

NEBRASKA STATE GRANGE NEWS

VOL. 60 NO. 49

January, February, March 2009



**President's Report
Joe Fryman**

Springtime – the season of renewal and new life. It is the season of hope and expectation. For Tammy and I this is especially true as we are expecting our first grandchild in May. It will be our turn to experience the pleasure many of you already have enjoyed. Life is about sharing and supporting one another.

So it is with the Grange also. For some reason the word support has caught my attention and I have been thinking about the relevance of it in our world today. The dictionary defines support in several ways. One is to promote the interests or cause of. A second is to uphold or defend as valid or right and a third is to

argue or vote for. A fourth definition is to hold up or serve as a foundation or prop for.

Synonyms of support are uphold, advocate, back, maintain, help, assist, and champion. These terms also reflect many of the principles of the Grange.

If there were ever a time that support and the Grange was relevant, it is in today's challenging economic times. Not just financial support, but moral support. Times like these create opportunities for the Grange to serve and support our members and our neighbors. We can be a strong support group to lighten the burdens and help folks get through these challenging times while experiencing joy and satisfaction as we help. If we think about it, we all are encouraged when folks support us and support our ideas. Likewise, there is a satisfaction in knowing you have comforted or helped someone out.

The time for action is **now**. Let's support one another in our Grange family and reach out to others and **demonstrate** that we care about them.

Schedule of Upcoming Events

April 3-5 Growth Summit
Howard Johnson Riverside Inn
Grand Island, NE

April 17-19 Corn State Lecturer Conference
Ramada Inn Love Field
Dallas, TX

July 8-12 Annual Bus Trip
Colorado

September 18, 19, 20 State Convention
Howard Johnson Riverside Inn
Grand Island, NE

Nebraska Grange Website
www.nebraskastategrange.org

National Grange Website
www.nationalgrange.org

Think Spring!



GRANGE FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Phyllis Tooker, Director

Notice our new name? I've been asked for some time if something would be more appropriate than "Women's Activities". Our activities really do include the whole family so the Nebraska State Grange Executive Committee settled on the new name of "Grange Family Activities" at the December meeting.

Last year I had a lot of fun with cup cakes but I never thought about the history of the cup cake. In reading the Connecticut Grange Newspaper I found the following: "A "cup" cake in the 19th century may have been a small cake, but not necessarily so. They were so called because the ingredients were measured in cups, instead of weights. This was revolutionary because of the time saved in the kitchen." Norm liked to kid us by calling them policeman cookies or cop cakes.

I always associate yeast with breads but I have a cookie recipe that uses yeast so have fun with this class. If cinnamon rolls or tea rings are what you like to make be sure to enter that at the convention.

We've been featuring a fruit recipe such as the apples last year so this year it is cherries. Any cherry will do, you won't have to prove it was harvested in Nebraska. This class doesn't include cherry pie because that should be entered in the fruit or nut pie class. I've had requests for pecan pie which would fit in this class.

Every spring I hunt up the following recipe for Lemon-Lime Cake. Its color and fresh taste are perfect for this time of year.

Lemon Lime Cake

Lemon Cake mix (I use Duncan Hines)

4 eggs

1 3 oz. package lime jello (use dry)

1/3 cup oil

3/4 cup water

Mix together and beat for 4 minutes. (This is important or the cake falls in the middle)

Pour into a 9X13 inch pan and bake for 40 min. at 350 degrees.

Cool for 10 min.

Poke with big fork.

Mix 3 cups powdered sugar with frozen lemonade concentrate (thawed & undiluted) until thin enough to pour and then pour this over the cake. This should run into the holes that you made with the fork and also leave a glaze over the top of the cake. Enjoy both the cake and spring.



Program Director Darlene Janing

Two things come to mind as I prepare to write some thoughts on paper and trust they will make sense. There's a note here at the computer desk that has reminded me daily that a decision would soon have to be made on a topic or two for Pen-in-hand and also a photo theme separate from the regular categories. That decision has been made and hopefully it is a topic that should bring some interest and participation from many of you. The topic for the photo theme and/or Pen-in-hand will be "Sharing the simple joys of your day". What comes to mind is there are so many little things that

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bring a smile that we sometimes forget to enjoy the moment and record that one moment in time. So for the 2008-2009 Grange year you are encouraged to do just that. A snapshot can tell a lot without words. So as you capture a moment in time, set aside a photo or two to share. Write down a short essay, (Ugh), paragraph or story that tells about what warms your heart and makes you mind smile. The "Ugh" brings up the memories of writing for English classes. For some of us that was quite an undertaking and for others it was something quite easy. The second topic for Pen-in-hand will be: Tell us about something interesting that you experienced during the past winter months. Maybe it was a program on the radio or TV: or a visit with an old or new friend or something new that you cooked in the kitchen or made with you hands.

I would like to encourage all of you to come show your enthusiasm for Grange as the National Membership Person Randy Hunt will be in Nebraska April 3, 4, and 5, 2009 to inspire us to try new ideas as we share the good the Grange members do in their home communities. This will be a great time to reach out and ask those we know to come learn about our organization and be part of it.

We have received our formal invitation to the REJUV "Corn States" Lecturers' Conference which will be hosted by Texas State Grange April 17-19 in Dallas, Texas. Let's put together a car load and head south to support this meeting and have the opportunity to share ideas and learn from others.

Pen-in-Hand topics:

1. What warms your heart and makes you smile.
2. Share something interesting that you experienced during the winter months.

Photo Contest:

Separate category, "Simple joy of the day"

Thank you in advance for your support on these projects and events.



Hello Fellow Lectures and Grangers:

I would like to invite you and your fellow grangers to the Corn State Lectures Conference. The conference will be held the weekend of April 17-19 in Dallas, Texas. We will be at the Ramada Inn -Love field, see website for more info. flying: fly to Love field and not DFW)

The overall cost of the Conference will be \$90. This will cover 4 people to a room, meeting place, workshops, and tour.

If you have less to a room (a couple) your cost would be \$114 each for the same as above. I would like to ask for a Deposit of \$30 per person which would include registration, workshop, tour and a T-shirt. Rooms may be paid separately or together.

The workshops will begin on Friday evening pending what time everyone will be arriving. I have planned some workshops and even a tour of the Dallas Museum of Modern Art.

There are plenty of activities in which to do in Dallas there is even Dealy Plaza and the JFK museum. See the web site below for more things to do in Dallas. There will be free time on

Sunday for your own sightseeing. <http://www.visitdallas.com/visitor>

To see hotel information and to get directions please visit <http://GrangeLecturesConference.Lexyl.com>

If you have any questions please call me at **210-834-1742**|| **text enabled**

or email me at lawz095@peoplepc.com

Please RSVP(& shirt size) to me with Deposit to :

(please make a check payable to Lori Wuest)

Lori Wuest
13211 Old Corpus Christi
Elmendorf, TX 78112-9603

Registration Deadline is March 20th.

Community Service

Shannon Cooksley

As the deadline for this newsletter was quickly approaching, I was grasping for what I might write about this time. I had prayed about some kind of direction because it just seems like my idea bank has been running in a deficit lately. It seems my enthusiasm is spent, right along with my energy, which doesn't provide much collateral when presenting an acceptable new idea or two. But wouldn't you know, my prayer was answered in church this morning when our minister spoke

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about "touching" and the invisible "fingerprints" that we leave on friends and family or anyone in need. My thoughts quickly turned to the Grange and how the minister's message applied to how Grange has touched me and left a fingerprint on my

life. My Grange friends are like a personal investment that I can draw on when times are good or bad and I know their principles are solid. It seems to me that given the grim forecast of only days of despair in our immediate future, that now more than ever we need to draw together and bank our resources of placing "Faith in God, Nurturing Hope, Dispensing Charity and being noted for Fidelity". So let's get to work Grangers, and increase our investments by showing others the positive returns of reaching out. Go touch as many lives as you can, however and whenever you can, and leave permanent fingerprints on your communities.

Deaf Education and Awareness
Shannon Cooksley, Chairperson.

Dear Grange Friends,
I recently read this article and found it interesting. I wanted to pass the information on to you.

Hearing Loss In Adults

(EverydayHealth.com): Hearing Loss In Adults :What Is It?)

Hearing loss is a decrease in the ability to perceive sounds. In adults, hearing loss can be partial or total, sudden or gradual, temporary or permanent. It can affect one ear or both. Currently in the United States, 28 million people over age 3 have some form of hearing loss. The condition affects approximately 3% of all adult men and women. In general, the risk of hearing loss increases with age. Between 24% and 40% of adults over age 65 have difficulty hearing. Thirty percent of people over age 85 are deaf in at least one ear.

To understand hearing loss and treatment, it helps to know how hearing works. Sound enters the ear and strikes the eardrum (tympanic membrane). This causes the eardrum to vibrate. The eardrum's vibrations are amplified through the middle ear by three tiny bones. Inside the ear, the vibrations are transformed into nerve impulses. These nerve impulses travel to the brain, where they are interpreted as sounds.

Because the outer ear and middle ear transmit (or conduct) sound, any injury to this part of the hearing pathway is called conductive hearing loss. Sensorineural hearing loss is injury to the inner ear, eighth cranial nerve and brain, which all deal with the production, transmission and interpretation of nerve impulses.

In adults, some of the most important causes of hearing loss are:

Middle ear disease A bacterial infection of the middle ear can injure the eardrum, disrupt the middle-ear bones, or cause fluid buildup.

Noise Without adequate ear protection (earmuffs or earplugs), loud sounds can injure delicate cells within the ear. This is a form of sensorineural hearing loss, and it is the most common cause of hearing loss among American adults. Noise-induced hearing loss can happen because of a single brief burst of an extremely loud sound, such as a gunshot or firecracker. It is more often the result of long-term exposure to loud sounds of slightly lower intensity, such as factory noise or rock music. Among U.S. workers, noise-induced hearing loss is the most

common of all occupational injuries. It is a significant health problem among carpenters, miners, plumbers, factory workers, farmers, construction workers and workers exposed to aircraft, sirens or explosives. People can also develop noise-induced hearing loss from recreational activities, such as listening to very loud music, operating a personal watercraft (such as Jet Ski and WaveRunner) or snowmobile, shooting firecrackers or guns, or operating a loud lawnmower or leaf blower.

Otosclerosis — This conductive hearing loss involves the abnormal overgrowth of one or more bones in the middle ear. It prevents the small bones from moving normally. Otosclerosis often runs in families. It strikes 1% of American adults, and is especially common among white, middle-aged women.

Acoustic neuroma This noncancerous (benign) tumor grows on part of the eighth cranial nerve, which carries signals to the brain. Because this tumor develops near parts of the body that help control balance as well as hearing, it often causes dizziness and equilibrium problems.

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Problems in addition to gradual hearing loss. Acoustic neuromas most often occur in adults between the ages of 30 and 60.

Meniere's disease This typically causes dizziness, hearing loss, ringing in the ears (tinnitus) and a sensation of fullness or stuffiness in one or both ears. Although research suggests that Ménière's disease is related to a change in the volume of a fluid inside the ear,

the reason for this volume change remains unknown. Ménière's disease currently affects three to five million Americans.

Trauma Many types of accidents can cause hearing loss, including stab wounds, gunshots or being hit on the ear or skull. Hearing loss can come from a blast injury to the eardrum from the force of an explosion or simply from a cotton swab (Q-tip) that ruptures the eardrum during an attempt to clean the ear canal.

Sudden sensorineural hearing loss This is a medical emergency. A person loses hearing over a period of three days or less. In 85% to 90% of cases, the cause is unknown, although many doctors believe that the underlying problem may be a viral infection. Doctors diagnose about 4,000 Americans with this type of hearing loss each year. In 90% of the cases, only one ear is affected.

Drugs Many prescription and nonprescription medications can damage the ear and cause hearing loss. These include: Antibiotics, such as erythromycin (several brand names), vancomycin (Vancocin), tetracycline (several brand names) and aminoglycosides, such as gentamicin (several brand names), streptomycin (Zanosar), tobramycin (Nebcin) and amikacin (Amikin)

Anticancer chemotherapeutic drugs, such as cisplatin (Platinol), 5-fluorouracil (Ancobon) and bleomycin (Blenoxane)

Aspirin

Antimalaria drugs

Age Age-related hearing loss, also known as presbycusis,

is not a single disease, but a category for the cumulative effects of aging on the ears. In most cases, hearing loss begins after age 60, and is usually more noticeable in men than women. Both ears are affected. It is typically harder to hear high-pitched tones (women's voices, violins) than low-pitched ones (men's voices, bass guitar). Because this usually occurs gradually over a period of years, the person may not realize that he or she has difficulty hearing. A family member may bring the problem to the person's attention.

Other causes There are more than 100 different causes of hearing loss in adults. The most common reversible cause is severe buildup of earwax in the ear canal and acute infections of the external ear or middle ear.

Symptoms

If you have sudden, severe hearing loss, you will notice right away that your ability to hear has decreased dramatically or disappeared totally in the affected ear. For example, you may snap your fingers next to the affected ear and not hear it, or you may put the telephone receiver against your ear and hear nothing.

If your hearing loss is gradual, your symptoms may be more subtle. You may have difficulty understanding conversations, either in person or over the telephone. Family members may complain that you play the radio or TV too loudly. You may ask them to repeat what they say or frequently misunderstand what they are saying.

Some diseases and conditions that cause hearing loss may

produce additional symptoms, including:

- Ringing in the ears
- Discharge or bleeding from the ear
- Deep earache, or pain in the ear canal
- Pressure or a "stuffy" feeling inside the ears
- Dizziness or problems with balance or equilibrium
- Nausea

<p style="text-align: center;">Legislative Report Richard Janing, Chairman</p>

January 24, 2009 Grange members along with the executive committee and legislative committee met in Waverly to select Legislative bills which to support or oppose. Twenty-five bills were selected. Only four of the twenty-five have been advanced from committee to general file as of this writing.

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Bills which the Grange will support are LB57, LB 109, LB114, LB650, LB218, LB286, LB329, LB453, LB466, LB467, LB474, LB476, LB516, and LB593. Those which we will oppose are LB6, LB104, LB160, LB255, LB416, LB538, LB576, LR5CA. There was not a clear consensus on LB163, LB266, and LB306 so we will have a neutral position on those. The first session of the one-hundred first legislature convened on January 7, 2009 and will continue thru June 4, 2009. This is the longer 90 day session. There were 679 legislative bills

and several legislative resolutions introduced. Each bill has a public hearing before the committee which the bill was assigned. The hearings are still being scheduled at this time. The legislature is in session from 9:00 a.m. thru 12:00 noon each scheduled day. Public hearings are in the afternoon and some have been going as late as 6:00 p.m. or later. When the hearings are completed there will be afternoon sessions.

The legislature is aired live on channel 29-2 for those who are interested in watching the debates.

By the next newsletter we will know the results of those bills that we have a position.

<p>Don't forget our Grange Radio Program on KNEB 960 at 1:20 p.m. and KRVN 880, KTIC 840 at 1:40 p.m. on Fridays to help keep you better informed about Grange</p>

Grange Growth Summit

The Nebraska Grange will be hosting a Grange Growth Summit April 3, 4, and 5, 2009 at the Howard Johnson Riverside Inn in Grand Island. This is a regional Grange conference to promote membership and leadership. National Grange President, Ed Luttrell and National Grange Membership/Leadership Development Director, Rusty Hunt will be conducting the conference. This is one of five regional summits planned for this year. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend this conference. One of the areas we will be concentrating on is starting

a new Grange in the Grand Island area.

More information is available on the National Grange website www.nationalgrange.org or you can call Joe Fryman at 402-426-5773. Advanced registration is encouraged but not required.

**HICKupS and History
Edgar Hicks,
Membership Chm and
Historian**

Grange and Chautauqua Can Blossom this June in Broken Bow!

History has not been an advocate for the membership of the Nebraska State Grange. Case in point is the disconnect between the Chautauqua *today* and the Chautauqua of *100 years ago*. The following is an article from the New York Times, August 3, 1889:

**GRANGERS AT CHAUTAUQUA
Politicians got there, too and worked hard.**

(Chautauqua, N.Y) Aug. 2- This day was set apart by the Chautauqua management as Grange Day, and it was eventful. Throngs of excursionists, estimated to be 2,000, came in on the morning boats. At 11 o'clock the vast amphitheatre was crowded, fully six thousand persons present. Bishop Vincent, chancellor of Chautauqua, gave the address of welcome. He honored the Grange in its work of broadening farm life, and felt that it was a coworker with the Chautauqua movement. In behalf of the State Grange and its guests, Lt. Governor, Jones responded to this welcome. He said: "It is fitting, Sir, that Chautauqua should welcome the

Grange, for our aims and interests are in common, though yours are broader. The reception that you have tendered the Patrons of Husbandry is something more than friendly hospitality. It gives to our organization an endorsement that will be of great advantage to us. There are scattered over the land lakes as beautiful as Chautauqua, but there is not in the wide world another Mecca that would content the pilgrims assembled here.

The address of the morning was delivered by the Hon. Mortimore Whitehead of Washington, lecturer of the National Grange. His subject was "Organization of Farmer's. He said," I wish to testify to the great good Chautauqua is doing. I have seen the C.L.S.C broadening our people and its course of study taken by many as a part of Grange work. Chautauqua is performing its mission through organization. The Grange brought organization to farmer. Ours is a great national organization. We have a strong foothold, and beet today than ever

before." Mr. Whitehead continued with an account of Grange work.

The orator of the afternoon was Col. J. H. Brigham of Delta, Ohio, Master of the National Grange, his subject being," what has the Grange Accomplished?" He gave a masterly review of the history of the organization, its work and its prospects. The Grangers were entertained by concerts at 2 and 7 p.m. The Hon. Will Cumbeck of Indiana also gave a lecture.

Among the prominent Grangers present today were W.A. Armstrong of Elmira, Master of the State Grange; ex-Gov. Bishop of Ohio; Col. Rufus Haywood of Fredonia, Master of the Chautauqua County Grange; Flint Blanchard of Jamestown, and the Hon. H.M. Fenner of Fredonia.

The amusing feature of the day was the swarm of politicians who made hay at the Grangers' picnic. Representatives of the principals of the Senatorial and Supreme Court Judge fights were working like beavers. Dr. "Jule" Williams, Major Putnam, son-in-law Wicks of the Sessions class, ex-Assemblymen Nixon and Babcock. And other notorious politicians were sawing wood, putting up fences, laying pipe, and practicing similar arts of thrifty husbandry.

The first Grange Hall was in Fredonia, New York (1868). The first meeting of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) was in Fredonia, New York. Fredonia was the replacement name submitted for "United States of America" in 1830. It was the coupling of the English word "freedom" with a Latinate ending. It did not get much support, but a number of states created cities named Fredonia. Fredonia, New York is in **Chautauqua** County.

June 17 thru the 21st, the 2009 Chautauqua will be presented by the Nebraska Humanities Council in Broken Bow. Weissert Grange will be actively supporting the community wide initiative. Scott Kaelin is the new President for Weissert. I firmly believe that we at the state level, and all Nebraska State Grange members, are obligated to give our time and support to the great history of the Grange that is connected to Custer County. As stated on Marker 59: US 2, N.W. of Broken Bow, Custer County: "The National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry was organized in Washington, D.C. in 1867. During the 1870's, it was the major voice of the American farmer and its social, educational, and fraternal activities brightened farm life. "Granger Laws",

enacted by state governments, established the pattern for modern America's regulated free enterprise economy. The Nebraska State Grange was organized in 1872, but errors in its co-operative ventures and the rise of the Farmers Alliance led to its decline. The Grange movement was re-established with the organization of Custer Center Grange near here in February, 1911. The State Grange was reorganized in Broken Bow, November, 1911. Local Granges have spread over the state and are noted for contributions to community life and sound farm policy. Custer Center Grange continues as the oldest Grange organization in Nebraska. James D. Ream--first Master of both the Custer Center and Nebraska State Granges--was one of Nebraska's leading agricultural pioneers. One of the first settlers in this valley in 1880, he developed his homestead into the beautiful Cedar Lawn Farm."

Please recall the effort that Weissert has made in hosting our state sessions. When we meet this September for our state session in Grand Island, I pray that the membership of Weissert will have nothing but a positive perspective on today's Nebraska State Grange. This June's Chautauqua and how we display/support the Weissert Grange is a referendum on the future of the Nebraska State Grange!

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**Nebraska State Grange
 Summer Bus Trip**

This year's Nebraska State Grange Bus Trip has been extended to be a five day trip, Wednesday, July 8 through Sunday, July 12, 2009. We will be heading to Colorado and touring in the Denver and Colorado Springs area. There are many, many sites to see in this beautiful

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part of the country. Details are still being developed. There will be a mixture of the usual and unusual (as usual). We have been invited to see the Colorado State Grange Museum and have lunch at the Castlewood Grange at Centennial, Colorado which is near Denver.

The bus is filling up quickly so if you are interested in going along contact Joe Fryman as soon as possible at 402-426-5773. It should be a **cool** trip!

preferably ^{or} by email
jhans@huntel.net

Tyson Foods Withdraws Filing to Use Grange Name

Tyson Foods last week withdrew its filing to register and trademark the term "Grange and Grassland" on a new line of natural meat products. The world's largestmeat packer filed an "Express Abandonment" with the U.S Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, thus ending more than a year of administrative actions and negotiations with the National Grange, which holds the trademark rights to the term "Grange." According to legal sources, Tyson Foods is now precluded from registering the same or substantially identical mark in the future.

The National Grange challenged Tyson's use of the mark on the basis that its loss to the food company would hamper the many grassroots educational and community services programs put on by approximately 2,700 local Granges across the United States , of which food is a crucial part. The National Grange gathered evidence on literally thousands of Grange sponsored community events to support their position. The parties were unable to come to any kind of licensing agreement.

National Grange President Ed Luttrell stated, "We appreciate Tyson Foods' recognition of the importance and value of this mark to the National Grange and especially to our grass-roots based community Granges that use it in conjunction with their

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**News Letter Articles are due
 by
 JUNE 1
 Send to Judy Hansen
 20657 State Highway 91
 Blair, NE 68008**

many educational and community service projects." Luttrell went on to point out that if the Grange does not defend its trademarks, it can lose them to other organizations and companies. "If we had lost the name "Grange" to Tyson Foods, local Granges were concerned that they might have had to get permission to use the term on their fund raiser breakfasts, dinners and pot luck suppers. Can you imagine that?"

While the term "Grange" can mean an old English farm, dictionaries also recognize it as the title for our national, state and local organizations. To many the term means an organization dedicated to the betterment of local communities through public service projects, rural advocacy, scholarship funds and other positive activities. Grange leaders are well aware of the meaning and importance of the mark and, over the years, have defended it against numerous infringements ranging from restaurants to housing developments and even to a line of imported cigarettes.

"Trademark defense is an ongoing effort," Luttrell stated. "Next we have to deal with a large European-owned supermarket chain that is using the term "Granger" on a line of meat, a dairy producer that wants to market milk under the mark DE LA GRANJA which means "from the Grange, and a winery that wants to label its product LA GRANJA which means The Grange. He expressed his thanks to the many community Granges that supplied examples of how they used the term "Grange" in their fund raising activities. "These literally thousands of examples played an important part in resolving the conflict with

Tyson Foods. We appreciated the support from our grassroots-based community Granges, and many thanks to Tyson Foods for their decision," he concluded.

Membership tip: I'M TOO BUSY

Have you ever said "I'm too busy"? I have. Did you mean it or was it just an excuse to not do something? I have used it both ways myself but it never seems to work for me. I still end up doing whatever anyway. Has anybody ever said "I'm too busy" to you

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when you asked them for help or do something for the Grange? Have you ever asked someone to join and they have said "I'm too busy"? Do you have a good answer for them when your hear "I'm too busy"? We should. Aren't we too busy? I know a lot of good Grangers out there and they are all busy people. We are working on things from Home, Family, work and Grange. We Care about people, schools, kids, health and safety. We care so much that we make time for Grange meetings, Grange programs, and Grange activities. We raise money to give dictionaries. We raise money for the foster children, March of Dimes, Deaf Awareness and etc..... We see the importance in it all. When we see a need we don't just complain about it, we act and do something about it.

I have had many people tell me that they haven't asked people to help or join because those people are too busy. That is just an excuse not to ask. We should

never assume someone else's answer. We should never give them that excuse automatically. If we believe so much in the Grange why should we assume that they won't see the value of the Grange and believe in it too? By giving them the excuse we are not allowing or offering the opportunity for other members or potential members to be a part. In some cases it is an excuse to make sure that we get to do it our way. Because, if the other person was to say "yes" to us asking then we may have to do things differently, like their way. By continually offering the opportunity to help with Grange programs, activities, and projects and by asking folks to join we are showing them that we value them. We are showing them that the Grange has value to us and our community and they need to be part of it. By asking we see them as an important person with things to offer to the Grange. And by being a part they will be able to get that good feeling of helping their community, State and Nation. So next time you think someone is too busy to ask to help out or join the Grange, ask anyway. You might just get surprised by their answer. If they do say "I'm too busy" then you answer "I know, I am very busy too but that is the reason I ask you". The Grange needs busy people. We don't need anymore members that don't want to do anything. We need people with ambition. People that want to accomplish something. Members that see or have a need and want to help out. Just like us. Because we are all too busy.

Elkhorn Grange members met at 7:30 p.m. on November 18, 2008 at the Skelgas Building in Elkhorn,

We welcomed the following guests to our meeting: Richard and Marilou Park from Oldenburg, Germany and Harlan Otte and Bill Schobert of Papillion Grange. Mr. and Mrs. Park and their daughter, Astrid are guests of Duane and Nancy Armbrust.

Dave Wells, historian, presented an informational program entitled "Salute to Veterans". He used graphics and songs relative to the times of the several recent wars our country was involved in. He also reminded us that "All gave some, some gave all".

The business portion of the meeting was opened with a salute to the flag and a prayer given by Joyce Everson. President Ed Andersen reported that 756 dictionaries have been presented to all 3rd graders in the Bennington, DC West, Elkhorn and Yutan Schools. We thank all the individuals, businesses, and organizations for their contributions for this "Words for Thirds" project. Phyllis Tooker also reported that she has bought and presented 262 dictionaries to the 3rd grade students in Ralston, David City and Bellwood, in memory of her late husband, Dr. Norman Tooker.

Members discussed the program and meal options for the upcoming Christmas meeting. Program Director, Phyllis Tooker asked for meeting and program suggestions for each month for 2009.

**Weissert Grange #419
Celebrates 50 Years!**

The Weissert Grange #419 reached a milestone on February 6, 2009, achieving its 50th Anniversary. The charter, signed by G.A. Spidel, Nebraska's State Master in 1959, and National Master, Hershel Newsom, hangs in the Grange Hall which was formerly the Weissert District #17 (Class I) School building. The Weissert Grange was organized by local resident Loyd Glover, on Feb 6, 1959. Charter members Beverly Peterson, Gene and Wilma French and Leo and DeVohn Peterson will be honored at a special anniversary celebration planned for July 4, 2009 when the Weissert Grange holds its annual Independence Day celebration at the Grange Hall.

The Seed Project

The National Grange is happy to announce our partnership with the America the Beautiful Fund, which will allow Granges to participate in their seed program. Local Granges can get 100 packets of vegetable, flower or herb packets for free only paying \$14.95 for shipping and handling. This program's main goal is benefiting the community, whether it is teaching local school children about growing a garden or growing a vegetable garden to help the local food bank or to fundraise. All you need to do is write a short letter describing what you will do with the seeds and fill out the application from America the Beautiful Fund. So far this program has saved more than 800 tons of seeds and 7 million flower bulbs from going to waste in landfills and has grown 1.75 billion pounds of food for the hungry. To get more information please contact

Samantha Johnson at
888-4-GRANGE ext. 109
sjohnson@nationalgrange.org.



April is Grange Month