



The Granite State Granger

Volume 46

Number 1

2016

March

State Lecturer's

Variety Show , Penny Sale

Grange Month Banquet

Saturday, April 30, 2016

State Grange Building, Hooksett, NH

1:30pm -Penny Sale tickets go on sale

2:30 pm - Talent/Variety Show

3:30 pm - Penny Sale Draw

4:00 pm - special activity.

5:00 pm Grange Month Banquet

Cost: \$15 adults \$7 (ten and under)

All proceeds will benefit the Talent Fund.

Meal: Ham, baked potato, hot vegetable, salad, rolls, dessert, beverages.

Reservations for meal are requested

by April 20, 2016 to

Jane Trombi - 357-8540

or trombi.jane@gmail.com

Variety/Talent Acts: Registration

is required at the above number or email by April 20, 2016. See program booklet for rules.

The Best of Show will have a chance to perform at the Night of Excellence at the 150th National Grange Convention in Washington D.C.

Join us with an act or just to watch!

Membership/Leadership

Conference with

National Director

Joe Stefenoni

On May 21 the New Hampshire State Grange will be hosting a membership/leadership conference to be held at the Taylor Community in Laconia. Grangers from Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine will be attending this event. National Grange Membership/Leadership Director Joe Stefenoni will be coming to provide the training and tools to make us successful. If you are interested in attending, please let State Master, Chris Heath know so that he can get you the information and registration form.

Silent Film Comedy

The silent film era returns to the big screen at Blazing Star Grange in Danbury with the screening of a classic silent comedy accompanied by live music. Showtime is Saturday, March 19, at 7 p.m. Featured will be a full-length comedy, 'Grandma's Boy,' starring Harold Lloyd, the most popular movie star of the 1920s. All are welcome to this family-friendly event.

The screening will feature live accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, a New Hampshire-based composer who specializes in creating scores for silent films. He performs on a digital synthesizer to reproduce the texture of the full orchestra and create a traditional "movie score" sound. 'Grandma's Boy' tells the story a cowardly young man (Harold Lloyd) who seeks the courage to battle a menacing tramp who terrorizes his small hometown. In revival, 'Grandma's Boy' continues to delight movie-goers and serves as a great example of the magic of silent film. It also provides a marvelous window into small town American life as it was lived a century ago.

Members of Blazing Star Grange decided to include silent film in their programming to give the public a chance to experience the great films of cinema's early years as they were intended: in restored prints, on the big screen, and with live music and an audience. In the early decades of the 1900s, silent films were shown at Blazing Star Grange. This screening will pay tribute to that tradition.

Blazing Star Grange Hall is located at 15 North Road, Danbury. The program is open to the public. Admission is free, with a suggested donation of \$5 per person to defray expenses. For more info, call 603-252-444; for more info on the music, visit www.jeffrapsis.com.

Follow up on "Rip Cards"

by Chris Heath, State Master

There were many visitors to the State Grange Booth at the Farm & Forest Expo in January who filled out Rip Cards with their contact information. **These are people who are interested in joining a Grange.**

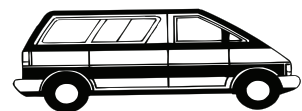
If your Grange received a Rip Card contact, I hope that you have reached out to them and invited them to your Grange. Your State Grange Membership committee and the volunteers who manned the booth worked hard to get these contacts. Don't let them fall by the wayside. If you have contacted the person and they have a conflict with your meeting night, suggest another Grange in the area that they might attend.

Remember, someone asked you to join the Grange. Don't forget to ask someone to share the same opportunities that you have received.

Spring Fling

Spring Fling will be held on April 9th in Laconia. The event will take place at Woodside Drive located off Ledges Drive in the Taylor Community INC. The day will start at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and donuts. In the morning there will be a general session and then participants will breakout into the workshops. There will be a workshop on how to make a hand tied fleece blanket; the NH Humanities Council will be there to tell us about the programs they offer. There will be a legislative panel as well as many other interesting workshops. Lunch will be soups and sandwiches at a cost of \$9.00.

A flyer with a registration form will be mailed out to all the Granges. Please note that this is a smoke free facility and the 19 MPH speed limit is strictly enforced. More information is forthcoming.



**Family & Community
Department
Deb Patten**

Happy Spring- almost! We really can't complain about the winter we have had.

I hope you have been keeping your knitting needles going making mittens, hats, scarves, etc. to warm the heads and hands of our girls and boys in this state. These are so needed and it is amazing how much they are appreciated when distributed to the schools and Boys & Girls Club. Hopefully you keep working on these throughout the summer as well so we can have a huge Mountain of Mittens at State Grange in October.

Baking Contest

I hope all Subordinate Granges have included the baking contest in your program. This year's baking contest is Blueberry Muffins. There is no specific recipe – we just ask that you indicate if you included nuts in your muffins so there will be no allergic reactions to judges or Grange friends who might eat the leftovers. The winner from each subordinate should participate at the Pomona level, and the winner of each Pomona will have to bake again for State Grange in October. Make it fun! Be creative! Happy Baking!

Needlework

This year's categories are the same as previous years. I will be sending the pamphlets out with a letter to each Family Services chairperson, but in the meantime here are the categories for competition at Eastern States:

- Afghans Doilies Embroidery**
- 3 Piece Baby Set Plastic Canvas**
- Counted Cross Stitch**
- Adult Garment Latch Hook**
- Quilted Wall Hanging**
- Stuffed Toy Baby Afghan**

These contests are open to non-Grangers as well. Please invite someone in your community to participate. This just may generate interest for potential new members.

There are also State level contests

in the following categories:

- Quilts Sewing – either adult or child's garment**
- Woodworking Other crafts**
- Galoshes from Grangers**

We are continuing this project this year. Please be on the lookout for boots so we can hopefully get 2 pair from each Subordinate Grange. Come April or so they will be on clearance. If you can pick them up on clearance and put them aside until State Grange in October that would be great.

Eastern States

There are many items needed for sale at the Grange building at Eastern States. At the end of this article you will find a list of the items that are in great demand.

Project Night Night

This great project is off to a great start! I am so excited about our participation in this project. The Family & Community Service committee is planning to purchase the sacks for this project, because this is a national project and I want to be sure we follow the program guidelines. However, we are hopeful our Grangers will help with the child-size fleece blankets – usually need 1.5 to 2 yards of fleece, or a stuffed toy. I have received a few stuffed toys and have put them away until State Grange when I hope we have enough blankets and stuffed toys to fill 50 sacks.

These sacks will also have a children's book which are being acquired by Doris Mitton who is writing for a grant for these books. These sacks will go to homeless shelters. All too often when children are forced to go to a shelter due to homelessness or domestic violence, all they have is the clothes on their back. This will provide them comfort.

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

Thank you for your support and participation in our program. We are here to help you. Please be sure to reach out to one of the committee members listed in the roster or to me.

For Sale at Eastern States Expo

For 2015 the revenue from the sale of items at the New England Grange Building at the Eastern States Exposition was \$25,500, an increase of over \$300 from the previous year. This is all from the sale of items you generously donate to help support this building at Eastern States.

Items most in demand are:

- Scrubbies – tightly tied so they don't fall apart**
- Dishcloths**
- Baby items**
- Aprons**
- Clothespin bags**
- Slippers**
- Stand up napkin holders**
- Tissue box covers – either plain or with decoration – Halloween or Fall mainly**
- Halloween, Thanksgiving, Fall or Christmas decorations only – other holiday decorations do not sell**
- Fingerless gloves**
- Mittens**
- ½ towels- for wiping hands in the kitchen**
- Afghans – please put size on them i.e. child, adult, lap robe, etc.**
- Hats & Scarf sets – please pin together**

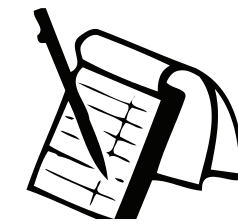
The due date for these items is August 15 to get them to Deb Patten, Director of Family Services. If you want to deliver them to Eastern States directly that is fine too. Any time after 9/5/16 is fine. Eastern States starts 9/15/2016.



In Memoriam

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Harold Tedford | Arlington |
| Russell Brooks | Aurora |
| Margorie Brooks | Aurora |
| Bernard Smith | Harmony |
| Agnes Lawlor | Hudson |
| Gertrude Putman | Prentice Hill |
| Wynona Wyberg | Rochester |
| Clayton Tuck | Rochester |
| Emma Ingalls | Wingold |

**Lecturer's Lines
State Lecturer
Jane Trombi**



I am very excited about "Our Own Backyard" theme this year. There are so many exciting things to do in and learn about our wonderful state. I hope your Grange has been able to plan some events either in or out of your hall. As a Granger it is important that we all do our best to promote our great organization. What better way to do this than by going out, having fun, exploring our state and showing your Grange pride by wearing your Grange apparel.

New Hampshire Program

I have encouraged each lecturer to have a program about NH and send me the details of what was presented. A couple of Granges have had a NH Humanities Council speaker. One Grange had a Girl Scout talk about her Gold Award project which involves New Hampshire Endangered Wildlife, while yet another Grange was exploring the less known places to visit in our state. If you're on the internet, I found a very cool website: www.onlyinyourstate.com. Select New Hampshire, and it gives you many interesting ideas about NH from burger joints that will explode your taste buds to ten places in NH you must see before you die.

I hope you are having a chance to work on some of the contest entries. Here are the details for:

Create -a- Card

This contest gives members the opportunity to create their own all occasion cards.

Size of the cards will be no bigger than 5 ½ X 8 ½ inches.

Categories

- I. Hand Made (Drawn by hand or cut and pasted with materials found in the home rather than commercially prepared.)
- II. Computer Generated (Any card using a computer in any way.)
- III. Hand Stamped and/or Decorated (with materials available from craft stores)

Classes are as follows:

- Class A: Thank You
- Class B: Wedding
- Class C: Father's Day

Divisions: Subordinate member, Junior member age 5-9, Junior member age 10-14

1. One entry per person/per class/per category.
2. Each entry should be properly labeled with the maker's Name, Grange Category, and Class.
3. Entries due to the State Lecturer by October 1, 2016.

Entries will be judged on:

1. Creativity
2. Composition
3. Eye Appeal

A small cash prize will be awarded in each category.

Bowling Day

State Grange Bowling Day is March 13th starting at noon at Lakeside Lanes in Manchester. I hope to see many of you there.

April 30

Don't forget to be ready for the State Lecturer's Talent/Variety Day on April 30th. There will also be a Penny Sale and Grange Month Banquet. See the details in a separate listing in this publication. All money raised will go to the talent fund.

Talent Fund

Please consider donating to the State Lecturer's Talent Fund. Donations can be made by Granges or individuals. The monies donated to this fund allow our Best of Show to travel to National Grange and perform at the Night of Excellence. This is an honor for one or more of our members to show off their talent to the rest of the states. Donations can be sent to me at the address below. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

If anyone has questions for me, I can be reached at 603-357-8540, trombi.jane@gmail.com, or by mail at 794H Court Sreet, Keene, NH 03431.



2015 Create A Card Contest Winners

Class A: Christmas

**Category 1: Hand Made
Junior Age 5-9**

- 1st - Alayna Twiss Watatic
- 2nd - Caden Lynch Watatic

Category II: Computer Generated

- 1st - Claire Gagnon Hudson

Category III: Hand Stamped

- 1st - Marion Woodworth Rochester
- 2nd - Eleanor Murray Bakers River
- 3rd - Ida Hutchins Bakers River

Class B: Get Well

Category 1: Hand Made

- 1st - Kathy Yardley Walpole
- 2nd - Ida Hutchins Bakers River

Category 1: Hand Made

Junior Age 5-9

- 1st - Alayna Twiss Watatic
- Junior Age 10-14

- 1st - Ava Twiss Watatic
- 2nd - Genevieve Twiss Watatic

Category II: Computer Generated

- 1st - Claire Gagnon Hudson

Category III: Hand Stamped

- 1st - Beth Merrill Antrim
- 2nd - Marion Woodworth Rochester
- 3rd - Kerriann Heath Centennial

Category IV: Photo with Computer Additions

- 1st - Stephen Tracy Stratford

Class C: Mother's Day

Category 1: Hand Made

Junior Age 5-9

- 1st - Alayna Twiss Watatic
- Junior Age 10-14

- 1st - Genevieve Twiss Watatic
- 2nd - Ava Twiss Watatic

- 3rd - Lillian Lynch Watatic

Category III: Hand Stamped

- 1st - Beth Merrill Antrim
- 2nd - Marion Woodworth Rochester
- 3rd - Eleanor Murray Bakers River

**Creative Writing Contest Winners
2015**

Category 1: Poetry

Class A: Seasons

- 1st Jennifer Bailey Rochester
- 2nd Sherrill Bokousky Watatic
- 3rd Kathy Yardley Walpole

Class B: Patriotic

- 1st Rick Bailey Hudson
- 2nd Sarah Leclerc Hudson
- 3rd Judy Bailey Rochester

**Category II: Tell the Story
"A Special Friend"**

- 1st Stephen Tracy Stratford

Category III: Read the Book

- 1st Camilie Twiss Watatic

Support the Granite State Granger with your donation.



*From my pad
to your pad*

**Christopher Heath
NH State Grange Master**

In January I attended the Northeast Regional Leaders Conference that was held in Milford, Massachusetts. I worked with the other State Masters on the Northeast Connection board to determine where National Grange Session will be hosted when it comes to our region in 2018. The board was presented two options from the National Grange Executive Committee. As of right now, we still do not know where the session will be held. The two options that are on the table are Stowe, Vermont, and Warwick, Rhode Island. My hope is that National Grange will let us know shortly, and I can relay that information to you. We will definitely need some volunteers to serve on the session committee. Anyone who is interested in helping should let me know so when planning is started, you can be in on the ground level.

Later during the conference, the New England Grange Building Trustees met to discuss this past year's Eastern States Exposition. This was a good year for the fair and for the New England Grange Building sales. This year, the "Big E" will be celebrating 100 years. The goal is to have many Grange members participate in Grange Day during the fair. If you are interested in helping at the Grange building, coming down to participate in the parade on Grange Day or helping out with the Blueberry pie fundraiser, please let me or any one of the State officers know so we can be sure to secure a pass for you to get into the fair.

On January 22nd and 23rd the annual Farm and Forest Expo was held at the Center of New Hampshire in Manchester NH. The State Grange Membership Committee had an educational booth for those who attended. Membership director Norman Brandt did an excellent job with the exhibit and as a result of his hard work our booth won a first place ribbon. The goal this year was

to have hands-on activities for the kids. They had the option of "stripping fish", tapping maple trees, or planting plants. These activities attracted young and old alike. Parents were especially interested in tapping the tree.

Later on in the evening of January 23rd, twelve brave souls ventured to the State Youth Director's house to participate in the Moon Stomp. A pizza dinner and snacks were provided followed by a moon lit walk through the property. This year was easy on the participants as the amount of snow was not as bad as in years past.

February 4th through the 7th found the New Hampshire State Grange hosting the National Grange Legislative Primary Fly-In. Thirty-two participants from all over the country attended for the entire weekend and enjoyed the hospitality that the Grangers from New Hampshire showed to them. Friday night the NH State Grange Youth committee hosted an event for the youth in attendance. They went to the NH Great Escape in Manchester. All who attended this event had a wonderful time. The Youth Director has informed me that she would like to do this for the youth members in NH.

On Saturday February 6th members of the New Hampshire pink sash family put on a homemade breakfast for the attendees at the New Hampshire State Grange Building in Hooksett. There were many compliments about the food that was prepared for them. I want to congratulate Bob Haefner, Tara Sad, Jim Tetreault, and all the volunteers who made this weekend a success.

After the Fly-In participants left the State Grange Building, the Juniors gathered for a Junior Day. They worked on a community service project, held a Junior Grange meeting, had some food to eat, and planted the remaining begonias left over from Farm and Forest.

On the 13th of February, the State Youth Committee held their annual Winter Youth Rally at the State Grange Building. This is always a fun, educational event. If you have never attended or haven't participated in a long time, plan to go next year and have a good time. The annual Youth Association meeting was held that evening and some daring members came

dressed as their favorite farm animals. A great time and good food was had by all who attended.

The following weekend found me in Orlando, Florida, attending the State Masters' Conference. There were many workshops on leadership and membership. This is my second time attending this event and each time gets better. Thankfully the weather cooperated and I was not delayed in coming home.

In March I visited with a few Granges across the state. I am encouraging Grange members to get out and find new members. Membership is everyone's responsibility. How do you think your Grange will survive into the next century? It will only be productive if you get out and ask people to join. The State Grange does have some tools to make this process easier, but you have to ask. We do not have a crystal ball that tells us who needs help. If you are planning a membership drive or know of an event in town where you can have a table to talk about the Grange, ask us for help. Remember to talk people about your own personal experiences and talk about the positive things that your Grange does. The most important thing to do is ask the prospective member to join your Grange.

In May, we will be holding area meetings designed specifically for Masters and Secretaries or someone interested in the office. The exact dates are still in the works but as soon as we have them nailed down, you will know. These meetings are specifically designed for Masters and Secretaries but everyone is welcome to attend. We will review the duties of the offices, paperwork, procedures and many other topics related to the two offices. There will be time for questions and instruction. These meetings will be held in four different locations throughout the state. More information about this will also be coming out soon.

Please remember that the Grange visitation contest is still going on. When you go out and visit Granges, take your logbook. When you attend a State Grange sponsored event, like Variety show, Spring Fling, etc. you need to bring your logbook to get it stamped. I hope to see many of you in my travels across the state throughout this year.

Community Service Thoughts



Richard Patten

I hope Granges are getting ready for spring projects and Grange Month. There are many ideas your Grange can do in the community. Has your Grange adopted a spot in your community do the Beautification project? Now is a good time to plan for cleanup, raking up old leaves, branches, getting flower beds ready for planting, and selecting a variety of perennials or annuals to plant. You might try to have a Grange sign showing your organization is maintaining this area.

I hope your Grange is collecting change for Grange. Your Grange Community Service Chairman should be collecting change for Grange to help with the "Santa Remembers Teens at Christmas" project. You can purchase gift cards any time and either hold onto them or send them to me and I will hold onto them for the Santa project in November.

I hope your Grange will be submitting names for the Grange Recognition Awards that we present at our State Grange Session. This year I am looking for suggestions for Law Enforcement Officer (this can be police officer, deputy sheriff or sheriff, state police if they provide coverage for your town). The forms are coming to you in the mail. The Firefighter of the Year can be someone who along with being a firefighter can be involved as EMT, paramedic, etc. The Educator can be a teacher at any level or a college professor. I am hopeful that each Grange will become involved in submitting someone.

If you don't know how to do this, contact your police chief, fire chief, or superintendent of the schools and let them make the selection. They in turn will contact you so that you can order a plaque or certificate to present to the honoree. I, as well, would be very much willing to help you with the process. In this day and age, when they go to work whether it is a police officer or firefighter or a teacher, who knows what danger lies ahead for them?

The deadline is August 31 for all entries. If your Grange does not submit

someone, I will be sending invitations to town police and fire chiefs to send in nominations. Speaking of nominations, don't forget to submit a non-granger for the Citizen of the Year. Choose someone who is active in community activities, church, school (if applicable), and gives of themselves to help others. Please submit their name to me by August 31.

The Pomona Granges are encouraged to honor a Grange member or a non-Granger for the Public Service Award. Present the award at a Pomona meeting and submit their name by August 31.

I will be presenting a few awards to Grange members who have been in the background but have done so much over the years. This will be done at the Grange Month Dinner at the State Grange Building in Hooksett, on Saturday, August 30. Please contact Lecturer Jane Trombi for more information.

Sending greeting cards to shut ins, homeless veterans, or people who think they have been forgotten have brought smiles to many people. Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Thinking of You cards are always welcome to find in the mailbox. The Veterans at Liberty House enjoy receiving greeting cards from the Grange as I am sure those at the NH Tilton Soldiers Home do as well.

I hope Granges have presented 3rd grade students with their new dictionaries. Please let me know on your final report how many your Grange presented. You might check with schools in your town especially for next year if they still would like dictionaries. I had one school in Concord that didn't want them anymore due to their students all having Ipads. They would like the Grange to consider giving them subscriptions to magazines for their library. This one school gave me several ideas for magazines to consider.

Lastly, don't forget to collect Socks for Seniors project. Kevin Belval, a member of my committee, is spearheading this and can answer questions.

Thank you for all your Grange is doing in your community. Please call me at anytime 603-496-2917 or email dickpatten7@gmail.com

Happy Easter, Happy Passover, and most of all, Happy Spring to everyone!

2016 Grange Family Weekend! July 29-31

Bring your family, bring your friends and join us at the Gunstock Mountain Resort for a weekend of camping, fellowship and fun. Bring something to share, for our potluck supper (followed by a campfire) on Saturday evening. Enjoy Bingo, Cribbage, Campground activities, and relaxation with your Grange friends.

Our group has a block of campsites reserved in the "Boardwalk" area. To make your reservation contact Bob Trombi (603) 762-2971 or robert.trombi@gmail.com

Campground Amenities

Gunstock is a full service campground, with an outdoor in-ground pool. The pool is open during the summer months and is handicap accessible. The campground has two bath houses with free hot showers and coin-operated laundry facilities. Campers can play in two playgrounds, hike through the wetlands boardwalk and fish in the pond. Kayaks, paddle boats and mountain bikes are available for Gunstock guests to rent. In addition, there is a skateboard park, and a mini golf course located near the lodge. Miles of hiking and biking trails start right at your doorstep. Athletic equipment such as horseshoes and volleyballs are available for use.

Complete resort information is available online at:

<http://www.gunstock.com/recreation/camping/>

Hope to see you there!

State Grange Directors
Agriculture/Legislative - Robert Haefner
Community Service - Richard Patten
Family Service - Debra Patten
Grange Services - Lois Enman
Youth - Beth Merrill
Junior - Joann Brandt
Membership - Norman Brandt
Publicity - James Tetreault
Fundraising - Kim Bascom
Webmaster - James Tetreault
GSG - Hannah West
Building - Anne & Marty Boisvert
Photographer - Mark Collins
Family Weekend - Robert Trombi
Resolutions and By-laws - Tara Sad

**Outreach
Director
Stephen
Tracy**



Great job to all the hard, tired workers of the Grange booth at Farm and Forest and the blue ribbon they earned. I couldn't be there, and I am told that it was so busy that I would have been no help being on the concrete for so long with my bad knees and spine. I miss that winter vacation.

Grange activities in the North Country are picking up. It helps put the Grange in the public eye and it is getting people to ask about the Grange. In January we had a Food Stewardship Gathering with many people present. I set up a booth advertising the Grange and got ten rip cards completed. Over 150 people came through so it was like a mini Farm and Forest for the North Country. The new officers of the local FFA fought through the crowd and asked if I was the Grange Guy. They had heard of great things about me and the Grange and wanted to shake my hand.

Stratford Grange and Upper Coos Pomona have lost another great member, Gladys Lovering, wife of Past Stratford Master Bob Lovering. She was the mother of past State Youth Committee member Cindy Aldrich. Stratford Grange attended the funeral as a group with our sashes. It impressed the family and even got us a few people asking about joining.

In an effort to get the Grange involved with current affairs and then in the newspapers I am asking if Granges will have a discussion on the bill in Concord to open hunting on bobcats. Hold a friendly discussion and then a vote as to whether Grangers support bobcat hunting or not and then put that in the newspaper. The Granges in the Upper Coos region have a write up of Grange activities in the papers. It keeps the community informed of our activities and people are talking to members about it.

The Stratford Grange Sovereignty Group is getting quite active involving people from two states and Canada due to those activities also being in the news-

paper. There are big plans for the community this year and it gives the Grange a good public image. We are working on two community gardens and cooperating with Small and Beginner Farmers of NH to refurbish the neglected hayfields in the area and get the hay to farmers. The group's overall goals are from the book **The Town That Food Saved** by Ben Hewitt about Hardwick, VT. An area-wide composting facility and an old-time skills training fair are in the works.

While working on the Sovereignty projects we are putting into action the 'building community' training that Chris Heath and I learned at the ME State Grange Headquarters last year. By working with several other groups in the community and getting more people active we build community.

I have been secretary for two years for the Coos County Small and Beginner Farmers branch and due to the activities of the Sovereignty Group they have asked me to become county leader. Also there was a meeting in Colebrook about the increasing homeless population and no plan on how to deal with this. From this meeting, due to my having been homeless and also working with the homeless population and agencies, I have been asked to coordinate the plan. Another benefit of Grange in the community.

I hope that I have given others some ideas on how to get the Grange into the community and thus build community.



Mohawk Grange #217 presented dictionaries to the Colebrook Elementary School third-graders on January 26. Lynnda Gaudette is pictured above handing out the books in the classroom. Ginger Jannenga and Wayne Brown also assisted with the presentation. (Photo courtesy of the **Colebrook News and Sentinel**)

Grange Bulletin Board

The **Northeast Youth Conference** is being hosted by New York this year at SUNY Cobleskill, a little southwest of Albany, on **July 8-10**. There will be regional contests for public speaking, sign-a-song, Grange Jeopardy, and Drill Team. Participants will be touring the Secret Caverns in lieu of Saturday morning workshops. The registration fee (approximately \$100 for the weekend) will include admission to the caverns, accommodations, and four meals. Registration information and a schedule of events will be sent out once it is received from the NY Youth Directors.

Thank You

Heartfelt thanks are extended to those Grange members who contributed to the success of the National Grange Legislative Fly-In: Les Avery, Norman Brandt, Gloria Davis, Burton Eller from National Grange, Chris Heath, Beth Merrill, Deb Patten, Dick Patten, Adam Paquin-Varnum, Tara Sad, Jim Tetreault, Bob Trombi, and Steve Tracy.

Concord Grange

Concord Grange #322 will resume meetings in March. The Grange would like to invite everyone to their annual Community Recognition Awards Night on Monday, April 18, at 6:30 p.m. at the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Hall, 48 Airport Road, Concord Heights. It is located across from the Civil Air Patrol building, National Guard Armory, or Concord Airport.

We have several members who will be receiving membership awards. We will also honor the outstanding police officer, firefighter, state police, citizen, legislative, agriculture, youth, community spirit and lifetime legends. There will be refreshments before and after the meeting. This is an open meeting. Please join us for this special evening.

**A Hearty Grange Welcome to
New Members
Leroy and Cheryl Watson of
Walpole Grange**

What Does the State Grange Do For Me?

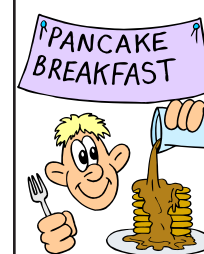
by State Master Chris Heath

Many Grangers have been asking me, "What does the State Grange do for the members across the state?" I tell them that one of the things the State Grange does is the programs that each department provides. The departments work very hard with a limited budget to provide programming that each member can take advantage of and participate in. It is up to the member to be involved and participate.

Your State officers, department directors and committee members are regular subordinate members. They are not compensated for the time that they spend working on their programs, meeting to plan events, or travelling to the events. We are all volunteers and do this because we care about the organization. So the next time you ask what does the State Grange do for you, remember that the State Grange is made up of volunteers who accepted the positions to provide everyone with the programs and events that we all enjoy.

Another thing that the State Grange has done for the membership is to pay the first year of the newest dues increase. This was made possible by the thriftiness of your State Executive Committee. They worked hard to find some money to cover these costs for all members in New Hampshire. There was outstanding money collected and a small profit made on a couple of events to cover the cost.

**Suncook Valley Pomona Grange
Is hosting a Pancake Breakfast
March 20 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon
At Journey's End Maple Farm
295 Loudon Road, Pittsfield**



Suggested donation \$5 per person

Come enjoy good food and good company in a heated garage and stay for a guided tour.

Congratulations!

Karl McDerby of Spofford, N.H., a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering, was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2015 semester at Clarkson University. Dean's List students must achieve a minimum 3.25 grade-point average and also carry at least 14 credit hours.

Karl is a member of Mt. Pistareen Grange in Spofford and received a Scholarship from the Grange Services Committee.

**Tuckaway Tree Farm program
Rochester Grange Hall
Saturday, March 19th, 7:30 p.m.
For more information contact
Lois Enman at 332-4033.**



Farm & Forest Expo

Pictured above are Beth Merrill and Norman Brandt in the Grange Booth at Farm & Forest. Norman outdid himself this year with an interactive double booth where visitors could tap a tree, strip a fish, and/or plant a begonia to take home. (See the fish-stripping picture on page 3.) The judges were impressed and awarded the booth a blue ribbon, which means a free single booth for the Grange next year.

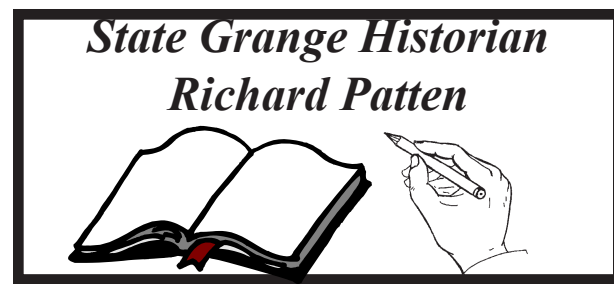
Support the ELF!

Please send your Educational Loan Fund donations to:
**Patrice Lawlor
P.O. Box 386
Pelham, NH 03076**



Calendar of Events 2016

- March 4 - Henry's Ham & Bean Supper
6:30 p.m., Rte. 12A, Plainfield
- March 5 - Danbury Winter Market
Danbury Grange Hall
- March 13 - State Grange Bowling
Lakeside Lanes, Manchester
- March 19-20 - Maple Weekend
- March 19 - Silent Film - 7 p.m.
Blazing Star Hall, Danbury
- March 19 - Tuckaway Tree Farm program
at Rochester Grange, 7:30 p.m.
- March 20 - Pancake Breakfast 9-12 a.m.
Journey's End Maple Farm,
245 Loudon Road, Pittsfield
- April 9 - Spring Fling, Taylor Community,
Laconia, 8:30 a.m.
- April 9 - Fun@Fun Spot, Tilton
(after Spring Fling)
- April 18 - Concord Grange Community
Awards Night - 6:30 p.m.
48 Airport Road, Concord Heights
- April 23 - Agate meets, 12 noon at
Chichester Grange Hall
- April 30 - State Grange Building, Hooksett
Penny Sale - 1:30 p.m.
Variety Show - 2:30 p.m.
Banquet - 5 p.m.
- May 7 - Youth Scavenger Hunt
Portsmouth
- May 9 - Deadline for GSG
- May 14 - Degree Day, place TBA
- May 21 - Leadership/Membership
Conference with National Grange
Director - Taylor Community,
Laconia
- May 21 - Hillsborough County Pomona
Antrim Grange Hall 6 p.m. June
3-5 - June Youth Rally, Camp
Spaulding, Penacook
- July 1 - Grange Services Scholarship
applications due
- July 8-10 - NE Regional Youth Conference
hosted by NY at SUNY Cobleskill
- July 29-31 - Grange Family Weekend
Gunstock Mountain Resort
- Aug. 1-3 - NE Lecturers' Conference at
Bridgewater, MA
- Pomona Supper and Program**
Hillsborough County Pomona
Grange #1, in cooperation with the NH
Humanities Council, is sponsoring the
program, **NH's Love Hate Relationship
with State Fairs**, presented by former
Commissioner of Agriculture, Steve
Taylor. This event will be held at Antrim
Grange Hall on May 21st, starting with
supper at 6:00 p.m. followed by the meet-
ing and program at 7:00 p.m. For more
information, contact Pomona Lecturer,
Beth Merrill at 588-6615 or bmerrill@
nhgrange.org.



I enjoy my role as State Legislator for my ward 8 in Concord not only to listen to the various bills but to discover more history involving the Grange. I know we have had over 125 Grange members as Legislators in the 1920's. I was also surprised to see that Wesley Adams, Sherman Adams, Norris Cotton, Harold Burns, W.Douglas Scamman, and Walter Peterson served as Speakers of the House. There may be others but these are the ones so far I have found. Wesley Adams, Frank W. Rollins, John Scammon, Robert O Blood, Lane Dwinell, Perkins Bass, and Alf Jacobsen are some of the Grangers who served our State as Senate President.

We have had several Grangers who served as Governor for the Granite State. Nahum Batchelder, who served as State Master and National Master, was Governor at the same time. Other Granger governors included Meldrim Thomson, Walter Peterson, Sherman Adams, Benjamin Prescott, Charles Dale, Styles Bridges, and Wesley Powell. Ray Burton served as Executive Councilor for the state. It is amazing to walk through the halls of the state and see the history and know that our Grange was so vital in many aspects of the government.

In 1936, State Master Arthur McDaniel in his Master's Address requested the State Grange reaffirm its demand that the State Legislature pass a bill establishing the State Police Force in NH. The Grange started lobbying for the State Police in 1917 with the Legislature finally passing this in 1936. The Grange had also lobbied hard for a Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. The State Master felt the Grange should favor this legislation as the State Prison was filled to capacity with some of the County institutions also becoming crowded.

I found in 1936 where Hillsboro County Pomona Grange sponsored the following resolution: "Be it resolved That Hillsboro County Pomona Grange does

recommend that the State Grange through its Legislative Committee, work for the passing of a bill at the coming session of the Legislature requiring that the evil effect of the use of intoxicating liquors be given a prominent place in the curriculum of our public schools in the state."

Hillsboro County Pomona Grange was busy that year with resolutions for the State Legislature. They also submitted a resolution against all forms of gambling; "Be It Resolved that the Hillsboro County Pomona Grange is emphatically opposed to all forms of legalized gambling and respectfully petition that the State Grange at its coming session take measures to have the Grange go on record as opposed to all forms of legalized gambling, and to work for the defeat of any bill contrary to the foregoing resolution at the coming session of the New Hampshire Legislature."

The Freedom Gavel traveled to many Granges in 1975 and finished in 1976 although several Granges had not received it. The Granges were Ashuelot, Hollis, Fitzwilliam, Kensington, Massabesic, Pelham, Peterborough, Prospect, Raymond, Spafford, Sunapee Mountain, Sutton, and Lovell. The Gavel Project was begun in 1974 and it traveled to all areas of the state trying to reach as many Granges as possible. The Gavel has been a symbol of authority. It was reported its very early stages as a working tool fit into the hands of builders. More importantly, the gavel is a symbol of freedom and independence.

I am hoping each Grange has a written history and continues to update it. Each Grange has a colorful history and it is sad when they close that people don't know what this organization did in their community. I am more than willing to help you write a history if you haven't started one. If your Grange has an appointed member serving as Historian, please let me know their name and address info.

I am hoping this spring; I can get some help to clean the State Grange cellar of Grange records. I would like to distribute more, but per doctors' orders, I am unable to do any lifting, shoveling, etc. I have some major lower right back and right foot problems. Thank you for anyone willing to help me.



Greetings: Spring will be here before we know it!

Please be on the lookout for the Annual Appeals letter for a donation to the Educational Loan Fund(ELF). Donations from Grangers or individuals help this committee to provide scholarships to our members to further their education. Please help us support them with a donation. Send donations to:

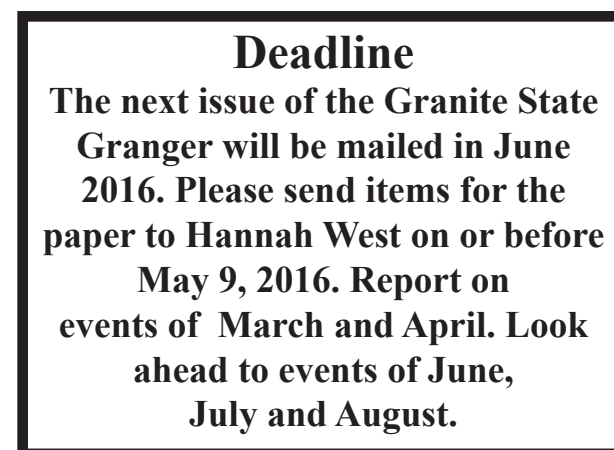
**Patrice Lawlor
P.O. Box 386
Pelham, NH 03076.**

During your Grange meetings under committee reports I hope a report about the National Grange benefits that are offered to all members is being presented to let members understand what is offered. Check out the National Grange website at : www.nationalgrange.org.

**RX Pharmacy Card by CVS
Office Depot
Life Line Screenings
US Pharmacy Card
Healthcare Exchange
Choice Hotels**

At our committee meeting in December we talked about having a list of Subordinate and Pomona Granges that give scholarships in their local area during the year. We will have a display at State Session in October. Please send your information to me by e-mail or snail mail. Your secretary could send it to me after the June quarterly report has been sent to the State Secretary.

May you all be safe in your travels.



**Deadline
The next issue of the Granite State Granger will be mailed in June 2016. Please send items for the paper to Hannah West on or before May 9, 2016. Report on events of March and April. Look ahead to events of June, July and August.**



Here we are in 2016 and it seems like winter snow is low. It worked out well with the Farm and Forest events this year. Did you get a chance to attend and play FARMO with your children or grandchildren? The New Hampshire State Grange display had many learning activities for all. We stripped a fish, tapped a tree, and planted plants of one's choice. Congratulations to the Membership Committee for the great booth and their Blue ribbon! Snow stayed away, and we all enjoyed driving back and forth on good roads. Rip cards received, had six with children, and I hope you will invite them to join your Grange if one was received.

February came, and the Groundhog said six more weeks of winter. Then came the snow on February 5. The Junior Fun Day came after the 8 inches of snow at my house. We enjoyed having our State Master, Chris Heath, with us for the day and 8 adults and 4 children in attendance. We missed our Blazing Star Juniors. I will do better in planning so they can attend future events. We made Sewing Kits - filling pill bottles with buttons, pins, needles, and thread and labeled them from us. Thanks for our grandmothers bringing children. We gathered and asked the children to place the collars on the officers' stations which was interesting as the youngest one said "what is F?" We said "Flora," and she said I know where that goes I was that last time.

We enjoyed lunch and then opened the Junior Grange with assistance of our visiting adults and closed once all questions were answered and our new password was received. Pat Izzo from Wingold Grange, came and showed us how to make Birdhouse ornaments which can be a "something from nothing" craft entry if the Juniors choose to enter them. Our closing activity was to plant Begonias. Each child planted two to bring home and then planted one for each adult to bring home. Thank you for all coming to

support the Juniors.

Future Activities for Juniors

Bowling with their parents March 13 at Lakeside Lanes at noon – be sure to register with the State Lecturer.

Spring Fling to be held in Laconia, April 9. Watch for more information. I will plan on bringing crafts along with material to make some Christmas stockings for the Pease Greeters to send overseas to our soldiers away from home. This activity can include adults who choose to make them.

State Talent Show being held in Hooksett, April 30.

Family Camp Weekend July 29, 30 and 31. Watch for information. I will plan on coming on Saturday to work on crafts and games if possible.

Remember to invite the Juniors in your Grange to fill a vacant seat at your meetings. They are our future members. Invite them to attend functions to keep them interested and active in our Granges. As always, I would love to hear how your Juniors are doing. If you have something you would like me to attend and be a part in your Granges, let me know. I am open to suggestions to grow our Juniors and keep them to become our Subordinate members as Youth.

**Joann Brandt 603-642-5074
Jbrandt774@ol.com**



Caitlin Norwood, 12, of Moultonborough, is presented with two first place ribbons and a second place ribbon as well as cash prizes from Wicwas Lake Grange Master Steve Durand. Caitlin won first and second prize from the State Grange in the Junior Grange "You Make It" category for her woven bracelets, as well as a blue ribbon in the State Lecturer's Art Contest for her graphite drawings of dogs. (Courtesy of Bea Lewis/Laconia Citizen)



Aurora Grange

Aurora Grange #235 in Pittsburg celebrated Christmas with a fun get-together that included a delicious pot luck dinner and gift exchange. Members welcomed the new year with a toast and another pot luck dinner. Not many were able to get to the February meeting due to icy road conditions, but those who were there enjoyed the meeting.

In December Grangers delivered dictionaries to the Pittsburg School third graders, pictured here, and also to the third graders at Stewartstown Community School. The children are enjoying using this new resource.

Claremont Grange #9 Hosts Free Christmas Dinner

On Christmas Day, 2015, over 200 Claremont area residents were able to enjoy a Christmas Day meal they might not otherwise have been able to afford. Meals were delivered to various housing facilities and individual homes throughout the city of Claremont. Several people shared a meal with family and friends at the Masonic Hall on Maple Avenue in Claremont, NH.

This community service event was hosted by Claremont Grange #9, Claremont Women of the Moose #629, Hiram Lodge #9 and Woodman Aurora Kimball-Summitt Chapter #26. Thanks to the following area businesses and local organizations which helped sponsor this event: Mascoma Savings Bank, Kiwanis Club, Crown Point Cabinetry, Common Man Restaurant, Imperial Buffet, Walmart, and Hannaford Supermarket, all of Claremont NH, and Sunapee Lake Grange, Sunapee NH, Bradford Junction Restaurant & Bakery of Bradford NH, and Basic Ingredients Bakery of Bristol, NH.

Home Grown Politics
*Across New Hampshire Farmland
 to Concord and Washington*
Bob Haefner
Legislative and Agriculture Dept.

The NH State Grange and the State Grange Legislative and Agriculture Department hosted the National Grange Legislative Fly – In Feb. 4 to Feb. 7. Thirty Grangers from across the country traveled to New Hampshire to learn about NH State Government and to learn about and experience the New Hampshire first in the nation Presidential Primary. Participants included the National Master/President of the Grange, a member of the National Grange Executive Committee, the National Lecturer and the National Grange Legislative Director. We had attendees from as far away as California and Washington State and as close as Maine and Rhode Island. The lineup of attendees also included a couple of State Masters and several State Legislative Directors. It was great to see that about a third of the participants were youth. Local hosts for the weekend were Bob Haefner and Tara Sad.

We rented vans and had drivers to move folks around between campaign headquarters, the State House complex, the Radisson in Manchester, restaurants and the hotel. The participants started the Fly – In on Thursday after traveling to New Hampshire, by having a pizza party, a chance to renew and/or create new friendships and hear a rundown of what to expect for the weekend.

On Friday the day started in the room in the Legislative Office Building where the House committee on Environment and Agriculture meets. To keep it appropriate for New Hampshire in February, we had a snow storm. Folks learned about state government and what is unique about the NH Legislature. The Commissioner of Agriculture and the House Minority Leader stopped by to greet and welcome the Grangers to New Hampshire. We had a presentation about the History of the Presidential Primary in NH by our Secretary of State Bill Gardner. Bill spent well over an hour talking about the 100

year old primary. Folks learned that the prime sponsor of the Legislation that created the Primary was a Granger as well as a Representative from Southern Cheshire County.

After lunch in the State House Cafeteria, our friends had a tour of the State House and talked at length about the House with the Chair and Ranking member of the committee on Environment and Agriculture. Following the tour that included the Secretary of State's office and the Minority office and the Speaker's office, they learned about what it is like to live in NH during the two years of presidential campaigning. They got to see one day's worth of campaign literature and hear about campaign phone calls and the endless surveys. Kevin Landrigan from NH1 News then spoke about the Primary from the Local Media perspective. The day ended with dinner at the Barley House where "Presidential Campaigns Begin." During the evening the Youth got to do some fun stuff with our Youth Director Beth Merrill.

On Saturday the day began with a homemade Grange Breakfast at the State Grange Building in Hooksett. Local Eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries and pancakes with NH Maple syrup. Homemade blueberry muffins topped it off. Scott Spradling, formerly of WMUR, was the keynote speaker for the morning and he talked about "What does it take to win the NH Primary?" He took questions and really gave folks an insight on the process and the changes over the years. Fly – In participants then went to work on the Campaign of their choice. Some folks knocked on doors for the next five hours, one even going to Portsmouth to do that. Others worked phone banks and a couple did a sign wave. A couple of folks played hooky from campaigns to attend a rally.

Folks then went to the Radisson in Manchester to see and mingle with the press and maybe see a candidate, which they did. The Grange is now circulating pictures of our members with candidates like Rubio, Carson and Clinton. After going back to the hotel for a debriefing, fifteen of us went for a New England seafood dinner. No one seemed to care about missing the debate.

The National Grange Legislative Fly – In participants were simply in awe of the scope of the Primary. I think they learned more about NH government and the NH Presidential Primary than most New Hampshireites know about our own special event. I wish everyone could have seen the expressions and smiles on the younger members' faces. One woman told me it was the best experience of her life. If we could have changed anything about the entire weekend it would be to spend less time on the campaign trail and more time with the press at the Radisson. A dozen NH State Grange folks worked hard over the weekend setting up, making breakfast, driving and coordinating. I even was interviewed by three young reporters from a college newspaper in New York.



Park Grange #249 in Cornish gave a family of five (parents and three children) gifts for Christmas and a food basket worth over one hundred dollars. Park Grange has been doing this community service at Christmas for quite a few years now.

Best Wrong Answers from the 2016 Grange Knowledge Test

The Grange motto is: In essentials Unity, in non-essentials **Modesty**, in all things Charity.

Who was the soloist for the 7th Degree at National Grange in 2013? **Lady Gaga**

Where is the Oliver Hudson Kelley Farm located? **Keene**

Temperance Saunders was the first female Master of the National Grange.

It is a mystery why adults expect perfection from children. Few grown-ups can get through a whole day without making a mistake.
Marcelene Cox (c. 1899–1998)
Writer



Youth members and supporters gathered in Antrim on January 23rd at the home of Arthur and Beth Merrill for a return of Moon Stomp. The evening was filled with food and fellowship prior to the traditional enjoyment of a full-moonlit walk through fields and woods.

We had one brave and fortunate youth member fully participate in the National Grange Primary Fly-In. Emilie Leclerc (Hudson Grange) joined with Grange youth from Washington, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia for a two day experience that was packed full of noteworthy speakers, rallies, and tours in Concord and Manchester, culminating in a day of campaigning, mingling with the press, and sightseeing presidential candidates. Afterward, some said this was a life-changing experience and as your Youth Director, I was honored to be an observer of these outstanding Grange members and can't wait to see, down the road, how this experience has influenced their life decisions.

Our Winter Rally Youth Meeting was held on February 13th with 45 people in attendance throughout the day. The Youth Committee met in the morning to make plans for several upcoming youth events and projects. The day's events began with lunch, provided by the Youth Committee and overseen by Junior Director, Joann Brandt, followed by a series of workshops. The first one was conducted by committee member, Emilie Leclerc, who explained the purpose and goals of the PI and supervised an interactive group activity to emphasize her points.

The second workshop was a review of the Code Book as instructed by past General Deputy, Arthur Merrill, with sideline assistance from State Master, Chris Heath and current General Deputy, Andrew Savage. The youth members each bravely took turns reading parts of

the code.

A third workshop was conducted by Andrew Savage who has invested a great deal of time and effort in choreographing a sixteen member drill consisting of four teams that can practice in their own geographic region prior to holding two or three full team rehearsals as the July 10th Drill Team competition date gets closer. There may still be some slots open, if there are any youth interested in joining the team.

Next, was time for the Grange Knowledge Test, written this year by Hannah West and her family. Winners will be announced at June Youth Rally. Once that was completed, members joined in tying three fleece blankets as a service project for the State Family Committee's Project Night Night.

Thanks to the efforts of the Youth Director and many assistants, a delicious spaghetti supper was served to the group and then it was time for the Youth Association meeting. Offices were filled by youth members, several of whom were dressed according to the designated farm animal costume theme. After some discussion, it was voted to once again challenge the State Officers with a youth Bowling Team that will go head-to-head at the State Grange Bowling Tournament in March. Once the bowling registration has ended, the designated team captains will choose the members of the opposing team from the list provided by the State Lecturer. Each team will accumulate a kitty of \$100 and the winning team will choose the charity to which those funds will be donated. The GSG deadline precluded a response and agreement from the State Officers.

An excellent program was presented by Lecturer, Allissa Estes, and winners of the theme baskets donated by the members of the State Youth Committee were announced. An award was presented to Adam Terrell of Walpole Grange for his most excellent and anatomically correct dairy goat costume! Everyone shivered their way home in sub-zero temperatures after a day jam-packed with fun, fellowship, and learning opportunities.

The next event being planned by the State Youth Committee is Fun@FunSpot

on April 9th following Spring Fling. Attendees can expect to participate in a team challenge (accumulating points throughout the venue), eat cake and ice cream, too, and enjoy all that Fun Spot has to offer. The only cost is whatever you bring to play games on your own. Pre-registration is appreciated, but not required. Please let Adam Paquin Varnum know by April 2nd if you plan to attend, so we can be ready to include you in the group activity at the start time, which is not available until we know the schedule of Spring Fling.

May will be a busy month for the Youth Committee. We are planning a Scavenger Hunt in Portsmouth on May 7th and will incorporate a rehearsal for the Second Degree, which the youth will confer at the Degree Day on May 14th. Details will be made available in the near future. For the degree team, we are in need of an Overseer, Chaplain, Treasurer, Flora, to start with. Please contact the Youth Director if you can assist! On May 21st the National Leadership/Membership Director, Joe Stefenoni will be in NH to conduct a GOAL seminar. Any youth who attend this training session can earn seals for the National Youth Achievement Program, and I hope there will be some youth members who take advantage of this opportunity to meet with and learn from a national staff member who is of a similar age!

June Youth Rally is set to be held at Camp Spaulding in Penacook, NH June 3-5. Details and registration information will be mailed and posted on the State Grange website as soon as they are available. Plan on having your entries for the Public Speaking Contest (Prepared Speech and Radio Spot) and Sign-A-Song Contest ready this weekend, and be ready for selecting our team for the Grange Jeopardy Contest at regional conference. Those who qualify for the regional team will get to compete for top honors at National Grange convention in November! Tentative cost for the weekend is \$60 per person.

We are contemplating the possibility of holding Youth Rally jointly with Junior Camp, but details were not available at the time of publication.



Farm and Forest is over with for another year! We got quite a few Rip Cards, which I have sent off to the corresponding Granges that they go with. I'm crossing my fingers that these Grangers will follow though and invite these people to Grange meetings and events and make them feel welcome into your Grange home. Currently I have not received any of the Report cards that I sent out with the Rip cards, and I hope it is just because it is a little early for the Grange Members to have a full grasp on how the potential members are going to respond. Here at the Membership Department on State Grange level we can lead the horses to water, but we can't force you to drink, even if you're dehydrated.

At this time I'm going to thank the members of my team for the first place ribbon we won at Farm and Forest, If it wasn't for Mildred, her Husband, my mom, and Les, the booth probably would have never made it up. Thanks again, Les, for helping cut and drill the boards for the backdrop, getting the bucket for the Tap a Tree, bringing all your tools, getting the gallon of maple syrup to use as a example, lugging around some extra tree trunks in case

we needed them for the display, and helping countless numbers of children and adults learn how to tap at tree, then after a tiring two days helping take down. Thanks again, Mildred and your husband, for lugging in display items from the truck, putting up the backdrop, helping center the titles and coming and manning the booth for a time. Thank you, Anne, for all the different taps you and Marty allowed us to use with the countless children and adults that wanted to learn how to tap a tree, and again for being there to help us set up and be sure the booth was as good as the ones you had done to get 1st place in the past.

I'm not going to list anybody's name that helped man the booth at Farm and Forest, but if it wasn't for them it would not have been the success it was, I wish I wasn't so afraid of missing somebody, so that I could list you all, but everyone did a great job. And last but not least thank you to Pat for coming on the last day to help out and take down the booth. I'm also going to thank Bob and Jane for doing the same, even though not on my committee. Taking down and getting everything into where it needed to go would have been much harder without everybody that helped.

Now that we've found new potential members for all these Granges let's talk about Degree Day, May 14. The location will be sent out on the Grapevine as soon as I have confirmed with the Grange I

would like it to be at. We have have Deputies doing the 1st Degree, Youth doing the second degree, Nobody doing the 3rd degree yet, so if your Grange does a Great 3rd degree I want to hear form you!, and State Officers doing the 4th Degree. I'm hoping to find a Pomona willing to put on the 5th degree. If your Pomona does a stellar 5th Degree let me know and I will try to get you in on it.

I have put in a request for clarification from the State Master and Executive Committee on how the 5th degree should be presented. Currently my thought is that you would have to get certification from your local Pomona to receive the 5th Degree. It was brought up at a meeting that when we obligate in the 5th at State Grange we do not require this step. This is why clarification needs to be addressed for me. Keep an eye open for more information and scheduling for the Degree day. It would be great to not only have the 5 degrees done on one day for everyone to take the degrees, but also have them done well and hopefully bring in new members at the same time.

As always I'm available to help as far as my office allows me to, and if you need the help let me know. Email me at Fishbrandt@yahoo.com or give me a call at 603-642-5074.

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

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