

## **Home Grown Politics Across NH Farmland to Concord and Washington**

This year I decided to not give the Legislative and Agriculture awards at the State Grange Banquet, but to give each at local Granges or the Grange that nominated the winners. I believe that the winners do not have to travel as far and the members of the Subordinate now have an opportunity to participate in the award ceremony. The recipients also get an opportunity to see a Grange opening and closing. Who knows, maybe we pick up a new member in the process. I have heard one person state that she did not like this process. She misses the opportunity to meet the winners at the banquet. I would love to have folks tell me which they prefer, awards at State Session or at local Granges.

I will be traveling to Washington in January, not as a Granger, but with State Agriculture and Rural Leaders. The Chairs of House and Senate Agriculture Committees and the Ranking Minority members, from all 50 States, will lobby the US House and Senate Ag Committees and the farm bill and other relevant legislation. Hopefully we will also get a chance to meet with our own Congressional Delegation and talk about other legislation and issues of concern to New Hampshire and the Grange. We are getting an opportunity to talk to folks at the US Department of Agriculture and the White House Ag folks.

New Hampshire is going to have a busy year with legislation. Normally the second year of a term sees fewer bills than the first. The House alone has 740 bills, plus the 120 bills held from last year, not to mention the Senate bills. Folks, we do not need 1000 new laws. I predict that we will kill three quarters of the bills.

I am looking forward to Deputy School. I have gotten to do some travel this month. I have been from Lancaster to Hanover and from Hampton to Lebanon and Newbury. Concord has seen me three times just last week to boot.

I hope you all will have had a great Thanksgiving with Family and a wonderful Christmas.