



The Granite State Granger

Volume 39

Number 4

2009

December

Internal Revenue Service 990-N Reports

Due by February 15, 2010

NH State Grange Treasurer Gail Turcotte would like to remind each NH Subordinate and Pomona Grange that your annual report to the IRS for fiscal year October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2009, is due by February 15, 2010. Each Grange is required to file this report even though you do not have to pay any taxes. Please be sure to use your correct EIN/TID and your full legal name when you file.

The 990-N report can be filed electronically the same as last year, or, if your Grange is unable to file on line, Gail has copies of the 2008 paper 990-EZ version available. The paper version has changed since last year, so you must use the new revised 2008 form to file this year.

Please remember that failure to file for three consecutive years will result in the loss of your non-profit tax-exempt status. If you have any questions please contact Gail Turcotte, NH State Grange Treasurer.



**Past State Master Carl Adams at the
NH State Grange Session**

2010 Northeast Leaders' Conference

January 8, 9, & 10

Brattleboro, Vermont

The 2010 Northeast Leaders' Conference will be held at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center at 1380 Putney Road in Brattleboro, VT, on January 8, 9, and 10. Hotel reservations must be made with the hotel at **(802) 254-8701** no later than **JANUARY 1, 2010**. Be sure to mention **Vermont State Grange** when reserving. A block of rooms has been arranged at special rates of \$79.99+tax, double occupancy, with buffet breakfast on Saturday and Sunday included.

Registration fee for the conference will be \$10 per person, and all attendees must register. Dinner Friday is "on your own," but there will be a deli luncheon buffet and buffet dinner on Saturday. Please complete the attached registration form and mail it to arrive before the 1st of January with full payment (payable to the **Vermont State Grange**) to:

**Errol C. Briggs, Master
Vermont State Grange
P.O. Box 90
Barre, VT 05641-0090**

This conference is for all interested members. Breakout sessions will include Agriculture/Legislative, Home Economics, Lecturers, Youth, Juniors, Service, Chaplains, Information/Websites, as needed, and the New England Grange Building Trustees.

Directions to the conference site:

From the east (via Route 9 from NH): Cross the Connecticut River, and at traffic circle, go north on US Route 5 for 0.5 miles. The hotel will be on your left.

From Interstate 91, north or south: Get off I-91 at Exit 3; both ramps end at the traffic circle at US Route 5. Proceed around traffic circle, and follow Putney Road (US Route 5) north for 0.5 miles, the hotel will be on your left.



**Plunger Jane Trombi in appropriate costume.
Patron's Plunge Raises \$2,700**

Take an idea from State Master Beth Merrill, add a catchy title, throw in some marketing ideas from Kimber Bascom, turn it over to 18 enthusiastic volunteers, and you have a fund-raiser that brought in over \$2,700. More than 75 individuals, Granges, and businesses sponsored the "fearless Plungers."

Although they were prepared for the worst and had signed a very frightening legal document freeing the hotel and the Grange from responsibility in an event that "could result in death," the Plungers had a surprisingly easy time. Mother Nature contributed to the success of the event by providing air temperature of 72 and water temperature of 55 degrees. Who could have predicted such weather on October 31st?



It's been another busy quarter, hasn't it? Please find a report of the happenings at the Big "E" elsewhere in this issue. In September, Arthur and I traveled to Rochelle, IL, to attend the Illinois State Grange session as their National Reps. We were very well received there and were happy to be able to present a workshop as well as donate items for their auction which raised \$100 each for the Illinois State Grange Youth and Junior Departments. Then in October I traveled to Meriden, CT, to represent the National Grange at the Connecticut State Grange Session. It was interesting to note the differences and similarities of State Grange Sessions in different regions of the country, and I have to say that I felt very much at home in Connecticut. Their Sixth Degree was held at a local Grange Hall, which I felt made for an excellent setting for their beautiful ritual. The members supported my fundraising efforts by passing a hat to raise \$100 towards my participation in the Patron's Plunge.

Speaking of which, State Session ran smoothly with the help and participation of so many Grangers. I was happy to welcome Ed Luttrell, Master of the National Grange and his wife, Celia, as our honored guests for the weekend. The delegates approved plans for establishing the New Hampshire Grange Foundation, as reported by Chairman, Jean Abbott.

Some highlights for me during the session were: the presence of Past Master, Carl Adams (92 years young); the workshop titled "If You're Not the Lead Dog, Does the View Ever Change?" by our National Master; the inspiring array of recipients at the Celebration Banquet; presenting special TEAMWORK awards to Ralph Russell, Anne & Marty Boisvert, Rochester Grange, Gilman Grange, and the State Grange Executive Committee; the teamwork program put on by Lecturer, Marie Hall, on opening night, and the never-to-be-forgotten Patron's Plunge.

Grange Photographer, Mark Collins has put together a wonderfully thorough pictorial record of the entire session, which you can access on the State Grange website. Video footage of the Patron's Plunge can be found on YouTube.

What a blast we had in Grand Rapids, MI at the 143rd Annual Convention of the National Grange. Fourteen NH Grangers attended the convention, including talent winner, Mary West of Chichester Grange, sign-a-song winners, Chris Heath of Centennial Grange and Allissa Estes of Somersworth Grange, who also participated in the Female Ambassador program; and Matt and Lynn Clark of Prentice Hill Grange who represented NH in the Young Couple Ambassador program. They all did New Hampshire proud! I, myself, was honored to serve as Attendant #1 for the Seventh Degree and was joined on stage by Dan Bascom, Priest Archon of the Assembly of Demeter, and Arthur Merrill, Priest Conductor. Brother Bascom and I were re-elected to serve as Priest Archon and Lady Assistant Steward, respectively. Several changes were made in the list of National officers, including the election of High Priest of Demeter, Tom Severance of Massachusetts; Lecturer, Pete Pompper of New Jersey; Steward, Chip Narvel of Delaware; Treasurer, Dwight Baldwin of Iowa; Secretary, Judy Sherrod of Tennessee; Gatekeeper, Scott Sherman of Rhode Island; Ceres, Linda Chase of Massachusetts; Flora, Patti Lee of Illinois; and Executive Board, Joe Fryman of Nebraska.

Three NH resolutions were acted upon during the session, the most notable of which was the one which asked the National Grange to change its current anti-hemp policy to one of support instead. Our

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

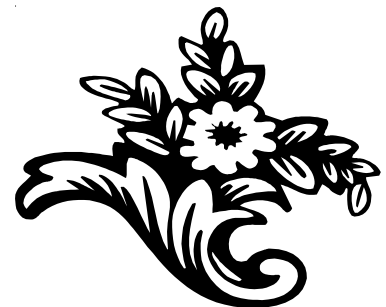
3 Depot Road

Chichester, NH 03258

resolution was combined with a similar one from Idaho and then voted to be included in the Agriculture policy statement. A Montana resolution on hemp was then brought to the floor and after some good debate, the delegates voted to list the support of industrial hemp in the regular Agriculture section of the National Grange Legislative Policy Handbook, as well as in the policy statement.

I hope you will consider attending the 2010 Northeast Grange Leaders' Conference in January. I want to stress that **all members** are more than **welcome** to attend this important event, and I highly encourage you to do so. Those of us located in the southwest corner of the state are happy to hear that the conference will be in Brattleboro, Vermont. Registration details will be posted on our website when they become available.

Please keep the date of April 10th open for the second annual Spring Fling Grange Month Kickoff Event. Location and details will be announced in my next column.



Thank You

For two nights in succession, I sat down to write "thank you" notes to friends and relatives who sent me cards and or attended the event at the Webster town hall in observance of my 90th birthday. Some of them I hadn't heard from in years, but many were Grangers and /or close friends from town. Instead of accomplishing what I had intended, I just sat and re-read the messages and good wishes on the nearly 200 cards I received. Thank you all! I still can't believe it! I'm sure no one ever had a more wonderful party! Thanks to the "local friends" who prepared this event! The flowers were beautiful, and the food brought the comment from one person, "How can a small Town like Webster produce an event like this? (They don't know Webster, do they?) Many, many thanks to all of my Grange family.

Love to you all,
Marion T. Jones



State session is over and we can finish up with all of the awards and cash that we have to get out. We are hoping to make it to Pomona meetings over the winter to get all of the items passed out including the new programs. We will let you know when we will be in your area.

We wish to thank all of those that donated throughout the year to our programs. If it were not for the generosity of the Granges and Grangers, our program could not be carried out. A grand total of 695 mittens, hats, slippers and scarves were or will be donated to schools, nursing homes, and shelters. We sent 4 hotel luggage wagons full of items (baskets, linen, blankets, pillows, paper towels, cleaning supplies, etc.) to "A Safe Place" in Portsmouth. We also donated foods to the local Food Pantry in Hampton. Fudge and trail mix kept coming in by the bags full, and we were able to raise \$80.75 and still had some left that Joann Brandt was able to deliver to her local church. Through your generosity, there were over 350 items sent to the Eastern States Exposition for sale there. There were also 85 toys that were delivered to the Shriners Hospital by Department member Connie Carr. Thank You, Thank You!!

We sent the top ten blue ribbon winners to Eastern States Exposition where we had four entries that won ribbons. Second Place in Afghan was won by Happy Pelton of Rochester. Second place in Stuffed Toys was won by Dell Betts of Grafton Star. Third place in Latch Hook was won by Claire Gagnon of Hudson. And an honorable mention in Counted Cross Stitch was won by Constance Leger of Winthrop.

The top Subordinate Grange winners for 2009 Home Economics Reports are 1st Rochester #86, 2nd Wingold #175, 3rd Pembroke #131, and 4th Grafton Star #122.

The top Pomona Granges for 2009 are 1) East Rockingham Pomona #11, 2) Suncook Valley Pomona #12, and 3) Pemigewasset Valley Pomona #18.

New England Needlework Entries

A) Afghan

1st – Happy Pelton Rochester
2nd – Helen Lynam Lake Sunapee
3rd – Gail Turcotte Rochester
Honorable Mention – Ralph Russell Sr.
Henry Wilson
Claire Gagne Hooksett
Norma Neary Pembroke
Marc Van Sant Winthrop
Judith McNally Hampton Falls
Marjorie Burnett Wingold
Claire Gagnon Hudson
Pat Izzo Wingold
Joan DeButts Crown Point

B) Doilies

1st – Patrice Lawlor Hudson

C) Embroidery

1st – Dorinda Louise Henry Wilson
2nd – Barbara Wentworth Henry Wilson
Anette Lemieux Rochester

D) Three Piece Baby Set

1st – Joan Garland Henry Wilson
2nd – Claire Gagnon Hudson
3rd – Judith McNally Hampton Falls
Mary West Chichester
Brownie Moore Fidelity

E) Plastic Canvas

1st – Sandra Fogarty Somersworth
2nd – Lois Enman Rochester

F) Counted Cross Stitch

1st – Constance Leger Winthrop
2nd – Pat Izzo Wingold
3rd – Rose Marie Van Sant Winthrop
Sandra Fogarty Somersworth

G) Adult Garment

1st – Marie Paoletta Walpole
2nd – Mary West Chichester
3rd – Ann Leger Winthrop

H) Latch Hook

1st – Claire Gagnon Hudson
2nd – Anette Lemieux Rochester

I) Quilted Wall Hanging

1st – Linda Lauer Pine Grove
2nd – Dorinda Louise Henry Wilson
3rd – Norma Neary Pembroke

J) Stuffed Toy

1st – Dell Betts Grafton Star
2nd – Dorinda Louise Henry Wilson
3rd – Claire Gagne Hooksett
Barbara Dessert Mont Calm
Joan Garland Henry Wilson

New Hampshire State Needlework Contest

Class #1 Tied Quilt

1st – Dorinda Louise Henry Wilson
2nd – Linda Lauer Pine Grove
3rd – April Farewell Mont Calm
Loius Enman Rochester
Happy Pelton Rochester
Joan Garland Henry Wilson

Class #2 Sewn Garment

Adult 1st – Dorinda Louise Henry Wilson
Child 1st – Charlotte McIver Blazing Star

Class #3 Miscellaneous Needlework

1st – Claire Gagnon Hudson
2nd – Marjorie Burnett Wingold
3rd – Joan Garland Henry Wilson
Honorable Mention Helen Lynam Lake Sunapee
Barbara Wentworth Henry Wilson
June Moody Henry Wilson
Joan DeButts Crown Point
Anette Lemieux Rochester

Class #4 Woodworking

1st – June Moody Henry Wilson
2nd – Matthew Enman Rochester
3rd – Melvin Neary Pembroke
Robbie Izzo Gilman
Mary West Chichester

Baking Contest

1st Rhoda Davis – Pembroke
2nd Frances Towne – Joe English
3rd Ruth Weeks – Baker's River

The following awards were presented at the State Grange Session Celebration Banquet on October 31, 2009.

The top four **Community Service** winners that received monies from National Grange: (The First Place winner's notebook will be on display at National Grange.)

1st Place – Joe English # 53 (\$100)
2nd Place – Pine Grove #298 (\$75)
3rd Place – Watatic #36 (\$50)
4th Place – Hudson #11 (\$25)

Community Service Awards

Police Officer of the Year - Jimmy Deshaies of Hampton
Firefighter of the Year - Helen Cheyne of Hudson
Educator of the Year - Michael Amsden of Bath

State Police Trooper - Michael Sebor

Agricultural Awards

200 Year Farm - Great Brook Farm - Walpole

Century Farm - Pomeroy Farm - New Boston

Young Farmer of the Year - Andy Westover - Walpole

Painted Curtains

Many of you may remember the presentation that Chris Hadsel of the Vermont Painted Curtain project gave at a recent state convention at Nashua. She showed slides and explained the necessity for and process of restoring and caring for the historic painted curtains and backdrops found at many Grange and Town Halls. Her research and restoration efforts in Vermont are mostly complete, so she is now conducting a survey of painted curtains here in New Hampshire.

In 2008, "Curtains Without Borders" and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance began a survey to locate and document New Hampshire's collection of historic scenery. As of June, 2009, 105 pieces have been located and about 30 have been visited. The goal of the project is to raise awareness of New Hampshire's historic scenery and encourage conservation wherever possible. The NH Preservation Alliance is also interested in the condition and preservation needs of the town halls, Granges, and other community buildings that traditionally house historic painted scenery.

There is talk about possibly making this a National Grange project. For more information and to contact Chris directly you can visit the website at www.curtainswithoutborders.org.

Granite Grange Public Suppers

23 Webster Street
Milford, NH

5 to 6:30 p.m.

Adults - \$8.00

Children under 6 - \$4.00

January 9

Baked Chicken
Potatoes and Vegetable
Bread Pudding

February 13

American Chop Suey
Side Salad
Surprise Dessert

March 13

Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner
Irish Desserts

The National Grange Building

50th Anniversary Tour

Washington, DC

June 24-27, 2010

A tour to the National Grange buildings 50th Anniversary is now in the planning for 2010.

This tour will include: Motor coach transportation, 3 nights hotel with breakfast, 1 day local guided tour of Washington, DC, attend the National Grange building rededication ceremony on Saturday, June 26th, and gratuities for the coach driver and local guide service.

The tour will be limited to 3 pick-up locations. It will require a minimum of 40 patrons and a maximum of 50 patrons.

A mailing list is now being taken for this great tour to our Nation's Capital. To be added to the mailing list please call Ken Berry at 772-5364 or send an e-mail to klbtours@comcast.net.



Members of Mount Hope Grange #77 in Landaff were recognized for their years of continuous membership at a recent awards ceremony. Pictured from left to right are Marion Viasner - 45 years, Judy Boulet - 45 years, Ann Clement - 50 years, Sally Boivin - 55 years, Richard Bronson - 60 years, and Francis Felton - 70 years. Absent were Jerry Titus - 45 years, Nancy Butson - 45 years, and Sharon Titus - 50 years.

Farm & Forest Expo

The Farm and Forest Expo will be held on Friday, February 5, and Saturday, February 6, 2010. 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 or e-mail mrboisvert@wildmail.com if you are able to help.

Grange Bu

Pine Grove Granger Attends "Coverts" Training Workshop

A new group of wildlife conservation volunteers, including Pine Grove Grange #298's Master, Linda Lauer, has been released into the wild in locations all over New Hampshire. Twenty-three new Coverts Project volunteers emerged from the fifteenth annual New Hampshire Coverts Project Training Workshop held at Barbara C. Harris Center in Greenfield, NH, on September 23-26, 2009.

The program's name comes from the term "covert" (pronounced "cover" with a "t"), which is a thicket that provides shelter for wildlife. This year's 3 1/2-day workshop offered field trips and lectures where participants learned about managing land for wildlife, conserving wildlife habitat in their communities, and practicing sound forest management. A maximum of 25 people are selected each year from around the state to attend the Coverts Workshop.

Linda and fellow Pine Grove Granger Karen Fesler, a graduate of the 2008 Coverts Workshop, have volunteered for a pilot program, "Speaking for Wildlife," in which Coverts volunteers in the Upper Valley will be trained to provide basic wildlife education programs to the general public. The project will combine the efforts of UNH Cooperative Extension Wildlife biologists, the staff and volunteers of the Coverts Project, and the local expertise of the County Foresters in the Upper Valley Region. Karen and Linda are also willing to speak to nearby Granges about the Coverts Program.

Deadline

Send copy for the March issue of the Granite State Granger to Hannah West by February 5, 2010. Report on events of November, December, and January. Look ahead to March, April, and May.

Bulletin Board

Granite Grange #7

Granite Grange in Milford has discontinued the Open Mike. We will, however, be holding the Irish Festival in March, 2010. It was very successful, and we expect to have as much fun in 2010 as we did at this year's event. Anyone wishing to share their Irish music or wanting to attend, may contact John at 603-487-3116.

We are still holding scrapbooking on the second Friday of each month. Attendees have been preserving family heritage, family trips and recipes to name a few. The time is 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. There is a Creative Memories consultant available for help or to order whatever you need to preserve your project. Coffee, treat[s] and fun are included for \$10.00 per person. For more information, contact John or Kathy at 603-487-3116.

Granite members have been busy distributing dictionaries to third grade students. We have given to Heron Pond School in Milford, Greenville, and will be completing this year's project in Hollis in the near future.



Fire Chief, Adam L. Thompson, with Lady Assistant Steward, Marion Nason

Tuftonboro Grange #142

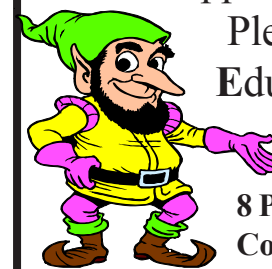
Tuftonboro Grange #142 issued its 2009 Citizen of the Year Award to Adam L. Thompson, Tuftonboro Fire Chief & Emergency Management Director. Mr. Thompson has served this community well for over 20 years in the capacity of fire fighter, police officer, and most recently as Tuftonboro Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director. He has dedicated his adult life to helping others and our citizens have been touched by his caring nature during medical, police and fire emergencies. He has helped his neighbors and members of this community that are less fortunate, has helped those that are unable to do for themselves, and has been there as a neighbor ready and willing to help in any capacity. He rarely gets compensated for his efforts and often just "takes care" of the needs of the members of the community. The award was presented on October 9, 2009, by Master Curt Pike.

Merrimack County Pomona

Merrimack County Pomona Grange wishes to thank all Grange members who patronized their food sale and luncheon at the special session of the N.H. State Grange in August. We really appreciate your support.

Merrimack County Pomona Grange met at Harmony Grange on December 7 at 6:30 pm for a pot luck supper, followed by a short meeting and Christmas program with a gift and card exchange. There was also a collection of food for the food pantry.

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



Support the ELF!

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

Aurora Grange #235

Aurora Grange of Pittsburg met with the Pittsburg Historical Society on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, for the annual Thanksgiving pot luck supper. Between Grange and Historical Society there were 18 people in attendance. As always, there was plenty of good food and lots of laughter. The program was supplied by Terry Shirley of the Historical Society this year and involved folks sharing special memories of their childhoods or of the town of Pittsburg. Our very own Bernice Fish shared an interesting story of trying to get to school at the Indian Stream Schoolhouse after a flood.

Aurora Grange recently collected and distributed hats and mittens/gloves for the students at Pittsburg School. They also presented dictionaries to the third graders.



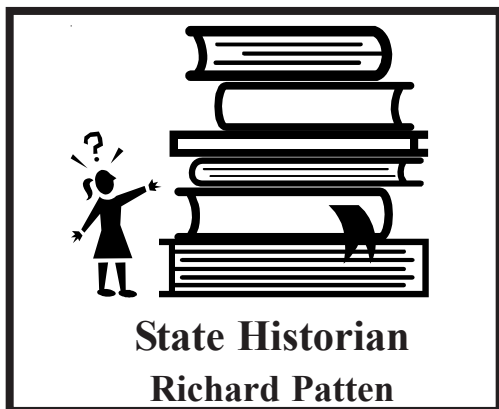
NH State Grange Pomona Rachel Bailey and Shawn Scanzani were married at Immaculate Conception Church on Saturday, November 14, 2009 with 150 family and friends present. Although it rained all day, it did not dampen the spirit or excitement of the event. Rachel is the daughter of long time Grangers Pat & Rick Bailey of Hudson and granddaughter of Pauline (Leclerc) Blais. Shawn is the son of Bill & Louise Scanzani of Pelham, NH.

Pictured above is the new Bailey Family—Patrick Bailey & Ashley Jobin (who have set a wedding date of 10/2/10), the new Mr. & Mrs. Shawn & Rachel Scanzani, and Pat & Rick Bailey.



In Memoriam

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Donna Gray | GS, PM | Aurora |
| Past State Youth Committee | | |
| Dwight Haley | GS | Centennial |
| Clayton Weeks | GS | Chichester |
| John Varney | GS | Chichester |
| Harriet Corliss | GS | Golden Rod |
| Elizabeth Weiant | | Harmony |
| Muriel Burbank | GS | Hooksett |
| Pauline Lucas | | Hudson |
| Reginald Hill | GS | Jaffrey |
| Thomas Pine | | Joe English |
| Marion Weeks | GS | Ocean Side |
| Margaret Barker | GS, PM | Ocean Side |
| Sumer H. Foss | GS, PM | Rochester |
| Mildred Beers | | Tuftonborough |
| Erma Mason | GS | Warren Pond |
| James W. Rice | | Wattannick |
| David Wells | GS, PM | Wattannick |
| Helen Holmes | GS | Wattannick |
| John Swasey, Jr. | GS | Wingold |



We have just completed a State Session, and a new Grange year is just days away. The past session held in Hampton (Beach) provided a new type of setting. I wish I had felt better because it is nice to visit a city or town that has never hosted a State Grange session. I believe the city of Franklin had never hosted a session before the 69th annual session. The 69th session was held December 8-10, 1942. Franklin was a very active city with industry and farming being the prominent employment opportunities. The railroad had lines going from Concord to White River Jct., through Franklin. Today, as you drive along Route 3, you can still see the railroad beds, although the tracks have been taken up in some locations. Now, they are talking about putting those tracks back in. I mention 1942 because many reports and discussions at the 69th session spoke about the current war efforts going on. Today our country is involved in armed conflicts in several areas of the world. We have lost men and women who were our family members, friends, and residents of our city or town. It is reported in 1942 that 1,400 Grange members were enrolled in the Armed Forces. Today, I am not sure how many members are members of the Armed Forces. I can remember when Granges would not charge a member dues if that person had been called to active duty.

The State Master in 1942 reported that the Grange organizations in the state had invested more than \$40,000 in War Bonds. It was reported that, due to the war, several Grange events had to be canceled. The Annual Boston Market Tour, Grange Regional meetings and many others were eliminated because of war time restrictions. Today, we have seen the various conflicts have taken their tolls on families and communities. We are torn as to whether we support this current involvement.

A new committee in the State Grange was called the Committee on Defense. The first report stated, "The State Grange Committee on Defense has, throughout the past year, endeavored to give helpful suggestions for ways which the Grange in NH could best aid in the successful prosecution of the war. Early in the year, the following suggested program for Grange Defense Committees was prepared and sent to all Granges. This committee expects every Subordinate and Pomona Master to appoint a Defense Committee in every Grange. A few suggested activities for the committee in each Grange could be: a Salvage program; Victory Garden Program; Fuel Wood Program; cooperate with American Legion in supplying Air Raid Observers; Fire Hazard Work; Farm Labor Supply; Nutrition Program, Blackouts, Use Hall for Community War Work, and Defense Bonds and Stamps. It is a time for loyal and patriotic cooperation and not for independent action."

Much of this applies today. How often do you see the US Flag being presented and some people have their hats on, never salute the flag, never give it the respect it deserves, and more? Veterans Day in November and Pearl Harbor Day in December are two patriotic days at this time of year. Take a moment and thank our Vets for all they have done so we can be free today. This time of the year we think of the festive holidays coming up, but we should be celebrating patriotism all year, not just at certain times. I will be writing more about 1942.

| A Hearty Grange Welcome to the Following New Members | |
|--|---------------------|
| Chelsea Bashaw | Arlington Grange |
| Russell Ryder | Arlington Grange |
| Curtis Quimby | Centennial Grange |
| Elnora Raymond | Cochecho Grange |
| Rosalie Schmidt | Dorchester Grange |
| David Thron | Grafton Star Grange |
| Nancy Marcotte | Henry Wilson Grange |
| Bridgette Daniels | Lake Shore Grange |
| James Nisbet | Tuftonboro Grange |
| Patti Nisbet | Tuftonboro Grange |
| Tim Goulette | Watatic Grange |
| Diane Wood | Winthrop Grange |
| Rich Wood | Winthrop Grange |

New England Grange Building Report

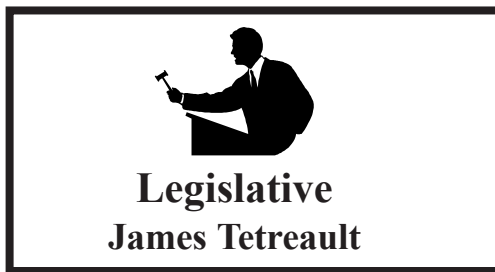
Each New England state has a room on the second floor of the New England Grange Building at the Eastern States Exposition, better known as the "Big E." This year the New Hampshire trustees decided it was time to update the New Hampshire room. The room is now freshly painted with "rhapsody lilac" walls and cream trim. The map showing the location of New Hampshire Granges came down and was replaced with a smaller and more current one.

There is a country store located on the main floor of the building where jams, jellies, crafts, and other items are sold. Due to the popularity of the jams, and jellies the trustees decided to increase the order by 10% over last year. As for the handmade crafts, we saw 7 full totes in storage before the fair started after the displays were set up. At the end of the fair only 3 totes remained. The hats and mittens were popular this year, thanks to Mother Nature who provided chilly weather. When the final deposit was made we saw \$27,276.19 put in the bank. Thanks to the country store the New England Grange Building is for the most part self-supporting.

Every year for the last five years there has been a quilt raffle with the money raised going to a charity. This year \$3,889 was donated to the Vermont Veterans Hospital for their Rehab through Recreation project. In 2010 it is New Hampshire's turn to choose a charity to benefit from the quilt raffle.

A few projects that are being worked on currently are an Internet connection to the building that is reasonably priced. This year we purchased a laptop computer in hopes of being able to access the National Grange website with links to other states to provide a local contact for anyone who expressed an interest in the Grange. Unfortunately Internet access proved to be too costly. A slide show of Grange activities throughout the New England region has been suggested. If you have any pictures that could be used you can email them Matthew Clark or give them to him on a cd.

Support the Granite State Granger with your donation.



What a great State Session we just completed at the Ashworth by the Sea in Hampton! I was very pleased with the discussion on the public affairs resolutions at our session. We discussed a wide variety of topics on Agriculture including dairy and food safety issues. We also discussed single payer health care, as well as casino gambling. The discussion was lively and a good variety of ideas and thoughts were exchanged. Look for the updated NH State Grange Legislative Policies handbook online after the first of the year.

In the upcoming Legislative session we will focus on a set of 5 key priorities for the coming year:

- 1. Support Dairy Farmers in their struggle to remain and to become profitable**
- 2. Support efforts to encourage farmers to expand and diversify their operations**
- 3. Support efforts to encourage and increase recycling.**
- 4. Lobby for a change in RSA 261:157 to allow disabled Veterans of Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan to have disabled Veterans Status.**
- 5. Support the Growth of Industrial Hemp in the State of New Hampshire**

These are the Legislative priorities for the NH State Grange during the next session of the Legislature, which starts in January.

The Legislative Department was pleased to recognize some outstanding public servants at our convention.

Tara Sad – Walpole –
Outstanding Legislator

Dr. Stephen Crawford –
Clesson “Junie” Blaisdell Award
for Excellence in Government

Robert Haefner – Robert “Bob”
Bodwell Memorial Award for
excellence in the Legislative field.



One thing I spoke of last year was improving our Grange image. By what I am hearing across the state, this is happening in a positive manner. In order to grow we need to make sure that the community knows we are there and are a positive member of our community.

Some examples of community activities are Granite Grange suppers; Meriden Grange movie and speaker nights; and Park Grange fair booth, Halloween Night Open House and breakfasts. Blow-Me-Down Grange has suppers, brunches, flea markets and rummage sales, Christmas Bazaar and 4th of July activities. The community talk has changed. It is no longer, “I thought the Grange was dead.”

I hear excuses why a Grange can't do something. I spoke of this last year as one of our biggest deterrents to growth and activity. Little Park Grange and Blow-Me-Down Grange have proven what a positive outlook can do even with a small or somewhat elderly membership, and Park Grange doesn't even have a full kitchen! This has increased activity among the members of Park to the point where more members come out to the breakfasts than to meetings so the meetings have been changed to follow the breakfast. For the winter they will have soup and sandwiches with board and card games and general socializing one Saturday a month. Park will also travel to the area senior housing where some members live to make them feel a part of the Grange still.

Due to the number of GRIT Granges in comparison to GRIT team members and requests from other Grangers, I am planning a training frenzy next year. Realizing we cannot afford Rusty again, the plan is to utilize our capably trained team members at several locations across the state. Our trained members are hardworking and dedicated but it is too big a job for them. We need more workers in

the field. These trainings will be 1-day sessions with either bring your own lunch or possibly a meal served by the host Grange. Remember it is the duty of all members to be good membership stewards.

I would like to express our Worthy National Master's challenge of growth for next year. Growth can be the number of new members or it can be the revitalizing of old Granges or starting a whole new Grange - Subordinate or Pomona. I challenge you to at least two new or revitalized Subordinate Granges, and I double challenge you to rebuild a Pomona. MAKE MY DAY!!!!!!

I honored some Granges at State Session for two different aspects of Grange growth. A positive Grange image in the community is important to Grange growth. As a Grange who has ‘stepped out of the box’ of ‘we can't do that’ attitude to being an active Grange within their community, Honorable Mention goes to Park Grange for a job well done. But the “Good Grange Image” Award goes to Blow-Me-Down.

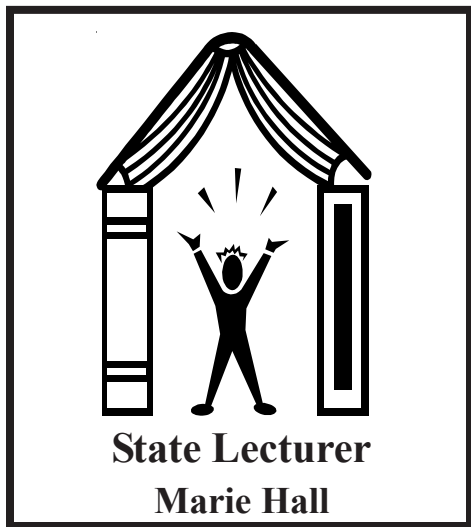
Another aspect of Grange growth is new members. A struggling Grange that can work to increase its membership deserves recognition and honor. Although Walpole Grange took in 17 new members, they are a strong Grange. I give them Honorable Mention. Aurora Grange, I also give Honorable Mention. But the “Phoenix Award” goes to Riverhill Grange for going from a struggling-to-meet Grange to taking in 14 new members.

There may be other Granges who have done well, but I did not hear of their work or read it in the Granite State Granger. The Pomona membership chairs are supposed to keep me informed of Grange activity, so keep them informed.



Jim Tetreault presents the Outstanding Legislator award to Tara Sad of Walpole.

Visit the National Grange website at
www.nationalgrange.org



A new Grange year is upon us. By the time you receive this GSG the Lecturer of your Grange should have received their packets of information for the new year. I hope that everyone can encourage their Lecturer to share what is in the packet. The information is for all the members of your Grange, and it includes information about the contests for the upcoming year. This year I am counting on you to work as a team. As our State Master has impressed upon us all at State Session, we need to remember that much can be accomplished as a team. I am hoping that through the Lecturers our communities will realize that the Grange is alive and wants to survive. Encourage those that are not members to participate in some of the Lecturer's contests. There will be a separate category for non-members with the hopes that those who participate will eventually want to become members.

In the past few years there has been a drop in participation in many of the programs. If you would like to see a change in some of the State events that are held please send ideas to me, and I will try to incorporate them. As in previous years there will be bowling, VT/NH night (It will be happening this year because we already have the date and place.), ME/NH night which will be in Maine this year, Talent, and hopefully a summer barbecue. Bowling is already scheduled for March 14, 2010. Please help to make this a remarkable year number-wise.

This year I am going to be naming honor Lecturers. The best way for that to happen is to have your Grange support and participate in the programs that are provided for you. If you do, the rewards will be great.

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 the most popular with the Granges. This will also give me a chance to be able to visit and to help you with ideas on 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. Your fellow members need to know what is going on at their own Grange meetings. If they do not know what is going on, then how can we expect them to come and participate? Encourage those

members who have not been coming to be a part of your programs. Ask what their interests are and glean from them. Their knowledge and past experiences in life are necessary for us to grow and to be able to expand our beliefs and values.

Use your newspaper as a tool to let the Grange name become alive in our communities again. Print the month before what your activities are going to be. The next month report on what happened and then print again what you intend to do the next month. I would also like to see at least one of your activities printed up in the Granite State Granger so the rest of the State will know what you have done. They may want to share your wonderful program with their Grange as well. Be proud of what you do. It is said that the highest compliment paid is when someone takes your idea and works with it too.

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 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. Any member can feel free to contact me. The more people I hear from the more informed I will become and the more completely I will be able to incorporate your needs into the State program.

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