



The Granite State Granger

Volume 38

Number 4

2008

December

New Filing Requirement for All Granges with the Internal Revenue Service by Gail Turcotte, State Treasurer

Beginning this year each Subordinate and Pomona Grange in NH must file an annual report with the IRS even though we are a non-profit organization and we do not have to pay taxes. Failure to file this new report for three consecutive years will result in a loss of your tax-exempt status. Earlier this year I mailed two letters to each Grange with information about this new requirement.

In April, I mailed each Grange a letter stating what your Grange's individual Employer Identifier Number/ Tax Identifier Number (EIN/TID) was and advising you what to do if you found that your Grange was not using the correct number.

In May, I mailed each Grange a letter accompanied by a three page memo from the lawyer the State Grange consulted explaining in detail how to file the new 990-N electronic report. I also included a letter from our accountant if your Grange has an escrow account held by the State Grange. Every Grange in NH is to use the same fiscal/tax reporting year of October 1 to September 30 annually. **Your first annual report must be filed with the IRS before February 15, 2009.**

On October 25, Terry Knowles of the Attorney General's Office- Charitable Trust Unit presented a very informative workshop briefly mentioning several requirements each Grange has to fulfill to maintain our present tax-exempt and non-profit status both with the IRS, the State of NH, and the local government in the town or city your Grange is located in.

During the workshop questions were raised concerning the filing of the new IRS reports. Unfortunately, the State Grange did not provide Terry with enough details of our specific filing requirements before the workshop and confusion arose. I have communicated with Terry since then explaining in greater detail the filing requirements for the Granges in NH and the advice provided to us by our lawyer and accountant. **There are no changes to the instructions provided in the April letter on EIN/TID or the May letter and 3-page memo of instructions for filing the 990-N report. There are also no changes to the instructions for Granges that have escrow accounts held by the State Grange.**

If your Grange is unable or unwilling to file the 990-N electronically then you have the option of filing the paper version 990-EZ. The paper version is a three page detailed report and is much more complicated than the short electronic form. If you need a copy of the paper version you may request one on line from www.irs.gov. (There is also a 64 page book of instructions available online.) You may also request a photocopy of the form 990-EZ from me and I will mail you the 3-page form. **I strongly urge you to file the shorter 990-N electronically if at all possible.**

You may contact me if you have any questions about this new filing requirement.
Gail Turcotte, Treasurer NH State Grange, 53 Oak Hill Rd, Barrington, NH 03825-3822 Tel/ fax 603-664-5584 E-mail bfdw2@verizon.net.



Come One, Come All!
to the
Post-Holiday "Blahs" Party
State Grange Building, Hooksett, NH
2 p.m. until you're tired of it
Food, Movies, Fun
This is a Grange event for all ages!

Visit the State Grange Website at
www.nhgrange.org.

Calendar of Events for the Ensuing Year

- Dec. 13 - Deputy School - 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Belmont Middle School
- Jan. 3 - Post-Holiday "Blahs" Party - 2 p.m.
State Grange Building, Hooksett
- Jan. 9-11 - NE Leaders Conference
Fitchburg, MA
- Jan. 15 - Deadline for Youth Officers to register with Team Leader
- Jan. 31- Winter Rally - Hooksett
- Feb. 6 - GSG Deadline
- Feb. 6 & 7- Farm & Forest Exposition
Manchester (see p. 7)
- Feb. 21 -Snow Date for Winter Rally
- March 14 -Youth "Moon Stomp" -
Merrill Farm, Antrim
- March 15 - Bowling, Lakeside Lanes
Manchester
- April 4 - Spring Fling & Grange Month
Banquet
- April 18 - Glow Bowling - Leda Lanes,
Nashua
- May 2 -VT/NH Night - Am. Legion Hall,
White River Junction, VT
- May 8 - GSG Deadline
- May 16 - ME/NH Night in NH
- June 5-7 - Youth & Junior Camp
- June 6 - Spotlight New Hampshire
- June 26-28 - Grange Family Weekend
- June 28 - Cathedral of the Pines 3 p.m.
Rindge, NH
- July 10-12 -North-East Youth Conference -
New York State is host.
- Aug. 3-6 - North-East Lecturers Conf. -
Rhode Island is host.
- Aug. 12 - GSG Deadline
- Sept. 10 - Youth Reports due
- Sept. 18 - Oct. 4 - "Big E"
West Springfield, MA
- Sept. 20 - Grange Day at "Big E"
- Oct. 1 - Lecturer's Contest Entries due
- Oct. 3 - Harvest Moon Festival -
Merrill Farm, Antrim
- Oct. 29-30 - State Grange Convention
Ashworth by the Sea, Hampton
- Nov. 17-21 - National Grange Convention
Grand Rapids, Michigan

You'll never plow a field by turning it over in your mind.— Irish Proverb



It's been another busy quarter, hasn't it? Please find a report of the happenings at the Big "E" elsewhere in this issue. Also in September, I traveled to Reedsburg, WI to attend the Wisconsin State Grange session as their National Rep. I found the members there to be typical Grangers, warm and hospitable. There is a tiny State Grange, bordering on being reduced to a State Council. They kept me busy throughout the session serving as Lady Assistant Steward, pro tem; judging several contests and exhibits; and giving speeches.

Our own State Session ran smoothly with the help and participation by so many Grangers. Because of our heavy workload, for the first time in many years, we had to go back into session on Saturday evening. I appreciate the delegates' willingness to deliberate upon some important issues with great vigilance at such a late hour. I was happy to welcome Nancy and Jeff Swainston, National Grange Ceres and Past Master of the Michigan State Grange, respectively, as our National Grange Representatives. The contribution Jeff made during the discussion on the report of the 501c3 Committee was helpful.

The delegates voted to continue with plans for establishing a State Grange 501c3, and the Executive Committee has been authorized to elect a board of trustees who will be responsible for doing the initial groundwork. If any member has knowledge of, or a deep desire to learn about, the process of setting up this foundation, please make your interest known to a member of the Executive Committee as soon as possible.

Another important vote by the delegates was accepting the recommendations of the Pomona Study Committee. This puts into immediate effect a change of procedure in appointing State Grange Committee members. Each Pomona Committee Chairman (Family & Community, Grange Services, Legislative, Membership, and Youth/Junior) as well as

each Pomona Lecturer is being asked to serve on their corresponding State Grange Committee. This is one step in establishing a new role for Pomona Granges to become a more active link of communication between the State Grange and Community Granges. These new Committee members are invited to attend the Leaders'/Deputy School on December 13th and should have received notification of such by now.

Highlights for me during the session were: presenting Marion T. Jones with her 75-year certificate and pin and enjoying her delighted surprise when she realized that several members of her family were in the audience; an impromptu demonstration of how to set up your computer for a Teamspeak conference; and presenting Out of Their Comfort Zone special awards to Carolyn Ross, Gail Turcotte, Nancy Bean, Jim Tetreault, Allissa Estes, Diane Collins, and Ruth Holmes. State Grange Photographer, Mark Collins, has put together a pictorial record of the entire session, which you can access on the State Grange website.

More than fifty NH Grangers attended at least a portion of the 142nd Annual Convention of the National Grange, including talent winner, Kathy Yardley of Walpole Grange, sign-a-song winner, Marie Hall of Gilman Grange, Allissa Estes of Somersworth Grange who served as Flora for the youth opening, and Sarah Leclerc of Hudson Grange who was the scepter bearer for the Trumpet Girls during the Seventh Degree. They all did New Hampshire proud! I, myself, was honored to serve as Attendant #1 for the Seventh Degree and appreciated the opportunity to see the conferral from behind the curtain for the third time. Many thanks to Hannah West, Allissa Estes, Mark Collins, Tricia Taylor, Jim Tetreault, and Gloria Davis for

volunteering to help out on NH's day to host the convention. Now, we play the waiting game to hear if National Grange can make arrangements with a NH hotel so that we may host the 2013 convention!

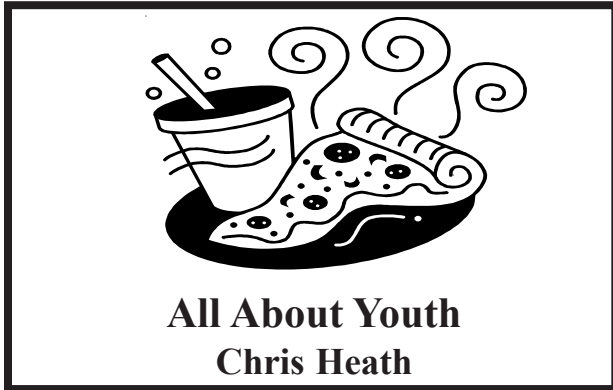
One topic that was on the back of everyone's mind while at National Convention was the impending battle with the giant food corporation, Tyson. The National Grange is waiting to hear if Tyson Foods will back away from their attempt to register the brand name "Grange and Grassland", which they intend to use for a new line of meat products. If they did not retreat before Thanksgiving, then, by now, your Grange should have received an appeal letter from the National Grange accompanied by my cover letter. At least a couple thousand dollars was raised via impromptu auctions at the national convention to offset the legal expense of this battle. The National Grange is taking this threat to our name and reputation very seriously, but this will not be an inexpensive task. I hope you and your Grange will donate as generously as you can toward the cost of defending our right to continue operating our local Granges and their fundraisers in much the same way as has been done the last 142 years. Never has our organization needed to band together and work toward a united goal since the days of our battle with the railroad monopolies.

I hope you will consider attending the 2008 Northeast Grange Leaders' Conference. I want to stress that **all members** are more than **welcome** to attend this important event, and I highly encourage you to do so. As an enticement, you might want to know that we'll be located in Fitchburg, MA, right next to the brand new CoCo Key Indoor Water Park. You can learn more about it at <http://www.cocokeywaterresort.com/Locations/fitchburg/play/indoor-waterpark/index.aspx>.

Please keep the date of April 4th open for the second annual Spring Fling Grange Month Kickoff Event. Location and details will be announced in my next column.

I wish you a wonderful holiday season with friends and family, but you should be sure to get some rest. You're going to need it, if you're going to keep up with this wagon train as we pioneer our way into new Grange territory in 2009!

THE GRANITE STATE GRANGER
 This is a free* publication to keep Grange members informed of past and up-coming events.
 *(However, donations are accepted.)
 This paper is printed quarterly.
 Postmaster or anyone else:
 Please send all related correspondence to
 Hannah West
 3 Depot Road
 Chichester, NH 03258



Another year in our Grange life has started and there are a few changes in the Youth Department. I would like to welcome the following people to the Youth Team. From Carroll County Pomona we have Reginald Amazeen. From Cheshire County Pomona we have Lynn Clark. Donald Ross will be the representative from East Rockingham Pomona. Eastern New Hampshire Pomona's member is Allissa Estes. From Hillsborough County we welcome Sarah Leclerc. Hilary Ward will be the representative from Mascoma Valley Pomona. From Merrimack County Pomona we have Lorraine Lacross. Marylin Machia will be the member from Northern NH Pomona. Ida Hutchins will be the representative from Pemigewasset Valley Pomona. From Sullivan County Pomona, the Team welcomes Lynda Roy. Hannah West will be representing Suncook Valley Pomona on the Youth Team, and Robert Burrill will be the representative from Upper Coos Pomona. I also would like to welcome Rhonda Lambert as the new Junior Grange Director. The Youth and Junior departments are going to work together closely to increase the number of youth and junior memberships in the state. Please check this edition of the GSG to see when the upcoming events will take place, because there are some changes. I hope to have this year's program to all Granges before December 31st.

The first event of the new year will be held at the New Hampshire State Grange Building in Hooksett NH on January 3rd. This is an informal gathering that is being called the "Blahs" party. This will be a chance for Grange friends to gather after the holidays and enjoy some fellowship. There will be a flyer coming out with more details but some of the things going on will be an unwanted gift exchange, movies, and food. Please plan to attend this event to get rid of some of the

blahs that follow the holiday season. The Winter Youth Rally date has been set, and it will be held at the State Grange Building on January 31st with a snow date of February 21st. Please encourage any and all youth to participate in the Youth officer recognition contest. Entries for this contest can be brought to the Winter Youth Rally. Also remember that the Grange Knowledge test will be administered at this event. On February 7th the Youth Team will hold an activity table at the Farm and Forest Expo at the Center of New Hampshire. I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the year, and, if you have any questions concerning the Youth Calendar or Youth Program, please feel free to contact me.

2008 Youth Contest Winners

Collage Contest

1st - Jane Heath - Centennial Grange - "Tornado"

2nd - Marion Woodworth - Rochester Grange - "Grange"

3rd - Gail Turcotte - Rochester Grange "Marriage & Anniversaries"

Memory Book Contest

Grange Category

1st - Grace Leone - Rochester Grange - "NE Leaders Conference"

2nd - Claire Gagnon - Hudson Grange - "NH Grange Building"

3rd - Gail Turcotte Rochester Grange - "Create-a-Card Class"

Open Category

1st - Alice Tuck - Rochester Grange - "Rub-a-Dub"

2nd - Alice Tuck - Rochester Grange - "Pumpkin Wagon"

3rd - Gail Turcotte - Rochester Grange - "Fair Exhibits"

Survivor Grange Contest

Individual Winner - Jane Heath - Centennial Grange

Grange Winner - Antrim Grange

Pumpkin Decorating

1st - Mary West - Chichester Grange

2nd - Marlene Hewes - Daniel Webster Grange

3rd - Marion Woodworth - Rochester Grange

Photo Scavenger Contest.

1st - Claire Gagnon - Hudson Grange

2nd - Roberta Sliva - Hampton Falls Grange

3rd - Mary West - Chichester Grange

Top Subordinate Youth Score

Somersworth Grange

Top Pomona Youth Score

Eastern NH Pomona Grange

Success often comes from not knowing your limitations. Frank Tyger

Pine Grove Grange

Pine Grove Grange #298 in Bath held its annual Installation of Officers ceremony on September 2. Jean Abbott, New Hampshire State Grange Deputy, served as installation officer. New officers that were installed during the ceremony included Linda Lauer, Master; Karen Fesler, Lecturer; Priscilla Parker, Chaplain; Nan Scott, Ceres; Phyllis Lang, Flora; and Alice Girouard, Pomona. Other officers that were reelected for the upcoming year include Sherry Foster, Overseer; Alex Sutherland, Steward; Bill Scott, Assistant Steward; Dawn Dean, Lady Assistant Steward; Irma Clough, Treasurer; Bev Woods, Secretary; and Walter Parker, Gatekeeper.

Executive Committee Member Bill Scott presented certificates of commendation to outgoing Master Al Fisher and outgoing Lecturer Debbi Fisher. Under their leadership, Pine Grove Grange was twice named as the state's most outstanding Grange for community service.

Pine Grove Grange has had a busy schedule over the past few months. The Grange's annual Booster Night was held on Saturday, September 20 at 7:00 PM at the Grange Hall. The public enjoyed a night of fun, games, and music, along with an auction of produce and baked goods. The night culminated in a 50/50 raffle drawing. The Grange was busy the following week as well, as the group sponsored a Pie Baking Contest in conjunction with the Ammonoosuc Regional Arts Council's Fall Festival of the Arts. More recently, the Grange celebrated Fall with a social gathering (complete with homemade apple crisp!) for all Grangers and former Bath residents who are now residing in the Grafton County Home.



Bill Scott with Debbie and Al Fisher



**Membership Development
Coordinator: Stephen Tracy**

Happy Holidays Grangers! Let us not forget those who are struggling with the economy. Anything a Grange can do for our neighbors will bring a blessing on the Grange. With the New Year approaching we all make goals for the ensuing year. Here are some of my goals for this year in the Grange.

In my annual report at state session I spoke of a statewide membership drive. I am working with the youth to see about getting their Elevator Speeches on the air. You will hopefully hear some familiar Grange voices on radio and TV across the state.

Want to be a star? I am working with WMUR to see if we can get NH Chronicles with Fritz Weatherbee to come to the State Grange Building for a mock Grange meeting with someone speaking about what the Grange is and what we do with the committees reporting on their programs. I am hoping this will air during Grange Month.

Although we have new state committee members by way of the Pomona chairs, I emphasize that membership must be the job of every member promoting the Grange in a positive member. My goal is to get training and tools out to all sections of the state. Remember new members do not generally come stumbling into our halls; we must entice them in.

Another goal is to see a Grange Promo booth at fairs and farmer's markets similar to the one at the Farm and Forest Expo. I will work with each Pomona to accomplish this. If a Granger has any connections with their local fair or market, please contact me.

I strongly encourage that Membership Committee Chairs make reports at each meeting encouraging members to go out and work boosting membership. Applications can be printed from the NH Grange website.

I recently received the last 2 quarterly reports from the State Secretary, and the information was quite encouraging. In spite of Grange closures and deaths we are only down 5 members statewide. I would like to see that turned around by next state session to at least 5 members to the positive. We can do it with everyone working on it.

Contact me for help on membership pushes and Grange organizing. We have trained members around the state to help.

So during the holidays let's put on a smile and our Grange pins and enjoy the time with family and friends.

The Big "E" Report

Thanks to those Grangers who traveled to the Big "E" to help out with blueberry pie sales in the NH Building, as well as all who helped support the General Store in the New England Grange Building. Reportedly, fifty –five Grangers marched in the parade and the Contra Banditos played twice to standing room only crowds on Grange Day. The annual quilt raffle netted \$2,955 which was donated to the Hasbro Children's Hospital in Rhode Island. The sale of jellies and sauces brought in about \$13,000 and there were only a couple of cases left by the end of the fair. The crafts brought in around \$12,000. Linda Sanderson, Grange Building Director, reports that they ran out of scrubbies 6 or 7 times, dishcloths twice, and had no crocheted towels for the last six days of the fair. Hopefully, this gives our crafty NH Grangers an idea of the most popular sale items, so they can be working on making more this winter! There's talk of a possible New England Grange cookbook being produced for next year's fair. This cookbook will feature recipes for soups, salads, and appetizers, so Grange cooks, start going through your files and find us some of your best recipes! At the next trustees' meeting in January there will be a preliminary plan for making the building handicap accessible, so that perhaps, sometime in the future all fairgoers will be able to experience the down-home atmosphere of the New England Grange Building.

Dwell not upon thy weariness, thy strength shall be according to the measure of thy desire.

— Arab Proverb



**Legislative
James Tetreault**

We just completed a very successful State Grange Session in Nashua. Issues debated this year included property tax relief for farmers, financing for agricultural operations, labeling of raw milk, and the creation of an energy policy which includes additional drilling and alternative energy sources.

Recipients of the outstanding Legislator Awards this year are Robert Haefner of Hudson and David Hess of Hooksett. The Clesson "Junie" Blaisdell Award for Excellence in Government was awarded to Teri Norelli, Speaker of the NH House. Speaker Norelli and Representative Hess were unable to attend so Bob Haefner will make the presentations at an appropriate time.

I had the opportunity to attend the 142nd National Grange Session and work with the National Legislative Staff for the week. Joining me was Lorna Bates of Daniel Webster Grange who will be serving as our State Grange Lobbist this year. The Northeast Legislative Directors had the opportunity to meet, and we are planning an Agricultural Summit to assess the state of Agriculture in our region. We will be inviting the Commissioners of Agriculture in all the Northeast States as well representatives of the Farm Bureau and representatives of the organic industry. We are very excited about this opportunity to build new relationships with the state commissioners as well as the Farm Bureau and the organic industry. Be looking for more details as they unfold on this exciting opportunity for the Grange.

I hope you all have a happy holiday season.

Deadline

Send copy for the March issue of the Granite State Granger to Hannah West by February 5, 2008. Report on events of November, December, and January. Look ahead to March, April, and May.



All About Juniors Rhonda Lambert

Hi, my name is Rhonda Lambert and I have been appointed as the New Hampshire Junior Director. I am very honored and a little nervous to fulfill this role. Sherrill Bokousky did a wonderful job in running the Junior Department. I hope that I am able to keep up with her visions as well as the State Master's. It is with these visions in mind that I am respectfully asking all NH State Grangers to help.

Our Junior Grange is dwindling. In order to help create new excitement and build the future of your Grange, we need new members. I am looking for names of people who would make a good Junior leader for your area. There are several Granges that could have a Junior Grange due to the number of children or grandchildren. However, there is no leader. Think about what it could mean to the future of the New Hampshire State Grange if more Junior Granges are opened. A renewed awareness of the Grange, children who are learning and respecting the background of the Grange, more community involvement, as well as more community awareness for the Grange.

The Junior and the Youth department will be working in tandem to show our Juniors that there are still many things to be done in the Grange, after reaching the age of 14. The Juniors will be participating in the Winter and June youth rallies. They will also be sitting in at the stations in a Youth meeting. The Youth Department will be helping to teach our Juniors what it means to be a part of the Grange as well as being involved in your community.

I would love to see the NH State Grange grow and survive the future challenges that will be coming our way. One way to do this is to improve our relationship with our Juniors and Youth. They ARE our future and our hope to survive. If we open our minds and think outside the box and come up with new and exciting ways to promote, support, encourage, and challenge our Juniors and

Youth, we will find that the Grange will be able to face future challenges.

If you have any ideas, questions, or comments that could help, please feel free to contact me at nhjrgrange@gmail.com.

I look forward to helping build the future of the Grange by working with our Juniors as well as our Youth. Thank you.

Theater Curtains Inventory Coming to NH

The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance is pleased to be collaborating with Christine Hadsel and Curtains Without Borders, based in Burlington, Vermont, to begin compiling a statewide inventory of painted theater curtains in New Hampshire. The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the NH Charitable Foundation are both providing funding for this project.

Painted stage curtains are reminders of a time when every small town was visited by traveling troupes of players, opera companies, vaudeville, and itinerant musicians. Between 1880 and 1940, these curtains were produced in several states, but the great majority were discarded as they became worn and dirty and as tastes changed.

Through the Vermont Theater Curtain project, Hadsel has received national recognition for her work in locating these artistic creations and using volunteers to help restore them. She is eager to begin compiling a systematic inventory of New Hampshire examples. "We've already conserved a handful of these stage draperies in New Hampshire, and more keep coming to light," she said recently. "There may be over 200 of these curtains tucked away in attics or behind stages."

The Alliance will assist Hadsel by supporting local efforts to preserve and revive the buildings in which these theater curtains were once used. Other partners in this effort are the NH State Grange and the NH Department of Cultural Resources. Jennifer Goodman, the Alliance's director, notes that "by bringing the curtains back into use, we can help rejuvenate small town performance and meeting spaces, encourage an increase of local theater and the re-use of Town Halls and Grange Halls, and help re-establish the character unique to New Hampshire's rural villages and towns."

National Grange Leadership Tip Always Be Prepared

How many times have you been asked the question "What is the Grange?" only to hesitate, hem or haw, and stumble over the answer? We need to prepare ourselves to tackle this question and other questions that may come up in conversations about the Grange. We need to know at 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 websites, 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.

Practice, practice, practice is another way of preparing ourselves. 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! 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. I 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.

**Support the Granite State Granger
with your donation.**

Aurora Grange

Aurora Grange #235 of Pittsburg hosted a joint Thanksgiving potluck supper with the Pittsburg Historical Society on Wednesday, November 5, 2008. Also in attendance were three members of the Pittsburg School Key Club and their advisor. Members of the Key Club have adopted our Grange and are working to get the upstairs in our hall cleaned up and repaired.



Pittsburg School Key Club members Danielle Nonamaker, Tyler Foote, Jensen Judd, and their advisor, Norma Underhill, at the recent joint Grange-Historical Society Thanksgiving potluck dinner. In the background are Aurora Grange members Donna Gray and Lena Falconer.

The State Grange Building is rejoicing in a new metal roof. To help pay for this and other Grange Building projects, send your donation to Carolyn J. Ross, 80 East Road, East Kingston, NH 03827-2005.

Sunapee Lake Grange

Sunapee Lake Grange in Newbury is mourning the loss of two long time members. Arlene Bagley had been our Chaplain. She was known for her tap dancing and for running the giant penny sales at our annual fairs. She passed to the Grange above on November 8th. Frances Ward passed away on November 18. She was a Past Master of both Sunapee Lake Grange and Sullivan County Pomona. On the State Grange level she was Past Chairman of the Fair Committee and had served on the Contact Committee.

Sunapee Lake Grange is meeting in homes for the winter. Call 938-2378 or 938-2110 for exact location.

Thank You
Thanks to your generosity the sum of \$2,395.00 has been donated to the State Grange Building in memory of John H. West.

Granite Grange

Granite Grange will be serving a turkey dinner with assorted pies for dessert on December 13, with an Open Mike to follow. The open mike is growing each session. Initially there were six performers; now we have close to twenty. For a relaxing night, join us for an evening of fun, food, music and raffle prizes.

Granite continues to hold scrapbooking every 2nd Friday of the month for \$10.00. The session runs 6:30 to 9:00. Don't know how to scrap? Come on in, and we will show you. Our very own Creative Memories consultant is on hand with pointers, ideas and items for sale.

We are busily preparing our dictionaries for delivery. It was such a success and so-o-o much fun last year that we are giving dictionaries for the 2008-2009 school year to three area schools. That is a total of 323 books to third graders!

Grange Bu

A Note from Carl Adams

To the Patrons of the NH State Grange, I want to say I am sorry not to have attended the One Hundred Thirty-fifth Annual Session of the NH State Grange. This is the 2nd session in 76 years that I have missed. I hope that you had an enjoyable and worthwhile session.

The resignation of State Chaplin Hugh Clark prompted a long and thoughtful reflection by me. The role of State Chaplin has been will defined and Brother Hugh stepped into large shoes when he assumed the office. Brother Hugh is to be praised for holding the Chaplaincy to the high standard set before him and we certainly appreciate the service of the Clark family.

I hope you have a good year in your Grange work and I hope to be able to see many of you this coming year.

Thoughtfully,
 Brother Carl



Diane Collins, State Flora, with her personal attendants, Patrick Bailey and Matthew Collins

Turkey Dinner
December 13, 3008
5 to 6:30 p.m.
Granite Grange Hall
23 Webster Street
Milford, NH
Adults - \$8
Children under 6 - \$3.50
Combo ticket for meal and Open Mike - \$10

A Hearty Grange Welcome to the Following New Members

Pauline Grace	Blazing Star Grange
Irene Berch	Coheco Grange
Aurora Cusolito	CohecoGrange
Erle Goff	Dorchester Grange
Derrick Waterbury	Dorchester Grange
Tina Danner	Dorchester Grange
Sandy Green	Dorchester Grange
Michelle Davis	Dorchester Grange
Vicki LeCain	Dorchester Grange
Andy LeCain	Dorchester Grange
Shaun Sanborn	Golden Rod Grange
Calvin Clark	Hooksett Grange
Pam Miller	Meridan Grange
Melissa Gray	Mohawk Grange
Andrea Lucas	Watatic Grange
Shelby Byrd	Winthrop Grange

List your Grange event On the NH Grange website. Contact Mark Collins: mark-dianecollins@comcast.net

Bulletin Board



Harriet Corliss, 75 Year Member

Harriet Corliss joined Goldenrod Grange in 1933. That makes her a 75 year member in 2008. She began in the office of Ceres and then moved on to Lady Assistant Steward, serving several years in each office. She was Master in 1946-1947 and, later, again filled the station of Lady Assistant Steward. Most recently, she has been Chaplain for many years. One of her proud memories is that at one time, during a period of three years, many capable Grange members worked hard on a craft project of "Refrigerator Items," and, selling them, made over \$3,000.00. Just think what a difference to Grange finances a project like that would make today!

Farm & Forest Expo

The Farm and Forest Expo is coming up on Friday, February 6, and Saturday, February 7, 2009. Please keep these dates in mind and think if you could spare an hour or two to stand (or sit) by the NH State Grange Exhibit and be a positive voice for the Grange. Please call Anne and Marty Boisvert, Farm and Forest Exhibit Coordinators, at 435-5127 if you are interested.

Henry Wilson Grange

The members of Henry Wilson Grange in Farmington are happy to announce that after 11 months of not being able to use our hall, we are now back and ready to go. The roof on our Ante room collapsed in last March's heavy snow fall, which made it impossible for us to hold our meetings in the hall. It took 6 months to get our settlement check from the insurance company. After receiving it work began in earnest. We tore down the remainder of the Ante room and replaced it with a smaller area with many improvements being made, such as an upgrade on our electric power. We have painted some of the exterior walls with more planned in the warmer months. Our building is now blue with white trim. We also have acquired a new stove, a much-needed improvement. Most of the work was done by our own dedicated patron Ralph Russell. Barbara Wentworth, Dorinda Louise and Joan Garland showed up on a Saturday morning to help clean the hall in anticipation of a visit from Eastern NH Pomona on Sat November 22nd.

We have been holding meetings at the Legion Hall, the Community Center, and twice at Ralph Russells home. We give our sincere thanks to them for allowing us to do this

Our apologies to the visitors who came to our Chowder Fest only to be unable to locate us. We thought we would be in our hall by that date. It was not meant to be, and so we were hosted once again at Ralph Russell's home. A truly great Chowder Fest it was! We are looking forward to the next one planned for November of 2009

Henry Wilson Grange meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month. at 6:00PM for Pot Lucks and meetings at 7:PM. If we do not have not a Pot Luck, a lunch is served after the meeting. Please come and join us; all are welcome.

Congratulations

to Youth Team members
Allyssa Estes and Sarah LeClerc
for a job well done
at National Grange.
New Hampshire is proud
of you both!

Jeanne G. Higgins

Jeanne G. Higgins, of East Kingston, formerly of Hampton died November 5, 2008 after complications from pneumonia. She was born in Boston, MA December 2, 1921, the daughter of the late James H. and Ruth G. (Hilton) Glidden. She moved to Hampton in 1955 from Arlington, MA with her late husband, John F. Higgins whom she met while she was serving as an Assistant Chaplain in the US Navy during WWII. John predeceased her in 1986.

For many years she owned and operated the Hampton Flower and Garden Shop with her husband. After they sold the flower shop she worked at the Ocean National Bank where she retired. She then continued to work for eight years at the Department of Housing, UNH, retiring in December of 2004.

Jeanne was a member of Christ Episcopal Church in Exeter, and a former member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Hampton. Loving the Grange, she was Past Master of the Ocean Side Grange in Hampton, Past Master of Gilman Grange in Exeter and Past Master of the East Rockingham Pomona Grange. She also held the positions of Membership Director, Secretary and Pianist of the New Hampshire State Grange and was a member of the National Grange.

Other organizations that she was a member of were; Tide Mill Chapter OES, Hampton, Winacummet Lodge of Rebecca's, Hampton Garden Club, Hampton American Legion Post #35, Hampton American Legion Aux., Daughters of the American Revolution (Past Chapter President), Hampton Monday Club (Past President), and the Business & Professional Women's Club, Exeter.

She is survived by her daughter, Helen P. Higgins, of Boston, MA, several nieces and nephews, and, Carolyn J. Ross and Donald R. Ross of East Kingston with whom she had been residing with for the last eighteen years.

Services were held at Christ Episcopal Church, 43 Pine St. Exeter, NH, at 11:00 AM followed by a reception at Harris Hall. A private burial was in the High Street Cemetery, Hampton. Donations may be made to Christ Episcopal Church – payable to the "Higgins Fund" or to American Cancer Society, if desired.



State Grange and National Grange are done for 2008, and it is time to start another year. So it is time to think of new ideas and programs for the coming year. There will not be a whole bunch of changes for this coming year, but we will be putting out feelers for what you would like to see for Family and Community projects that will benefit each and every member. We will be meeting with the members of the Family and Community Department at the Leadership/Deputy School Program in December. Once that is done, we will try to get out some dates and contests for those of you that are in the competitive mood. In January, we will be off to Massachusetts to the NE Leaders Conference, where we hope to meet with the Directors from the other states and share ideas. When we have these coordinated, we will let you know of other exciting programs which will help you and your Grange. Then in April there will be another Spring Fling similar to what was done last spring.

Baking Contest for the coming year will be Hermits. Please write out the recipe you use and include it with your entry.

Keep your eyes on this column in each GSG, and you should see lots of ideas and instruction for each and every Grange..

There were thirty-five Granges that sent in their Community Service report forms. This percentage was enough to allow us to qualify to receive award money from National Grange.

Community Service Winners

- 1st Place \$100 – Pine Grove #298
- 2nd Place \$75 – Joe English #53
- 3rd Place \$50 – Pineconia #322
- 4th Place \$25 – Watatic #36



Support the ELF!

Please send your
Educational Loan Fund
donations to:
Rodney Huntoon
8 Pine Acres Rd., Suite 808
Concord, NH 03301

NH Needlework Contest Winners

(First Place winners were sent to the Big “E” where there was a 1st prize and three 3rd prizes for New Hampshire entries.)

Class A Afghans

- 1st - Gail Turcotte - Rochester Grange
- 2nd - Sherrill Bokousky - Hudson Grange
- 3rd - Marie Hall - Gilman Grange

Class B Doily

- 1st - Marie Hall - Gilman Grange
- 2nd - Lucille Hadfield - Cocheco Grange
- 3rd - Gail Turcotte - Rochester Grange

Class C Embroidery

- 1st - Beth Merrill - Antrim Grange
- 2nd - Ann Leger - Winthrop Grange

Class D Baby Set

- 1st - Joan Debutts - Crown Point Grange
- 2nd - Sarah Brown Moore - Fidelity Grange
- 3rd - Roberta Sliva - Hampton Falls Grange

Class E Plastic Canvas

- 1st - Sandra Fogarty - Somersworth Grange
- 2nd - Rhoda Davis - Pembroke Grange
- 3rd - Gail Turcotte - Rochester Grange

Class F counted Cross Stitch

- 1st - Sandra Fogarty - Somersworth Grange
- 2nd - Gail Turcotte - Rochester Grange
- 3rd - Rosemarie VanSant - Winthrop Grange

Class G Adult Garment

- 1st - Ann Leger - Winthrop Grange
- 2nd - Yvonne Crocker - Pineconia Grange
- 3rd - April Farewell - Mont Calm Grange

Class H Latch Hook

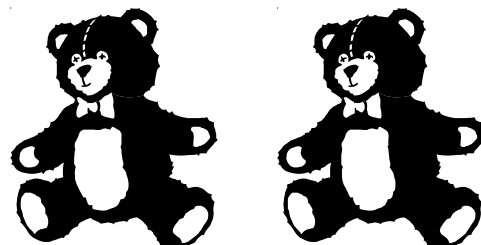
- 1st - Ann Leger - Winthrop Grange
- 2nd - Claire Gagnon - Hudson Grange
- 3rd - Marc VanSant - Winthrop Grange

Class I Quilted Wall Hanging

- 1st - Marlene Hewes - Daniel Webster Grange
- 2nd - Dale MacDonald - Lower Intervale Grange
- 3rd - Lucille Hadfield - Cocheco Grange

Class J Stuffed Toys

- 1st - April Farewell - Mont Calm Grange
- 2nd - Connie Carr - Grafton Star Grange
- 3rd - Barbara Dessert - Mont Calm Grange



NH State Grange Contests

Class 1 Tied Quilting

- 1st - April Farewell - Mont Calm Grange
- 2nd - Mary Tyler - Winthrop Grange
- 3rd - Rachel Bailey - Hudson Grange

Class 2 Sewn Garment

- 1st - Lois Enman - Rochester Grange
- 2nd - Lucille Hadfield - Cocheco Grange
- 3rd - Ruth Pelton - Hampton Falls Grange

Class 3 Miscellaneous Needlework

- 1st - Buelah Eldridge - Cocheco Grange
- 2nd - Dale MacDonald - Lower Intervale Grange
- 3rd - Judith McNally - Hampton Falls Grange

Class 4 Woodworking

- 1st - Rick Bailey - Hudson Grange
- 2nd - Ted Sobozenski - Non Member
- 3rd - Elmer Eldridge - Cocheco Grange

N H Home Economics Awards

Subordinate/Community Winners

- 1st Rochester Grange #86
- 2nd Hudson Grange #11
- 3rd Cocheco Grange #81

4th Hampton Falls Grange #171

Pomona Winners

- 1st Suncook Valley #12
- 2nd East Rockingham #11
- 3rd Hillsboro County #1
- 4th Sullivan County #9

Awards Presented at the 2008

State Grange Banquet

Police Officer of the Year

Kevin Sullivan and his canine partner, sponsored by Hudson Grange #11.

Fire Fighter of the Year

Brad Ober, sponsored by Lower Intervale Grange #321

Educator of the Year

Janet Marie Lemire, sponsored by Daniel Webster Grange #100

State Trooper of the Year

Sherry Vestal presented by Lt. John K. Scarinza of Troop F

200 Year Farm

Picnic Rock Farms John Hodson, sponsored by Pineconia Grange #322

Century Farm

Glove Hollow Christmas Tree Farm, sponsored by Lower Intervale Grange #321

Young Farmer Award

Fred Morrill III and Matt Morrill, sponsored by Pleasant Valley Grange #272

There's always room for improvement
—it's the biggest room in the house. —
Louise Heath Leber



Woodrow Tucker Supports Ritualism During National Grange Speech

Woodrow Tucker, past High Priest of Demeter, spoke before a luncheon crowd during the 142nd annual National Grange convention discussing the importance of Grange ritualism. Brother Woody joined the Grange in 1939 and has served in many capacities for 69 years including Rhode Island State Grange Master and several National Grange offices.

Brother Tucker challenged the crowd to think about two words – structure and discipline. He said every organization needs structure and the Grange is no different. The Grange reaches out to many interests, and according to Tucker, ritualism is part of that outreach. “Ritualism does have a place in this organization, and your life,” Tucker stated. “Grange members want uniformity. In fact uniformity is the backbone and structure of the Grange.”

Brother Tucker believes ritualism is synonymous with discipline stating, “Some people resist ritualism because they think it takes away innovativeness.” He believes, on the other hand, that ritualism engenders enthusiasm and specifically builds character and leadership. To clarify his beliefs, Tucker described a Grange ceremony. “When Grange members expect to participate in a ritual ceremony, those performing strive to succeed and lead the group” Woody explained.

New Programs Assistant

The National Grange is pleased to announce the hiring of a new Programs Assistant, Molly Thompson. Ms. Thompson was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas. She received her B.A. in Art History from the University of Kansas. She moved to Washington, D.C. at the beginning of the summer to expand her horizons. She is passionate about serving the community and being involved with an organization that will support its members. To contact Molly, please call 1-888-4-GRANGE, ext.107, or email mthompson@nationalgrange.org.

National Grange Elects Four Officers

The National Grange elected four officers during its annual convention held November 11 to 15 in Cromwell, Connecticut. Betsy Huber and Marty Billquist were reelected to the Board of Directors for 2nd terms, Huber as Board Chairperson. Betsy Huber became a Granger at age 5. She was active in Junior Grange and held many offices in the Community and Pomona Granges, including Master. In October of 2002, she was elected Master of the Pennsylvania State Grange, after serving six years as Overseer. In November 2006 she was elected to a two-year term on the National Grange Board of Directors, and in November 2006 she was elected chair of the Board. Marty Billquist has been active in the Grange since he was a child, first as a Junior Granger and then as a subordinate member. He joined Avon Grange in 1968 and has held the majority of the Subordinate offices over the years. He was elected Master of the Montana State Grange in October 2001 after serving as Steward and Youth Co-Director with his wife Joyce. He was elected to a two-year term on the National Grange Board of Directors in November, 2006.

Phyllis Wilson, President of the Oregon State Grange, was elected Chaplin of the National Grange. After moving to a small farm in Coos Bay, Oregon, Mrs. Wilson joined Greenacres #834 Subordinate Grange and Coos Pomona Grange #30 in 1969. She served her Granges in many offices, including Secretary for several years. She was elected President of the Oregon State Grange in June of 2006 and reelected in June 2008.

Linda Lewis, First Lady of the California State Grange, was elected National Grange Pomona on November 14, 2008. Mrs. Lewis first joined Yucca Grange #736 in 1971. She was Secretary of the Winnetka Center Grange from 1978 to 1985 and became its President in 1986. She is currently a member of Browns Creek Grange #837, where she has been Secretary since 2001.

Visit the National Grange website at www.nationalgrange.org.

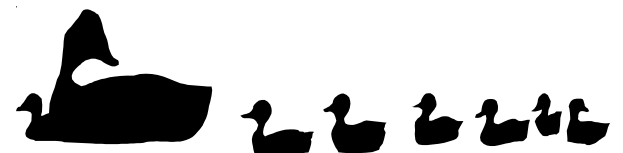
National Grange Family of the Year

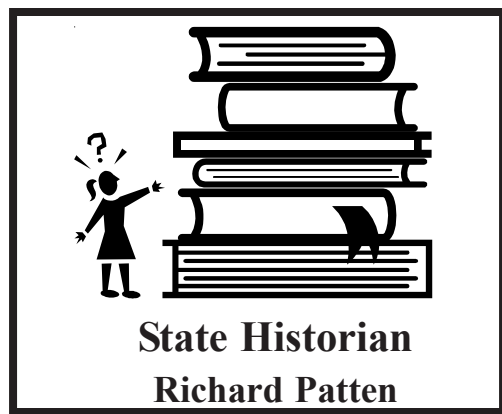
The National Grange honored The Jordan Family of Massachusetts as the recipient of this year’s “Family of the Year” award at the 142nd National Grange convention’s “Evening of Excellence.” This award is designed to annually recognize one outstanding Grange family, acknowledging their achievements in their local community and Grange.

The Grange has been a way of life for the Jordan Family of Massachusetts for well over 100 years. They belong to Holden Grange #78, Uxbridge Grange #200, and Apple Valley Junior Grange #138. The family has served in numerous leadership positions in their Local, County, and State Grange. Exemplifying their commitment to the Grange, one member of the Jordan family organized a peach shortcake sale at two local summer community events, Holden Days and the Rutland Chowder Challenge. Working together, the rest of the family participated in this event from start to finish, raising much needed funds.

More recently, the Jordan family initiated a new community service project for Holden Grange. Recognizing the importance of supporting the Wachusett Food Pantry in their local area, four members of the Jordan family helped secure funding for a “Pantry Partners” program through an Opportunity Grant from the Massachusetts State Grange. The grant funds Holden Grange’s monthly purchases of food and/or paper goods to support the Pantry.

In addition to the Family of the Year announcement, two other families were recognized as runners up. Also from Massachusetts, the Tully Family belongs to Dunstable Grange #31 and Apple Valley Junior Grange #138. This family recently helped organize the Dunstable Rural Land Trust and Winterfest where the family works with a committee that hosts over 500 people. The second runner up, the Tau Family from Pennsylvania, belongs to Hayfield Grange #800. This family is actively involved at all levels of the Grange helping with events such as annual Chicken barb-b-ques to finance youth activities





vocational training for youth and returning veterans; and establishment by local Granges of memorial forests in honor of service men.

It was reported that the war had taken its toll on Pomona Granges. “The reports from the Pomona Granges are not so encouraging as both the amount of work accomplished and the attendance are substantially the same as last year, and somewhat below the pre-war average. Several Pomona Granges have found it necessary to curtail their schedule of meetings.” On a more positive note “Methods and conditions of travel, in attending Grange meetings have made great strides in broadening the field of Grange activity. The lingering discomfort of horse and buggy days has been converted into motorized speed and comfort. Unpassable drifted roads are now plowed and sanded.” There were 222 candidates for the Sixth Degree which included: Congressman-Elect Sherman Adams, Elizabeth Currier (Cotsibas), Richard Currier, Everett & Mildred Poore, Annie & Philip Estes, Ruth Goodwin, Lucille Patterson (Patten), and Harold Frost. I am sure we will recognize several of those names. I could continue to write more about 1944, but I will save that for another time. It’s time to return to 2008 and get ready for 2009. I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in 2009. Let’s hope it is a great year for everyone!



Beth Merrill, State Master, presents a 75-year certificate to Marion T. Jones.

Monthly TeamSpeak Web Conference

What is Teamspeak? It is a monthly web conference, usually the second Tuesday of each month, sponsored by the National Grange during which Grange members across the country can talk with each other and share ideas on how to grow the Grange. The National Grange is proud of the diverse representation of attendees from across the country that are at the TeamSpeak Conferences.

Besides a computer with internet capability, the only equipment you need is a headset with microphone that you can get at most any computer store or department store that has a computer department.

Next, follow the directions for downloading and setting up Teamspeak onto your computer by logging in at www.nationalgrange.org/TeamSpeakInstructions.pdf. When you are entering a nickname, let everyone know what State you are representing! Example: John Smith (MA)

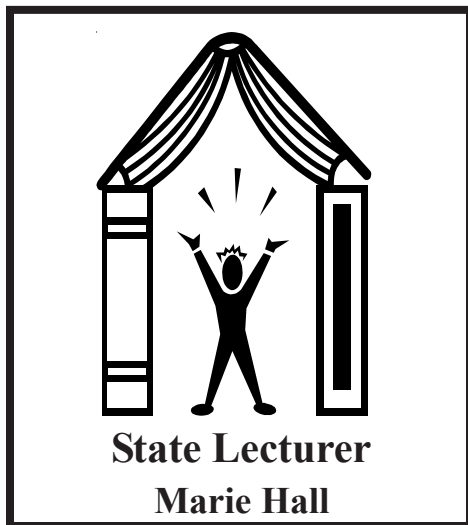
In previous conferences, tips and topics discussed have included:

- Places to download helpful tools for your Grange
- Free online services for Grange promotion
- Communicating with your local media with E-mail
- The new National Grange Web Program
- and so much more!

Once set up, you can check in at any time to see if others are online and ready for a chat. TeamSpeak is also available for you to use for other Grange conferences or meetings at any time that it’s not already in use. Go ahead, give it a try!

Ten Terrific Words
Thank you. Hello.
I love you. Please.
Here, have some of mine.
Can you show me how to do that?
Good job! You look nice.
Let Me Help You.
I’m sorry.

The Nation has suffered for several years the Middle East Conflict especially in Iraq. We can’t forget Afghanistan and Lebanon or Syria, but Iraq seems to be what most people are frustrated with. I was reading the history in 1944 and found our country was still feeling the effects of World War II. The State Session in 1944 mentioned several such effects. The State Chaplain in the memorial service mentioned the names of several that had left our organization to join the Great Grange Above. Sgt. Joseph Wayne Bailey, PM of Beaver Grange; Capt. Charles S. Blackeney, PM of West Thornton Grange; Pvt. Harold Hall, PM of Catamount Grange; and Pvt. Roger Hill, PM of Antrim Grange were remembered by their brothers and sisters in the Grange. State Master Charles A. Rollins spoke in his Address about “how the Grange will miss the faces of those members who have given so much to the service of our order and have now been called to lay down their implements on earth.” He also mentioned in the Condition of Our Order section that “many of our younger members have answered our country’s call to the armed forces and many others have gone into some kind of defense work, which has taken them temporarily away from our communities.” State Master Rollins reported on the 1944 National Convention held in North Carolina. Some of the issues the National Grange opposed in 1944 were: Continuation of Daylight Saving Time; Federal control of insurance; attempts to bottle up the sale of public power; the trend toward immoral motion pictures and literature; a Federal Sales Tax; and sales of intoxicating liquors in public parks. The National Grange favored: an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to divide the electoral vote within the states as nearly as possible in line with the the popular vote; a constitutional amendment to forbid citizenship to children of persons ineligible for citizenship;



A new year has begun for the New Hampshire State Grange. I would like to thank the delegate body for their vote of confidence in allowing me to be the State Lecturer for the next two years. I wish to pass on my excitement of this position to all of you with the hope that you may find this position to be one of encouragement and enrichment. We have some exciting things happening this year as it will be the first time the State Lecturer has a committee. The committee is made up of all the Pomona Lecturers, and I now have the privilege of gleaning from them their years of experience and establishing a line of communications with the Subordinate Granges within their jurisdiction. I hope that Pomona Masters will bear with us as a new committee while we create our guidelines.

All Pomona Lecturers will be receiving a copy of the 2009 Lecturer's program as a tool to better assist the Subordinate Granges in our endeavor to bridge the communication gap between Subordinate Lecturers and the State.

I am asking all Lecturers to send me a copy of their program so that I can have an idea of what is being planned and what subjects are popular with the Granges. This will also give me a chance to be able to visit and to help with ideas of how to go about having your programs come to fruition. I encourage all to print up some type of program booklet or page that is available for your members. I'm sure your Secretary will be willing to include them with the dues notices. The members need to know what is going on at their Grange meetings. If they do not know what is going on, then how can we expect them to come and participate. Please make sure your Pomona Lecturer also receives a copy of your program.

Last and by no means least I'm asking that as Lecturers we help each other out by sharing needs, concerns, and suggestions for improvements. I am also asking you not to hesitate in contacting me or your Pomona Lecturer if you have any concerns, if you need resource help, if you need help with anything. I will try to accommodate you as quickly as I can.

Suggested Source for Educational Grange Programs

Listed below are two first-rate videos about industrial hemp. The first one was shown at the 2008 Spring Fling event in Concord and sparked an excellent discussion session afterward. If your Grange would like to use either of these DVDs, please contact the folks at Rural Vermont to make arrangements to borrow them. They do ask for a donation for their use. For a list of other videos on many subjects relating to our food supply, you can check out their complete library at www.ruralvermont.org/archives/003457.html#more. Antrim Grange viewed and highly recommends "Deconstructing Supper". Contact Shelby Hammond, Organizer, Rural Vermont, 15 Barre Street Suite 2, Montpelier, VT 05602, Phone: 802-223-7222 or email her at shelby@ruralvermont.org.

HEMP AND THE RULE OF LAW (DVD), 2004, 55 minutes

This documentary blends history with current events and traces hemp's legendary past in US agriculture and chronicles the heated debate to return the crop to American farmers. In the last decade of the twentieth century, consumer demand for hemp products has resulted in the crop's resurgence on farms throughout the western world. American farmers are not permitted to grow hemp because the US Drug Enforcement Agency makes no distinction between hemp and marijuana. A decade after the crop's revival in other parts of the world, American farmers are still fighting for the right to grow this profitable and common sense crop.

STANDING SILENT NATION (DVD), 2007, 53 minutes

When the Oglala Sioux Tribe passed an ordinance separating industrial hemp from its illegal cousin, marijuana, Alex White Plume and his family glimpsed a brighter future. Having researched hemp as a sustainable crop that would grow in the

inhospitable soil of the South Dakota Badlands, the White Plumes envisioned a new economy that would impact the 85% unemployment rate on the Pine Ridge Reservation. They never dreamed they would find themselves swept up in a struggle over tribal sovereignty, economic rights, and common sense. From the hemp fields of Pine Ridge to the US Federal Court of Appeals, the one-hour documentary Standing Silent Nation tracks one family's effort to create economic independence for themselves, their reservation, and their future generations.



In Memoriam

Inez Wilson	GS	Antrim
Eldora Hager	GS	Arlington
Edgar Reed	GS	Chichester
James Dean	GS, PM	Crown Point
Richard Miller		Fidelity
Jeanne G. Higgins	GS, PM,	Gilman
Past State Secretary, Pianist & Membership Director		
Evelyn Graves	GS, PM	Hampton Falls
Evelyn Howe	GS, PM	Hooksett
Louise Tyrell	GS	Hooksett
G. William Ball		Jeremiah Smith
John Rice		Mount Hope
Marjorie Berry	GS	Ocean Side
Louisa Butcher	GS, PM	Pembroke
Marion Nason	GS	Reunion
John Hallam	GS	Somersworth
Homer VanSickle		Somersworth
Marion Astle	GS	Stratford
Frances Ward	PM,	Sunapee Lake
Past State Fair Committee & Contact Committee		
G. Allen Holmes	GS	Walpole
Harold Moore	GS	Wattannick



Ruth and Dan Holmes, at the NH State Convention as delegates from Peterborough Grange.

A Week at National Grange

by Allissa Estes

I have been involved with Grange since I was 14 years old. My grandparents, Fran and George Everard of Somersworth Grange got me interested. I have been heavily involved with the youth since I started as a Granger. This year I decided to take a step further and see what goes on at National Grange, so I applied to be a national youth officer. The day I found out that I got the office of Flora was a day to remember. I think I woke up my whole town that night by screaming at the top of my lungs, I was so excited.

On November 9, 2008, Kim and Dan Bascom showed up at my house to pick me up to head to Cromwell, Conn. When we arrived, it was sign in, unpack, and get dinner. Monday, November 10, was New Hampshire volunteer day, and I helped with registration. Monday night was the host banquet. I was invited to go, and the banquet was nice. Thanks to Danny, National Master Ed Luttrell had me stand up at my seat and everyone sang happy birthday to me. It was my 21st birthday. Tuesday, November 11, I woke up at 7:00 am to get ready for opening session. We opened in the seventh degree, lowered to the fourth degree, and then the host states (Conn, Vermont, Mass, Maine, Rhode Island, New York, and New Hampshire) presented the Grange flag. I was asked by Master Beth Merrill if I would be willing to participate in the flag ceremony, and I was honored to do it.

Wednesday the 12th, I woke up and went to the Salute to Agriculture breakfast. That day, slowly but surely, the youth started showing up. I made a lot of new friends from around the country. The youth sat in session watching the national officers, and a guest speaker. "Who was it? you're probably wondering. It was Mark Twain. Then the youth officers had practice, and after practice we played get acquainted games. Thursday November 13th, we went to the New England air museum in Conn. It was fun. Then I came back to watch the memorial service. We had a workshop on mediation and then the youth dance.

Friday, November 14th, was the morning the youth opened. We marched in and did the opening. I felt famous when all the cameras were in our faces all morning. After session was let to recess the youth had to go to a workshop with Rusty Hunt. He talked about "How do we keep the youth involved?" so it was about membership. We then had a lunch break, and had to get back for another workshop that Rusty Hunt was putting on. This was for anyone and everyone, but the youth still had to be there. It was another membership workshop. So, in case you can't tell, we are trying to really get a net gain in membership, and I would like to see New Hampshire really get out there and push membership. The youth had to get ready for the A.O.L.E. Dinner (Ambassadors, Officers, Legislative, Experience.). Then we waited for buses to come pick us up for the Night of Excellence.

Saturday, November 15th, I went to another workshop on membership. Then the youth played knowledge bowl, I was in for 2 rounds but then I lost. After anyone and everyone that wanted to go to the Seventh Degree went, there was a lot of free time until the celebration banquet. The banquet was wonderful. Following the banquet was a dance until we got rudely interrupted by the fire alarm. We were outside for about 30 minutes. until we could go back in. Once we got back in I went to the dance and danced till midnight. Then I was saying my good-byes to all the new friends I made from all over the country. Sunday, November 16th 2008, was the drive home. Thanks for everyone's support and the help to make my first National Session go well.



The New Hampshire State Grange Family wishes your family a blessed, peaceful, happy, holiday season.

THE GRANITE STATE GRANGER

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