of personal contact to interest a person enough to become a member. At least this was the case for Tammy and me.

north side of Lincoln near 27th Street. This is the location we have held several executive meetings. If you need directions, check the Nebraska Grange web site at nebraskastategrange.org or contact me at 402.426.5773 or by e-mail at jfryman@huntel.net We will begin with a pizza supper at 5:30 pm and begin with Ed's presentation at 6:30 pm. Come out to listen, participate, learn and be encouraged. You can and do make a difference.



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
JOE FRYMAN**

As the Nebraska State Grange President, I receive Grange newsletters from many other State Granges. In reading these newsletters and visiting with Grangers from other states, it appears nearly all of these folks have concerns and issues similar to those of the Nebraska State Grange. There is a desire by all to have worthwhile programs, projects and activities. There is a desire for the Grange to grow. There is a desire to have more active members. There is agreement that the principles that the Grange has been founded upon are sound. There is a realization that

The National Grange is aware of our concerns and challenges. Under the leadership of National Grange Master Ed Luttrell, there is a 100% commitment to assist us in our Grange efforts in Nebraska. Ed is planning a visit to Nebraska on July 17, 2008. He would like to meet with as many Grangers as possible to communicate not only goals, but to give us ideas, methods, and suggestions to use in our Grange work. I strongly urge and encourage all Nebraska Grangers to attend this meeting with our National Master. The meeting is set up at the Autumn Woods Community Building on the

**Community Service
Shannon Cooksley**

Dear Grangers:

I hope all of you are enjoying your summer thus far and are getting those Community Service projects completed too! This is just a reminder that I will have your packets on the bus trip and will deliver them to you. Once again the reports will be due back to me on August 20th. Looking forward to seeing all of you soon!

**Deaf Education and
Awareness
Shannon Cooksley**

Dear Grange Friends:

Just today I was notified by our scholarship winner that he has changed his plans and has decided to join the military. This is a "first" in my tenure as DEA Chairperson. As Zack was the only applicant this year, I plan to check up on our former scholarship winners to see how they are progressing with college and their future plans. If any are still qualified, I will select the one that requires the most assistance in completing their education.

Please remember to wear your hearing protection as you operate your farm and yard equipment this summer!

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**STATE GRANGE WOMEN'S
ACTIVITIES
Phyllis Tooker**

I didn't think that the weather would have any effect on our Women's Activities but it has. I cancelled going to a couple of Craft Shows because of ice so our income from the Krystal Kandles is down, therefore we need things (and more things) for the Country Store and for the food exhibits at the State Grange Convention.

One of the Craft Shows that I didn't go to was only three miles from my house but everything was

heavily coated with ice. Even if I could have driven there I was afraid I couldn't get glass bricks from the parking lot into the building without breaking them or me.

The WAC Contests and rules are printed in the back of the State Roster, in the State Grange newsletter and are on the State Grange web site. If none of these are available to you, let me know and I'll get a copy to you. It's getting to be crunch time if we are to have lots of things to display at the State Convention so that our room will truly present a wonderful first impression of our Grange.

Remember we also need the Toys for Loving, pop tabs (which include soup and other container tabs) as well as the Linus Blankets and the items for Preemies. Do the Millie thing – get your box out and collect things for the State Convention as you think of them.

Slow cookers are very useful and can be used for baking as well as for all the meat and soup dishes we associate with this appliance. If you use your slow cooker for making desserts put a paper towel across the container before putting the lid on. This keeps moisture from collecting, dripping down and causing a sticky, gooey product.

Have a wonderful summer. Hope to see you at some of the Grange activities planned for July.

Grange Events Calendar

July 10-13, 2008

Bus Trip to Northern Missouri

July 17, 2008

Meeting with National Master, Ed Luttrell at Autumn Woods Community Building in Lincoln beginning with a pizza supper at 5:30 pm

July 18-20

Great Plains Youth Conference (Nebraska Hosts) at Camp Catron near Nebraska City

August 22 – September 1, 2008

Nebraska State Fair/Grange Booth

September 19-21, 2008

Nebraska State Grange Convention
Howard Johnson/Riverside Inn –
Grand Island

November 11-15, 2008

National Grange Convention
Connecticut

Nebraska Grange web site:
www.nebraskastategrange.org

National Grange web site:
www.nationalgrange.org
for policies and reports

**STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR
EDGAR HICKS**

**A Nebraska Membership
Tool That Works!**

Log-on to talk with National and
Nebraska Grangers
July 8th at 8 pm

At 8:00 pm on Tuesday, June 24th, I hooked up for the first time with the National Grange's tele-conference call via *TeamSpeak*. I was connected with Grange members in New Hampshire, New Jersey, Washington, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New York, Oklahoma, and Kansas. It was really uplifting to connect with members who are working to overcome similar challenges in growing with their state

**Membership Director
Continued**

membership rolls. While membership is our most immediate concern, *TeamSpeak* can be a great tool for Grangers that want to connect to talk with each other for other reasons, or for no reason at all.

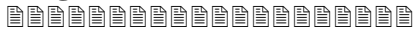
TeamSpeak is a clear voice communication which enables people to speak with one another over the Internet. It is set up through our National's HQ and there is no cost to Nebraska Grangers for access and use.

On July 8th, it would be a great opportunity if everyone of our Subordinate Granges that have a member with a computer, speaker, and headset will hook up for the next membership session.

Stephanie Wilkins will be more than willing to have you call her to receive startup guidance (as she did for me) at 888.447.2653 (ext. 101)

(SWilkins@NationalGrange.org). Please respond and take advantage of this Grange connection.

***TeamSpeak* can be a great networking and communication resource for the Nebraska State Grange!**



**Legislative Report
Dick Janing**

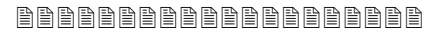
The second session of the 100th legislature ended on schedule on April 17, 2008. History was made and may never be repeated with the 38 years of service by Senator Ernie Chambers. He was highly respected by his colleagues for his ability to maneuver through the legislative process, was most generally a friend of agriculture, was always on the side of minorities and the underprivileged and will be remembered as an "agitator" by all of those who had opposing views at one time or another.

Bills, which the Grange had taken a position on, that were still in the process at my last report were LB 777, 880, 1115, 1044 and 1174. LB 777 was signed into law and will result in a combined value on a tract of land which previously had parcels with different values. The Grange supported this bill. LB 880 remained on general file. LB 1174, which would have recreated protection for agriculture from giant corporate takeover, was withdrawn from debate by Senator Dierks when it appeared to be going down in defeat. LB 1044 was indefinitely postponed. LB 1115 and LB 1116 were combined into one bill. This bill has been signed into law and will sell State Fair Park to the University of Nebraska, Lincoln and move the State Fair to Grand Island in 2010. The State Fair issue is up in the air again with the filing of a petition with the Secretary of State to put the issue on the November ballot. Sixty thousand signatures from 38 counties are needed by July 16th to be successful.

A new five year farm program is finally in place. Months went past after the expiration of the 2002 program which resulted in several ex-

tensions. The bill has substantially more funding for food programs (more than 60% of the total amount) for the needy and an increase in funding for conservation. The Nebraska State Grange sent a resolution to the National Grange recommending broadening of the Conservation Security Program. Getting more funds for the Conservation Security Program was a victory for Nebraska

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped in any way during the 2008 session of the Unicameral.



Update on the Smiths

Dear Friends and Family,

It has been a long time since I wrote. I couldn't quite think what to say. I guess I am just tired of the whole process. A small glimmer of hope followed by yet another disappointment seems to be the way our lives have gone for over two years now.

Bob is still at Mother Hull Home in Kearney and that is probably where he will be. He gets excellent care there with lots of loving attention and he is close to the doctors that he needs to see. The two weeks we spent at Madonna in Lincoln for therapy did not see as much improvement as we had hoped. Bob is physically strong enough to be more active but he has very little short term memory so it is difficult to build on what he learned yesterday. He doesn't remember yesterday. He can walk alone with a walker but his balance isn't very good so someone has to be with him so he doesn't fall. When they put him in bed they put the bed down next to the floor so if he tries to get out there is no where to fall. The doctors think that he

Leadership Tip of the Month
Continued

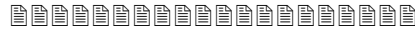
least the basics like when it was formed, what purpose it was created for, and what we have done since that time. The answers to these questions are not just for your Community Grange but for the State Grange and the National Grange as well. We should be reading books about the Grange, checking out web-sites, getting familiar with the different handbooks that the Grange publishes at all levels. You can also get a lot of information by just walking around your own hall and learning from the ribbons, plaques, and pictures on the walls. They will help you get to know the history of your Local Grange. We should be talking to our long time members and finding out why they joined what they have accomplished in the Grange, and why they value their Grange membership. Using our eyes and ears to learn about the Grange will help prepare us for opportunities to talk about the Grange.

Practice, practice, practice is another way of preparing ourselves. You may ask what and how we are to practice? Your Lecturer can help with that! Put all the members' names in a hat and draw a couple out and have them give their 30 second elevator speech to the Grange. It sounds easy until you have to say it out loud! We should learn to ask questions back to those that ask about the Grange. We need to engage them in conversation so we can learn more about them. This helps us get more specific about the things that Grange can do to fill their personal needs. Practicing can be done just by talking with other members. Talk with each other about getting new members. Help each other out when it comes to

getting potential new leaders to join the Grange.

Stocking up on Grange supplies helps prepare for opportunities. Make sure your Grange has extra copies of program handbooks, legislative policy handbooks, benefits brochures, and applications. Stock up on everything that you can get your hands on that a potential new member would be interested in. The more things we can show or give them increases the odds that we can touch their interest in becoming one of us and joining the Grange.

Hope you all can see how important it is for all of us to *Always Be Prepared*. As the leaders of the Grange we have many ways to help us get prepared. You never know when the next opportunity will come for us to share this GREAT organization with others.



**The National Grange is Pleased to
Announce the Hiring of Two New
Staff Members**

Margaret Maxwell is a native Washingtonian and a graduate of the University of Maryland. Her decades of meeting planning experience have allowed her to work high profile catering events attended by some of the world's most fascinating people, including Queen Noor, Pavarotti, Margaret

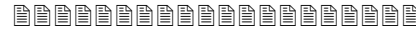
Thatcher, President Ronald Reagan, and the 1984 United States Olympic medal winners.

The satisfaction of organizing and executing an event that is important to others is very rewarding to Margaret. She is glad to have the chance to share her expertise and skills with the National Grange as our Administrative Assistant/Marketing Planner.

Rusty Hunt is a third generation Grange member and a graduate of Whitworth College in Spokane, WA. He was a District Youth Director and became a State Officer in 1995. He eventually worked his way up through the ranks and now serves on the Washington State Executive Committee. He was appointed Co-Membership/Leadership Development Director in 2000 and has gained lots of experience through the years working with Granges around Washington State.

Rusty is excited about the new challenges that are before him in his new position with the National Grange as membership/Leadership Director and is looking forward to meeting and working with Grangers all around the country.

To view a video message from Rusty, please go to <http://www.youtube.com/nationalgrange>



**Please type your articles,
double spaced and proof
read them.**

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT
ISSUE
TO BE ANNOUNCED**

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