



a quarter's worth

Notes from the National Lecturer

My first year as National Lecturer is almost complete and what a year it has been!

I have enjoyed hearing from so many of you with your success stories, your suggestions and your questions. Unfortunately, COVID-19 was still causing havoc for many of us, and my personal travel opportunities were limited this year. I truly appreciate the technology that has kept me in touch with so many of you.

As I look forward to 2023, I began to consider the charge that was given to me when I was elected National Lecturer.

According to the installation, I am to "be prepared, at all regular meetings as time will permit, with a list of exercises, consisting of essays, discussions, readings and music to be responded to by the members." I am also to "urge and encourage the young and the diffident to become writers, readers and speakers in Grange meetings and thus develop and direct to greater usefulness." I

cont'd on page 2



Give yourself the gift of lifelong learning

By Ann Bercher
National Grange Lecturer

Probably everyone reading this has heard the words "lifelong learning" or something similar. It is a subject that institutions like museums, community education and even some parks use to entice the public to participate in their programs. But what does it actually mean?

Lifelong learning refers to a form of self-initiated education usually focusing on personal development and generally happens outside of any formal educational setting such as a school or work. It is best described as a voluntary activity with the purpose of pursuing personal

interests, passions, or ambitions. Most people are curious individuals and are open to discovery or learning something new if it will improve their quality of life and/or achieve some level of personal fulfillment and satisfaction.

During our times of isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic, I am certain that almost all of us forged into some kind of lifelong learning activity. Certainly, learning to use a new technology, such as Zoom meetings applies. Many began learning more about cooking or new cuisines. Some may have explored learning a new language. Suddenly there were oodles of on-line classes available for little to no expense.

Did you know there are benefits to *continued on page 3*

Plant a Seed!



Continue to use the Heirloom Program readings in your Grange meetings. Those nuggets from our lessons may generate some new reflections regarding what it means to be a Granger.



NATIONAL NOTES *cont'd... from page 1*

should be addressing subjects that "include household and the home, as well as the farm and the field" and be sure that "lectures, and other information for the Good of the Order are promptly laid before the Grange or distributed among the members." I decided I should evaluate myself.

This newsletter, the Patrons Chain, *Good Day!* magazine, and the National Grange website have been the vehicles for distributing programs, contests and other information. I realize that not everyone has access to digital media, and I count on you to pass this information on to others for the Good of the Order.

I have been trying to develop a "Lecturer's Program Playbook" with your help to distribute examples of exercises, discussion topics, and readings to share with our membership. That project is on-going. I have written articles about gardening in this newsletter, and I have written culinary articles in *Good Day!* magazine. I have fallen short on urging the "young and the diffident" to participate, but I believe that our Junior and Youth programs have done that successfully, and I have invited the Youth to participate in a new way with the Evening of Excellence this year.

I have taken to heart the quest to emphasize educational topics when I can. While I have kept two of our contests from the past, I have also introduced two new contests with the intention that they will lead to some opportunities to educate ourselves and share our findings with others.

A subject that has been coming up from time to time usually follows a discussion about limiting the use of "Master" and "Overseer" in our Grange meetings and in media. Frequently, a solution that is suggested is to explain the history of the terms and why they are still used. While I think that is a great idea, I need to ask if everyone knows what that history is?

I personally have some background in the philosophy of Oliver Kelley in the formation of the Grange, but I am not so familiar with the ideas of the other Founders. I know that there was a lot of discussion - some agreements and some disagreements - regarding the name of the organization, the ritual and the language used. I would like some of our Grange history loving members to join me in sifting through the documentation that we have from our founders and create a brief history of the Grange to share with new members, potential member and at our meetings. Please contact me to set up a preliminary Zoom meeting to begin this project.

I look forward to discovering more ways I can fulfill my obligation as your National Lecturer. Your suggestions and comments are always welcome.



Q1 DEADLINE

Deadline for submissions for *A Quarter's Worth*, First Quarter edition is February 1st. Send articles, ideas, tips, shout outs and other content to National Lecturer Ann Bercher at lecturer@nationalgrange.org or contact her by phone at (612) 501-1231



2023 VIRTUAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

4 Divisions

- Farm Machinery
- Potluck Activities
- Gardens
- Grange Family

Everyone can enter up to 3 photos!

WINNERS WILL BE INCLUDED IN A PROMOTIONAL ITEM FROM THE LECTURER'S DEPARTMENT

Enter at bit.ly/grangephoto2023

ENTRY DEADLINE
Sept 1, 2023



2022 Contest Winner - Andrea Myers Mannix



Good Day!™

SUBSCRIBE FOR JUST \$16 A YEAR!
GIVE A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION OR START YOUR OWN TODAY

www.nationalgrange.org/goodday

LIFELONG LEARNING *cont'd... from page 1*

tively pursuing lifelong learning? It can spark our self-motivation and gets us out of a rut. By exploring a personal interest, we might change a routine to do something we have always wanted to do.

It helps reduce boredom and makes life more interesting and might even make our conversations with others more interesting as we share our activities with newfound enthusiasm with others.

It can even help develop valuable skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, leadership, reflection and creativity.

Some examples of lifelong learning activities include journaling to practice reflection, or perhaps to begin writ-

ing that memoir. Learning to meditate may help alleviate stress. Learning a new skill such as sewing, woodworking, or upholstery involves several skills. You could learn a foreign language, take up a musical instrument, join a new club, play a new sport or game, or teach a class through community education.

Find an activity that excites you and begin to harness your inner, curious student. Give yourself the gift of your own time. What results may surprise you, and you will only be more than happy to share the end results with your Grange family!

Local family honored for community service

By Jackie Schrom
Secretary, Bethlehem Grange #137 (NY)

Tucked in the quiet community neighborhood of Selkirk, New York, there sits a locally operated food pantry. Ray and Lisa Janicke saw the need and decided to start their "Kindness Kabinet". They purchased a small shed, stocked it with shelving and a refrigerator, and loaded it up with canned goods, fresh produce, eggs, bread, baby food and diapers, and some cleaning supplies. And pet food, too, because if the people were short on food, their pets must be, too.



Ray, left, and Lisa Janicke, were honored for their work operating The Kindness Kabinet food pantry. They are pictured with Stephen Coye, President of the New York State Grange.



"Kindness starts at home," Lisa is quoted as saying. Apart from their own donations, with the help of a few other dedicated

friends and family, they have kept this pantry going. This has not always been easy, as the need continues to grow. They currently have about ten families and a few stop-ins that use their pantry.

Ray is a truck driver for a local trucking company and Lisa is a registered nurse. They have three children of their own and much pride in their community. They started their food pantry in 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic hit - good timing for sure.

Proud of this couple's devotion and generosity, Bethlehem Grange #137's Community Service Chairman, Charles Ryan, Jr., brought forth the idea to recognize the Janickes with a Community Service Award. With the National Grange award, and with State President Stephen Coye presenting, the honor was bestowed on October 23rd at the Bethlehem Grange. Along with the award, a few gift cards from local grocery stores and a generous donation of food items from the community were given to help the pantry.

The mission statement of this family, "kindness begins at home," is a lesson that we all can practice.

Candlelighting Ceremony for the Holidays

By Jenn Nauss

Lecturer, Pennsylvania State Grange

Did you know that between the middle of November and the end of January, there are more than two dozen major holidays around the world? In an effort to educate our members, as well as to offer different worldviews, here's a simple candlelighting program you may choose to use during the winter months. I encourage you to use members of your Grange to take turns lighting individual candles.

Feel free to find different ways to display the candles - as centerpieces on tables for a dinner, displayed on the altar or a table in the center of the Grange meeting, on a stage behind the Graces - be creative!

We light the Candle of Thanksgiving. A federal non-religious holiday observed in the United States on the fourth Thursday of November, our American version of Thanksgiving was first observed in 1621 by the Pilgrims in thanks for a bountiful harvest. Thanksgiving is observed in one form or another and at different times in many cultures around the world.

We light the Candle of Black Friday. The day following Thanksgiving in the United States marks the start of the traditional holiday shopping season. It is characterized by highly promoted sales at discounted prices by many retailers with many stores opening very early.

We light the Candle of Pearl Harbor. December 7th marks the anniversary of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor naval base in Hawaii in 1941. This surprise military attack brought the United States into World War II; we pause to remember all those lives sacrificed in this global conflict.

We light the Candle of Hanukkah. This 8-day Jewish celebration falling in November or December commemorates the rededication of the second Temple in Jerusalem. Often called the Festival of Lights, the holiday is celebrated with the lighting of the menorah candles, traditional foods, games and gifts.

We light the Candle of Christmas. A U.S. federal holiday since 1870, Christmas is celebrated on December 25th as both a sacred religious holiday and a worldwide cultural, commercial phenomenon. Christians celebrate the day as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, a spiritual leader whose teachings form the basis their religion.

We light the Candle of Boxing Day. Primarily celebrated in England and territories of the British Empire on the day following Christmas, Boxing Day originated as a holiday to give gifts to the poor and do acts of kindness for those in need,

We light the Candle of Kwanzaa. This week-long observance from December 26-January 1 to celebrate African-American heritage and culture began in 1966. Kwanzaa has seven core principles – unity, self-determination, collective work & responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

We light the Candle of the New Year. Many cultures celebrate the beginning of a new year in some manner. In the Gregorian calendar, the most widely used calendar system today, New Year occurs on January 1. The Chinese, Islamic, and Jewish new years are among other well-known new year celebrations observed other than January 1st.



MVP (Most Valuable Patrons)

Any Grange member that entered any of the contests this year! The competition was brisk, and the judges had a hard time making their decisions. Your participation makes for a great contest!

'Tis the season for Grange fairs in Connecticut

By Dave Roberts
Lecturer, Connecticut State Grange

For many, one of the highlights of the summer season is attending Grange fairs around our state of Connecticut. Riverton Grange #169 held their 33rd annual Riverton Grange Fair on August 20th at the Riverton Grange Hall where attendees browsed exhibits, participated in a composting class sponsored with a grant from Connecticut State Grange, dined on breakfast and lunch food, and were able to safely reconnect with friends from around the region.

For only the second time, Riverton Grange sponsored the Community Citizen initiative promoted by National Grange.

This year, D. Joseph "Joe" Jackson, National Executive Committeeman for the Department of Connecticut for the American Legion, was selected as the 2022 honoree.

Joe resides in the New Hartford/Barkhamsted area and when he is not traveling, you may see him and his wife Joanne, Past Department President for the Connecticut American Legion Auxiliary, eating at local restaurants or volunteering at various non-profits. Both Joe and his wife are members of the Barkhamsted Lions Club, ECAD Lions Club Branch. They are also active members of the Barkhamsted Senior Center.

But Joe's primary volunteer mission



(L to R): Riverton Grange President Dave Roberts, 2022 Community Citizen Honoree Joe Jackson, Joanne Jackson, and Riverton Grange Fair President Rode Anstett

is serving the American Legion where he has been a member for over 45 years.

Joe served as the Department Commander of Connecticut (1988-1989), after serving in a number of other positions. He has also held numerous offices in his own Riverton American Legion Post #159 and the 6th District. On the national level, Joe has served on the Aerospace Committee, Convention Commission Liaison Committee, Citizens Flag Alliance, Membership & Post Activities Committee, Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee, and Subcommittee on Committees. He represented the Connecticut Department extremely well and is highly-respected

for his service on the national level, where he also served as the Alternate National Executive Committeeman from 2007-2013.

In October 2013, Joe became National Committeeman and he has been holding that position ever since. This is just a snapshot of what D. Joseph Jackson has done for the American Legion, both here in Connecticut and throughout the nation.

Because of all these wonderful attributes, D. Joseph Jackson was awarded the 2022 Community Citizen Award by Riverton Grange President Dave Roberts and Riverton Grange Fair President Rode Anstett.

Unusual Holidays make great Programs

By Diana Nordquest
Lecturer, Ohio State Grange

A new category in the Ohio State Grange "Programs to Share" contest produced some interesting entries. Members were encouraged to plan a program around an unusual holiday.

Our winning entry provided members with a wealth of information about "Juneteenth- Our Newest Federal Holiday". Other entries were National Mitten Tree Day on December 6, National Smile Day on May 31, and National Scavenger Hunt Day on May 24.

Every month, week, and day in the year has a variety of things that are celebrated.

Lecturers are always looking for new program topics. Be creative and plan a program around some of the special days. Some holidays could spark a new community service project for your Grange. Ask your members to choose a holiday and plan a program for your Grange.

These are some sites with many unusual holidays.

- <https://www.brownielocks.com>
- <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/fun/>
- <https://www.holidayscalendar.com>

Connecticut State Grange Family Festival a tremendous success

By Dave Roberts

Lecturer, Connecticut State Grange

As the summer ends and our kids/grandkids head back to school and college, I wanted to share memories of Sunday, August 14th, when our Connecticut State Grange Family Activities Department, chaired by Dawn Percoski, and our Lecturer's Department, chaired by Dave Roberts, co-sponsored the 2022 Connecticut State Grange Family Festival at Hillstown Grange in East Hartford, CT.

The day featured food, exhibits, contests and fun for all ages. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out over the two set-up days and to all our judges who had to make some extremely tough decisions over which entries were worthy of first, second, or third prizes.

Our Connecticut State Grange Lecturer's Department sponsored three contests at this year's Family Festival:

- Photography Contest
- Talent Contest
- "A Number" Skit Contest

I am pleased to report that the Connecticut State Grange Lecturer's photography contest had over 40 entries in five separate categories this year. Congratulations to all our winners and to all who entered their special photographs this year. First place winners received a newly-designed blue ribbon and \$10; second place winners received a newly-designed red ribbon and \$7; and third place winners received a newly-designed white ribbon and \$3.

All winners received their prize winnings and the winning photos were displayed in the break room at Connecticut State Grange Convention this October. We certainly have many talented photographers



Hillstown Grange won first place for their skit in the "A Number" contest.

among our Grange members!

The "Best in Show" GRAND PRIZE for photography was awarded to Dawn Percoski of Vernon Grange for her terrific photo in the animal category that I have affectionately titled "Dog Kissing Girl!".

The 2022 talent contest came roaring back to life following the pandemic, and the first prize winner was Lorraine Paul ("Raine Sings") of Riverton Grange. Lorraine performed at the Connecticut State Grange Convention during the Friday, October 21 celebration banquet.

The "A Number" skit contest was won by Hillstown Grange (\$50 gift card, plaque, and blue ribbon) and second prize was awarded to North Stonington Community Grange (\$25 gift card, certificate, and red ribbon). Congratulations on the great skits!

"Fun" is a key component of our Grange experience and Connecticut Grange continues to try to provide impactful programming that also adds "fun" to the agenda.

Old-Fashioned Cranberry Relish

Submitted by Philip J Vonada,
National Grange Communications Director



This is a perfect addition to any holiday table or potluck!

- 1 c. whole cranberries, ground
- 1 c. apples, ground (*I use half of a honeycrisp and half of a granny smith*)
- 1 c. walnuts, ground
- 1 c. sugar
- 2 3-oz. boxes of strawberry Jello
- 2 C hot water

Mix first four ingredients and let sit overnight in the refrigerator.
Dissolve Jello in boiling water. Combine with ground mixture. Let stand and set. Serve chilled.

2023 National Grange Publicity Item Contest

Submit by September 1, 2023
bit.ly/grangepublicity2023

ANY Grange can enter ANY kind of publicity!

- In-House
- Professionally-Created

