

NEBRASKA STATE GRANGE NEWS

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October, November, December 2009



**President's Report
Joe Fryman**

Greetings to Grangers and Grange friends. With our 2009 State and National Conventions behind us, the Holiday Season is upon us. Margaret Smith, Assistant Steward and Information Director for the Nebraska State Grange, has an article in this issue that covers our State Convention. Therefore, I will cover some of the highlights of the National Grange Convention held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. For Tammy and me, it has become a family reunion we look forward to. We renew old friendships and make new ones. It is a pleasant mix of fun and business.

A special session was held, prior to the regular convention, to deal with proposed changes to the by-

laws. Most delegates and officers went on the host region tour. This year, the tour included a dairy farm and the Gerald Ford Presidential Museum. Traveling from site to site, we noticed nearly all the corn was still in the field. We also noticed there were many apple orchards that were unharvested. Our guide on the bus raised apples and said that there was a glut of apples this year and the price was so depressed it did not pay to pick them. It seemed like a real waste to us. The economy of Michigan has been hit hard with the recent recession.

As always, work resolutions took a good deal of time. I served on the Audit and Budget Committee and Tammy served on Citizenship Committee. Health care reform was on the table and delegates favored a plan that provides affordable health care to all but stops short of asking the government to provide insurance to all. Another controversial issue, that of climate change and the cap and trade proposals, was discussed. The action of the delegate body did not support cap and trade legislation as presently proposed.

This was the year for National Grange elections. There were several changes in officers. I was honored to be elected to the Executive Committee/Board of Directors. A complete list of officers is included in this newsletter.

One of the interesting speakers we heard was Colonel Martin Leppert. He has been working with

Afghanistan farmers and groups of soldiers with Ag backgrounds. He felt that if we are to be successful in Afghanistan we need to win over the common people of the country. The colonel stated that when the locals find out that these soldiers have farm backgrounds, there is an immediate respect and connection.

National Lecturer Judy Sherrod's Evening of Excellence was one of the best ever. Talent, public speaking and sign-a-song were featured by contestants from around the nation.

Nebraska was one of several states honored for a net increase in membership. For more information on the 2009 National Grange Convention, go to the website at www.NationalGrange.org.

Next years National Grange Convention will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina. The 2011 National Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma, will be hosted by the Great Plains states, which includes Nebraska.

There are many needs and opportunities for the Grange in Nebraska. As we prepare for a new year, let us be planning and acting on community service projects. Soon the legislature will be back in session and input is needed in this area. Continue to seek out new members for your Grange. We will be renewing our efforts to start new Granges and revitalizing others.

Tammy and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

**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**



**GRANGE FAMILY ACTIVITIES
Phyllis Tooker, Director**

I hope you Grangers enjoyed the State Convention as much as I did. I thought our room had a nice display with all of the contest entries, the toys, Linus blankets, preemie items, pop tabs and of course the Country Store. The summary of all of the Grange Family Activities for the past year follows and includes all the winners of the contests.

I hope you will let me know of any additions or changes that you would like to see in the Grange Family Activities next year. I have put things in the contests when you have suggested them in the past but I am not a mind reader so tell me what you would like.

The name of this committee was changed by the State Grange Executive Committee from the Women's Activities Committee to the Grange Family Activities Committee. This more nearly reflects the purpose and aims of the committee since Grange is a family organization.

This year 10 Granges returned the yearend Grange Family Activities report. These reports show the tremendous amount of work that is being done across the State by our Grange members. Two Granges received the Certificate of Merit Award for superior work. These were Elkhorn V.E. 393 and Weissert 419. Weissert did a tremendous job

with the Chautauqua meals and displays.

The Krystal Kandles earned \$440 after expenses. We sold at Craft Showa at Wilber, Fairbury and Trinity, which is in Papillion. Our booths at Fairbury and Wilber had many people stopping to ask questions about the Kandles but they also inquired about the grange. We did far better than any of the booths around us. I felt the state of the economy affected all sales. Ed and Darlene Andersen drilled all of the holes in the glass bricks and cleaned the bricks removing the paint that is on the glass when the bricks are purchased. Since 2005 we have sold 371 Kandles for a profit of \$5191. I feel this has been a wonderful project that not only made money for the Grange but put the name of the Grange before the public in a positive way.

My surprise was when I took the sugar Easter eggs to the regional Grange meeting in Grand Island and sold \$285 worth. I also took orders for next year.

The Words for Thirds Dictionary Project has again done very well with six Granges donating 1495 dictionaries to the third graders in their local schools.

119 ¼ lbs. of pop tabs were collected for the Ronald McDonald House. 10 Granges participated in this project.

28 Linus blankets were made and donated along with 26 items for preemies. These preemie items were donated to the Grand Island Hospital.

Toys for Loving resulted in 113 toys being made. Granges may take some toys for their local rescue squads etc. and all others are given to the Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Assoc. They put a Linus blanket and a toy in each bag along with other things for children. These are children who have everything

taken from them when they are removed from their home.

There were 17 entries in the baking contest, 15 entries in needlework and 3 entries in the craft contest for a total of 35 entries.



**Program Director
Darlene Janing**

The serendipity moments of 2009 keep surfacing in my mind. Many are related to Grange activities. The trip to Colorado, the fellowship with members and memories made. Much has been accomplished as reports were reviewed prior to the State Convention. Thank you to those who took the time to share what you did for programs and events. Those turning in reports are part of the light of the Grange symbolize with a candle.

One of our strengths is the willingness of members to share their thoughts in the Pen-In- Hand topics. Our entries were from the Waverly Grange. Those of you who took time to read them found the essays interesting.

The photos for the photography contest were generously shared by members. 52 photos were judged. Our judge from the Grand Island area was impressed with the quality. Thanks to Denise Kaelin for her help with the ribbons and arranging an attractive display.

The placing of the photos follows:

**Adult...Regular film
Buildings**

1. Old Chicken House
Peggy Bindel
2. A Sheep Barn
Leora Anderson

3. One of a Few Round Barns
Leora Anderson

Flowers

1. Sunflower in bloom
Leora Anderson
2. A Shower Bouquet
Marian Wilson
3. Just One of the Trees
Marian Wilson

People

1. I Love You Roscoe Marian
Wilson
2. See Grandma- I'm So Cute Rita
Glover
3. Grandma and Granddaughter
Leora Anderson

Animal

1. A Prize Winner
Marian Wilson
2. So Good Looking
Marian Wilson
3. Don't Bother Us
Rita Glover

Personal Interest

1. The Band Plays on
Rita Glover
2. Memorial Day
Marian Wilson
3. Wish We Could Ride
Rita Glover

Black & White

1. Out of Use, Not Forgotten
Leora Anderson
2. Old Windmill
Leora Anderson

Youth..Regular film

People

1. All Grown Up
Tamera Hall

Animal

1. Double Trouble
Tamera Hall

Adult..Digital

Buildings

1. No Place Like Home
Jeannie Jeary

Flowers

1. Autumn Beauty
Peggy Bindel

People

1. Girls Just Want to Have Fun
Kevin Cooksley
2. Water Anyone?
Kevin Cooksley

3. On-half Mile Lesson
Shannon Cooksley

Personal Interest

1. Parade of the Island
Jeannie Jeary
2. E-9 Promotion
Peggy Bindel
3. We Will Make Beautiful
Music
Jeannie Jeary

Youth..Digital

Animals

1. Hear No Evil
Holly Kaelin
2. Spring Youth
Alesha Hall

Scenery

1. A Piece of Heaven
Holly Kaelin
2. Best Part of Country Live
Alesha Hall
3. Westerville's Peace
Holly Kaelin

Personal Interest

1. Down With the Bugs
Alesha Hall

Best of the Show Adult:

"Peek-a Boo" Peggy Bindel

Best of the Show Youth:

"A Piece of Heaven" Holly Kaelin

Prior to the State Grange Convention members dined at The Chicken Coop in historical downtown Grand Island. They toured the Grand Theater, Prairie Winds Art Gallery and an antique store.

Nebraska did not attend the Cornstate Lecturer Conference in Texas. The Conference will be in Kansas in 2010. Hopefully, members will be able to attend in 2010.

A big **Thank You** to those who helped make this past year a success. Richard and I wish you safe travel and happy memories for the days and holidays ahead.

I would encourage you to review the packets passed out and help make old things new again. If you need help with a program or want one presented please call.



Community Service Shannon Cooksley

Dear Grangers;

My senior mind was grasping as to what I might have to share with you this time and then wouldn't you know, along came our letter from The Dictionary Project thanking us for our order.

If you have ordered your dictionaries you probably have received this same letter that begins with "A Season of Gratitude." Then it goes on to explain what Grat-i-tude means: ***The quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.***

The cycle of gratitude is amazing to me and simply has to be a God created plan. We do Community Service because as Grangers we are thankful and desirous to return service and kindness to our communities. Then, we see the benefits of our service and enjoy the outward appreciation for it...and so the cycle continues.

I like this word GRATITUDE. And I am especially thankful for all of my Grange friends!

May your joy be full this holiday season and your gratitude be expressed to the ONE who created you.



News Letter Articles are due
by

February 15

Send to Judy Hansen
20657 State Highway 91
Blair, NE 68008

or
preferably by email
jhans@huntel.net

**2009 State Convention
Highlights
Margaret Smith**

The Nebraska State Grange met at the Riverside Inn/Howard Johnson motel in Grand Island, Nebraska from September 18 to 20, 2009. The first event was a walking tour on Saturday afternoon in downtown Grand Island including lunch at the Chicken Coop, then a tour of the restored Grand Theater, which brought back many memories. The next stop was the Heartland Antique Mall, which gave the visitors an opportunity to estimate the value of items stored at home. The last stop was the Prairie Winds Art Center with displays of both paintings and photography, also an interesting time.

The convention officially opened Saturday morning. The report from National Grange President, Ed Luttrell was on a DVD allowing him to deliver his own address to those Grangers in attendance.

Joe Fryman, Blair, Nebraska, President of the Nebraska State Grange, gave his annual report. He began by thanking those who had assisted the work of the Grange in the past year including the officers and directors of the organization and the Nebraska Rural Radio Association for the five minutes of air time each Friday at 1:40 PM and the inclusion of Grange input at the quarterly meetings and also their unwavering advocacy for agriculture in the Heartland.

President Fryman paid tribute to Grangers who have passed on in the last year including the State Vice President, Paul Hansen of Blair, in June.

He also addressed the challenges for Agriculture in the past year with a depressed economy, low prices, high cost of production, unusual weather and misinformation from groups with an agenda, such as animal rights groups. We must find ways to counter these threats to our

ability to produce safe and abundant food. We must also cope with all the new rules dealing with climate change. How much is caused by man and how much is just normal fluctuation? He quoted an essay written on April 26, 1912 by a farmer on the Kansas/Nebraska border whose idea was that intensive cultivation was causing rain more often and in greater quantity. What would he have written in the "Dirty Thirties"? The same writer also mentioned the challenges in changing from hand tools to horse drawn machines that could cut and bind 13 to 15 acres a day and the difficulty in finding competent men to run them and also the addition of new crops such as alfalfa, fruit trees and honey bees.

President Fryman also touched on Health Care Reform and the need to decide what we do and do not want. Grangers were reminded of the continued presence of the State Grange at the Nebraska Unicameral.

He challenged the membership by saying "Our future will be whatever we make it and success is gained only through perseverance.

The Nebraska Grange tour to Colorado in July was a success again this year and included lunch with the Colorado State Grangers at Victory Grange near Aurora and a tour of the Colorado State Grange Museum. Next year's trip will probably go to Minnesota to the Oliver Hudson Kelly Living History Farm and other locations.

There were several officer changes this year. Kevin Cooksley of Weissert, was elected Vice President; Margaret Smith, Broken Bow, was elected Assistant Steward and Nancy Miller of Fairbury, Ceres.

Representing National Grange was the Communications Director, Jennifer Dugent, who gave several workshops on how to use the interactive web site "Team Speak", noting all the membership building materials that are available from National Grange, all the membership benefits that are available, how to

use internet sites such as Craig's list, Twitter, Face Book and others to post Grange events and attract interest among younger people and those looking for places to volunteer.

The Community Service awards to local Granges were presented to the top four Nebraska Granges after the Saturday Lunch. The reports were judged by Pennie Morgan, from the Grand Island Central Community College leadership Development Dept. and she announced the winners. First place went to Weissert Grange in Custer County. Some of their projects were: Assisting with a benefit raising \$30,000 for a Cochlear implant for a local mother of 9, who lost her hearing from meningitis; helping with the Chautauqua in Broken Bow by serving food each evening and setting up a display of items used during the thirties, presenting student dictionaries to all 3rd and 4th graders in Custer County; hosting a hospitality center at the county fair and members helping with the Hospital Rummage sale.

Second place went to South West Grange at Arapahoe. Some of their projects were cleaning up and maintaining a cemetery, furnishing rides for elderly residents to doctors and other appointments and helping with the local food pantry.

Third place was Seward Grange with projects of helping with the Seward July 4th celebration and parade, a Senior Citizens band, supporting the High School Band and youth base ball teams and a swim program.

Fourth place went to Riverview Grange at Blair. Their projects included supporting the Washington County Recycling program and helping with the Bloodmobile and a Hospital Rummage Sale.

The Nebraska State Grange Scholarship went to Holly Kaelin of Westerville. She is a Student at UNK majoring in History Education and is the daughter of Denise and Scott

Kaelin. The Deaf Education Scholarship went to Scott Gies of Broken Bow, who has been hearing impaired most of his life. He is the son of Monte Gies.

The Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award was presented by Kevin Cooksley to former State Senator, Carol Hudkins for her many contributions to Agriculture during her 16 years in the Legislature and her service through many other organizations.

Phyllis Tooker, of Ralston and Family Activities Director, reported that Nebraska Granges presented 1495 Student Dictionaries elementary students across the state, 119 lbs of "Pop Tops" were collected, Nebraska Grangers made more than a table full of stuffed toys to be given to children when they are taken from home into foster care and a bag full of tiny knitted caps and booties for premature babies which were donated to St. Francis Hospital in Grand Island.

The Saturday evening entertainment was a Quartet, "Director's Choice". They are part of the Conestoga Barbershop Chorus. They were an excellent group and were enjoyed very much.

*****See page 9 for photo highlights of the convention*****

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National Grange News

Luttrell Reelected National Grange President

Ed Luttrell, Oregon businessman, has been elected to a second term as National Grange President. Originally elected President in November 2007, during his first term, Luttrell has concentrated on new Grange formation and strengthening ties between State and National levels of the organization in order to aid Community Granges in achieving their goals. Several new Granges have been formed during his tenure. The Grange is meeting this week in Grand Rapids, Michigan for its 143rd annual convention.

Mr. Luttrell has extensive Grange experience including Oregon State Master from 1996-2000, when he also served as a lobbyist for the Grange. His Grange accomplishments started in 1978 when he was named Oregon's Outstanding Young Granger. He served on the Oregon State Grange Membership Committee from 1986 to 1988 and was Oregon State Gatekeeper from 1988 to 1992. He and his wife Celia were Oregon State Grange Outstanding Young Couple in 1989. Ed served as State Youth Director from 1990 to 1992 and as Editor of the Oregon Grange Bulletin from 1992 to 1996. In the past, he has served on the boards of the Oregon Lands Coalition, Grange Mutual Insurance Company, and Timberland States Insurance Company.

Reelected to the post of Grange Vice-President is Jimmy Gentry of Statesville, North Carolina. Gentry is current President of the North Carolina State Grange and a member of the National Grange Executive Board. He and his wife, Anita, are members of North Carolina's Troutman Grange. The Gentrys, who have two grown daughters, are also active in the

Troutman Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Reflecting satisfaction with the current Grange direction, delegates from the 40 Grange states reelected many current officers. The full slate of Grange officers is as follows:

President: Ed Luttrell

Vice President: Jimmy Gentry

Lecturer: Pete Pompper

Steward: William "Chip" Narvel

Assistant Steward: Roger Boswick

Lady Asst Steward: Beth Merrill

Chaplain: Phyllis Wilson

Treasurer: Dwight Baldwin

Secretary: Judy Sherrod

Gatekeeper: Scott Sherman

Ceres: Linda Chase

Pomona: Linda Lewis

Flora: Parry Lee

Executive Committee:

Phil Prelli

Joe Fryman

High Priest of Demeter:

Thomas Severance

Priest Archon: Daniel Bascom

Priest Annalist: Bruce Croucher

Trademark Update

Ed Luttrell

Since my last update, your National Grange has made significant progress to protect our registered trademarks for our exclusive beneficial use. Our registered trademarks, including the names GRANGE, NATIONAL GRANGE, and the GRANGE LOGO, are among our organization's most valuable assets. Each year, Granges across the nation conduct millions of dollars in fund raising efforts using our trademarks to advertise their events. These successful fundraising efforts help sustain our Grange chapters financially. They are a significant source of funding for Grange sponsored community service projects and promote local economic development efforts.

Given our successes, it is probably no surprise that for-profit corporations and others without ties

to the Grange organization would attempt to use our registered trademarks to brand their products to appeal to consumers. If successful, these corporate efforts to acquire exclusive use of our registered trademarks could eventually require Grange chapters to cease using the name GRANGE to advertise the sale of goods, products, or services to the general public. It could allow further infringements that would associate the name GRANGE with products, services, and even partisan political activities that are contrary to the historic mission of the organization. Your National Grange remains deeply committed to defending the use of our registered trademarks exclusively for the good of the Order.

The good news I have to report is that, to date, we have never lost an infringement case or trademark registration challenge. While we still have several on-going major infringement and/or registration Update on Grange Trademark Protection Efforts By Ed Luttrell, National Master cases pending, our legal position in these cases remains strong. We are confident that we will ultimately prevail in each and every one of these cases.

Unfortunately, I must report that the legal costs of defending our trademarks in multiple cases are a major financial burden on your National Grange. It is challenging because we cannot anticipate when the next major infringement or trademark registration will occur. This forces us to address these situations as they arise and devise unique defenses for each occurrence. Your National Grange leadership has developed a four part strategy to address the legal and financial challenges we face. Once this strategy is implemented, our trademark protection costs will be reduced and we can redirect National Grange resources to serve our members and promote Grange growth and development. The outline of this strategy is:

Provide Guidance and Direction for the Appropriate Use of Grange Trademarks:

At last November's National Grange Convention, the delegates adopted a resolution on first reading entitled "National Grange Intellectual Property." This resolution will create a new article, Article XVIII, in Chapter 4 of the National Grange Digest of Laws that will define the ownership and permitted uses of Grange trademarks. Final adoption of this resolution at this year's annual convention is critical to our efforts to defend our trademarks. It demonstrates that we have a well thought out regime that defines how local, county, and state Granges can legitimately use our trademarks. It will remove the ambiguities that have arisen regarding Grange trademarks incidental to the sale of former Grange properties and the formation and/or continuation of Grange affiliated entities, such as fairs, farmers markets, foundations, and service companies.

In 2009, we have successfully resolved or settled 10 major infringement cases and trademark registrations including our dispute with Tyson Foods. We continue to build on our successes and oppose or pursue licenses for numerous infringements and trademark registrations. These cases are at various stages in the legal process and we will pursue some of these cases well into 2010.

Register Grange Trademarks Under Additional, Specific Commercial Categories:

Most controversies arising with infringement and registration cases arise from confusion related to the scope of commercial activities, products, and services that carry the GRANGE trademark. Currently our trademark registrations are general in nature and broadly encompass current and potential uses. But when we are challenged by another party that is infringing or registering to use the name GRANGE for a specific purpose, we are required to provide

specific evidence to the trademark authorities that demonstrate how our general uses of our trademark would conflict with the specific use proposed by the other party and/or would create confusion in the minds of the public. Producing evidence in each and every trademark case is currently the most time consuming aspect of our trademark legal defense strategy.

Fortunately U.S. trademark law allows us to add specific registrations to our general trademark registrations. By applying for trademark registrations under specific, commercial categories, we would be protected under both specific categories of commercial activities as well as generally protected under trademark law. It would reduce our burden to produce evidence for each trademark case. The National Grange has developed an 18-page research matrix outlining numerous categories of programs, products, and services that are, or have been, marketed using Grange trademarks. This research project is too large to rely only on National Grange staff. We have sent this document out to the State Granges for their assistance in recruiting volunteers to conduct research on the history of Grange commercial activities.

As a side benefit, this research will give us new information regarding a part of Grange history that has not been extensively covered by previous research.

Seek Federal Legislation to Provide Enhanced Legal Protection for Grange Trademarks:

Even if we are successful in implementing the first three points of our trademark protection strategy, we remain vulnerable to potentially catastrophic legal costs associated with defending our trademarks against powerful corporations like Tyson Foods, Inc. and Aldi Corp. who have time, money, and lawyers to legally contest ownership of

general trademarks held by non-profit organizations, like the Grange. Fortunately, the National Grange is not the first non-profit organization to face this challenge. In the past, Congress has provided enhanced trademark protection to certain iconic trademarks held by non-profits. To date, 44 other famous, non-profit organizations have benefited from enhanced trademark protection. Examples include: 4-H, FFA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, American Red Cross, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the U.S. Olympic Committee.

The National Grange Legislative Department has discussed introducing legislation to provide the National Grange with enhanced trademark protection with several of our allies in Congress. The response has been highly favorable. I am certain that, with the strong support of our community Granges, we will have widespread support for legislation to protect our National Grange trademarks from financially devastating challenges from major corporations.

I also want to share with you the financial situation facing the National Grange. As of June 30, 2009, we have spent \$213,611 on trademark protection efforts. This is already \$91 more than we spent in all of 2008. We have only received \$77,727.01 from a budgeted income of \$250,000, to come from a one-time donation of \$100 per community Grange. We monitor the National Grange budget closely and we are currently in the black, but it is very tight. I want to thank Minnesota and Rhode Island for exceeding their goal. Also deserving recognition are Idaho, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania for reaching over 50% of their goal. I am also encouraged that the average donation per community Grange is more than \$180, well above our goal of \$100 per Grange. I remain optimistic that when our local Granges become aware of our

financial burden to defend their Grange trademarks, they will respond generously. Your help in communicating the importance of our trademark protection efforts to our community Granges and the need for additional financial contributions to the National Grange to address this problem is crucial to our eventual success.

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Membership

There are three A's that every leader needs to work on in themselves: attitude, attention and action. If all leaders would work on making these three A's top priorities in all projects they lead they would all become very successful.

Attitude

This is the foundation to all that you do. It will set the tone for everyone else. You need to choose to be positive because a negative attitude will only lead to trouble. A leader that chooses to be positive and always look on the bright side will rub off on those that are following. Our attitude needs to be open and welcoming. We need to listen to all comments and ideas, which will make everyone

feel important. Open communication usually helps in avoiding problems later on because it allows you to see potential problems. Good leaders are ones that have that can-do attitude. They deal with problems and work through trying times; always staying focused on the team and the project. And last, but not at all the least, our attitude needs to be fun and enjoyable. If the leader is having fun, then the rest of the team will be free to have fun and enjoy them selves. After all enjoying ourselves makes the time go faster and the work seem worthwhile.

Attention

We, as good leaders, need to remember who we are and what our principles and values are and be able to express them to the outside world. We need to have a clear vision of what we are trying to accomplish and ensure that it builds upon our principles and values. Leaders always need to remember that non-members' and potential new members' perception of us is made of the things they see and hear. We must make sure that what they see and hear from us represents our principles, values and vision. One way to accomplish this is by our publicity. Whatever the media you are working with, i.e. TV, radio, newspapers, flyers, websites, or just word of mouth, leaders must set an example of what to say how to speak, and how to act, so that everyone is able to see who we are and what principles and values the Grange is made of.

Action

Winners act! The Grange is a winner and the most successful Granges act: they do something. Successful Granges have strong leaders that don't expect others to do something for them; instead they get out there and do it for themselves. They lead; they get their hands dirty by doing

whatever it takes; they involve others and encourage them into action also. Action is the antidote to despair. The first thing to getting a Grange back on its feet when revitalizing is to get some kind of action started. It doesn't matter how big or small the action is, it just matters that there is some action. Our actions lead to opportunities for fun, which brings groups closer together. Leading a team in a project is very rewarding when you can see that thru the actions of the team others are learning responsibility. Active people and Granges attract other active people. We all want more doers in our Granges. By doing more activities and getting more folks involved, you can attract more active members. Granges that have not done many activities don't generally have the best attitudes. In my experience, When a Grange starts becoming more active, their attitudes improve.

As leaders we set the direction for all meetings, projects, programs, and activities. We need to be mindful of this because others will adopt the example we set. Many of you are doing "Triple A" and for that the Grange thanks you. Others need to working on adding one or two more of the A's, but we all need to continue to work on all three: attitude, attention, and action if we are to continue to grow in our leadership skills.



Legend of the Candy Cane

Candy canes are favorites of Christmas decorations among kids. These red and white J-shaped candies are tasty too. It is said that

their origin lies in an event in Cologne Cathedra about two hundred thirty years ago. It was said that one evening, the children were being very loud and noisy at the Church and were not paying attention to the choirmaster. In his efforts to keep them quiet and still for Nativity ceremony, he gave them a long, white, sugar candy stick. Since, giving out chocolates and candies at church was otherwise considered sacrilegious; he bent these sticks on one end to make them look like shepherds' cane who went to worship the Christ on the day he was born and thus, attached a religious significance to them.

In 1847, a German-Swedish immigrant in Wooster, Ohio liked candy canes so much that he put them on his Christmas tree as decorations. The idea soon caught up and became quite a fashion. By 1900, candy canes started coming in red stripes and peppermint flavoring and it was said that the white color was symbolic Christ's purity while the red symbolized the wounds he suffered. The peppermint flavoring was said to represent the hyssop herb described in Bible for purification. Some other interpret that the 'J' shaped candy cane is not a cane but the letter 'J' that stands for Jesus. However, there are no evidences supporting these views. Around 1920, Bob McCormack from Georgia started mass-producing candy canes that came to be known as Bob's Candies. Since then, the firm has remained the most popular candy-cane manufacturer company in the world.



My Christmas Wish To YOU

By Catherine Pulsifer

If I could wish a wish for you,
it would be for peace and happiness
not only now,
but for the whole year through!

I wish that there always be food on
your table.
And that you always remember
those less fortunate.
May you always take time to share,
and thank those who share with you.

I wish for time, so you may reflect
on the blessings that you have, and
that you express your love
to those who are dear to you.

May you never feel lonely,
because there are those who care.
That you realize: you are special,
you are unique, you make a
difference,
not only at Christmas, but all year!

I wish for your thoughts to be
positive ones,
that you never quit, that you never
give up,
and that you continue to learn.
I wish for the love, peace, and joy
of Christmas be yours always.

**May all the beauty of this
wonderous season fill
your heart with peace
and joy**

