

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE GRANGE STATISTICS REPORT:



AS OF JUNE 30, 2011

Total number of Subordinate Granges:	65
Total number of Pomona Granges:	11
Total number of Subordinate Grange Members:	1,873
Total number of Pomona Grange Members:	767
Granges Who Own Their Hall:	27
Granges Closed this year:	03
• Contoocook	
• Oceanside (consolidated with Hampton Falls #)	
• Wattannick (consolidated with Hudson #11)	
Granges with net gains in membership:	18

Honored Guests, Fellow State Officers and Brother and Sister Patrons:

It is an honor for me to deliver my first *Masters Address* as Master of the New Hampshire State Grange. Let me start off by saying that, "this entire year has been a whirlwind!" After installation of our State Grange officers, on October 31st, at the Winchester Town Hall, I was very excited about Trick or Treat that evening but, because of the length of the day, and after enjoying coffee, with my closest friend David Corliss, I prepared for Trick or Treat by getting the candy into a bowl, turning on the light, and I promptly fell asleep on the couch, not awakening until 8:30PM! I missed the entire event! The following Saturday, Past Master Beth Merrill and State Assistant Steward and 2nd delegate to the National Grange Arthur Merrill, left for Charlotte, North Carolina.

I thank the Merrill's for taking me under their wing, and guiding me through the process of going to National Grange as a delegate. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to serve on the Taxation and Transportation Committee. I thank Pete Pomper, the National Grange Lecturer, for his mentoring of me at the National Session, as well as the entire year.

When I became Master of this State Grange, I laid out a set of priorities for our State Grange. This *Masters Address* is framed in terms of those priorities. Please, take some time to review them.

Grange Growth: We wanted to grow the Grange in NH this year. Did we succeed? Here is what we did to accomplish that.

- We asked each Pomona Grange to appoint a Grange Growth Team to help strengthen the Grange in each Pomona jurisdiction.
- We appointed two special Deputies, an organizing Deputy Steve Tracey, and visioning Deputy, Bob Trombi. They will scout potential locations to organize new Granges, and to assist struggling Granges.
- We hosted a New Hampshire Grange Growth summit, during the month of April, in Hooksett. We asked each Pomona Grange Growth Team to spend the weekend with National Grange Leadership - Membership Director Rusty Hunt.

RESULTS:

- **POMONA GRANGE GROWTH TEAMS:** We had eight out of eleven Pomona Masters Commit to our Pomona Grange Growth Program, by appointing full teams. Two additional Pomona Masters committed by appointing partial teams.
- **SPECIAL DEPUTY PROGRAM:** Bob Trombi, served as our Visioning Deputy, with the responsibility of helping granges reshape their destiny and their mission Bob had no opportunity to work with any Grange. Steve Tracey, our Organizing Deputy, worked this year to re-organize Claremont Grange with several meetings. Steve has also traveled to the North Country and worked with two additional Granges.
- **Pomona Grange Growth Summit:** The summit was held April 15-17 at the State Grange Building in Hooksett. We had forty one members who share an interest in growing the Grange. These member worked to become proficient in team training, to go into our local Granges, and try to” help them help themselves!” We visited four Granges that day practicing our skills. Mistakes were made in the organizing of this event but, these were more process than content. Anne Boisvert, Membership Director of the New Hampshire State Grange, “nervously” presided over the three day summit. Anne did a fine job putting this event together, thank you Anne. At this time zero Granges have been visited by Grange Growth Teams!

FOCUS ON RITUALISM: As I traveled the State, I heard members talk about how they missed the ritualism of the Grange. Thus we made the following changes:

- We re-instated Deputy Instructions and Inspections.
- We asked each Grange to exemplify the “sign of caution and “sign of distress.”
- We advised each Grange we were going to instruct and inspect on the opening and closing ceremonies.

RESULTS:

- The Deputies visited each of the sixty six Grange and collected data. Some of the data collected is:
 - Did the non-profit incorporation get renewed?
 - Was the 990N post card filing completed? As well as other financial data.
- During the spring visit, each Deputy imparted the sign of distress, and the sign of caution, with instruction that each Grange would be asked to exemplify these signs for the Deputy in the fall.
- Granges were inspected, on the opening, and closing in the 4th degree.

FUNDRAISING:

- At last year’s State Grange Session, the Delegate body set a fundraising goal of \$5,000.00
- We appointed a fundraising Chairman, and Committee, and charged them to come up with fundraisers to help support our organization.

RESULTS:

- The State Grange fundraising Committee raised a grand total of \$6,490.00.

IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS:

- We tried to improve communication by starting the Grange year having three area meetings.
- January 15th in Dalton,
- January 22 at Rochester
- January 29th at the State Grange Building in Hooksett.

- We asked each Department Director to do a mailing to our local Granges on a quarterly basis.

- We seek to improve Web Content and have created a Face Book page.

RESULTS:

- **AREA MEETINGS:** These meetings, as a whole, were well attended. Thank you to the State officers, Committee Directors and to the Granges who hosted us. I believe by having these area meetings we were able to bring the State Grange closer to our local Granges.

- **QUARTELY MAILINGS:** We were not as successful as I had hoped. We did not get a mailing out to each Grange from each Department. I thank those Department Heads who did manage to get a mailing out each quarter.

- **IMPROVE WEB CONTENT:** Thanks to Webmaster, Wayne Turcotte and Information Director, Linda Neilson, who took on the task of improving our web presence, by making sure that our State Grange website was timely and had good useful information. Thank you Wayne and Linda for a job well done! Members have commented to me how much information they are able to find on our website. Face Book is a new medium for our State Grange and a learning curve for all of us. Linda has done a terrific job keeping the NH State Grange in front of the Face Book community. She has also assisted me with My State Masters blog, “The Grange Perspective From NH”.

We have taken the opportunity to examine what happened during the past year! LET US FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON THE FUTURE!

Our 2011 – 2012 Priorities stay the same for the coming year but, “how are we going to focus on them?”

GRANGE GROWTH:

- I am asking the State Membership Department to run a state wide-promotional T- Shirt contest. The winning design to be printed, and shirts awarded, to any member who brings in a new member.
- I am asking each Pomona Grange to take in at least three new members during the current Grange year.
- I am asking each member to make an effort to invite one person to join the Grange this year. I would like every member who invites someone, to drop me a line, telling me who they invited and the result. I will provide pre-addressed post cards at every event that attend.
- I am asking each Pomona Master to select a Grange, within his or hers jurisdiction that is struggling to assist them with revitalization.

FOCUS ON FUNDRAISING AND FINANCES:

- I am asking that we raise \$6,000.00 during the coming year.
- I am asking, that we take a retrospective look at the current format of our State Convention.

FOCUS ON RITUALISM:

- We will ask every Grange to exemplify, and demonstrate, two pieces of secret work for the Deputy this year.
- We will ask every Grange to open in the 4th degree at least once per quarter in the coming year.
- We will ask every Pomona to select a Degree to exemplify, and demonstrate, during this coming year.

IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS:

Communication in our order is of vital importance! The modern world is not going away. We need to continue using communication platforms, such as our State Grange website, Face Book, and Blogs.

- We will ask each State Director to offer quarterly mailings due to high cost of postage; we will encourage the distribution of this information via the grapevine.
- We will ask each member that has e-mail access, to assist us with communication by printing this information, and sharing with our fellow Grange members.
- We will ask each Pomona Grange Secretary to assist us by printing copies of this correspondence and distributing it to each Subordinate Secretary.

Outside of these priorities **our State Grange needs a project!** I propose we go back to our ritual where it talks about “Feeding the hungry helping the fatherless and the widows.” In this day, and age, of economic struggle the statistics show one in six Americans or fifteen percent! Are living in poverty. My proposal is that we work in partner ship with local food banks to do food collections and collect 2,000 individual food items for distribution to those in need!

Brothers and Sisters these are the thing I believe are important to move our order forward. Will you join me in growing our great Fraternity?

To close this Masters address, I have made mistakes this year. No matter how much you think you prepare, no matter what life experiences you have, until you have the opportunity to sit in the “big chair” and make the big decisions you just never know how you are going to handle the important issues and decisions that face our order. I thank my fellow State Grange officers, for your support and encouragement. I express my appreciation to the Group of Directors who have stepped up to the plate and offered their leadership skills. Especially my predecessor, Sister Beth Merrill, being a Past State Master is actually a harder job than being State Master. Sister Beth has always been willing to offer advice and experience during my first year as your State Master. Thank you Beth for caring, about the Grange and for being my friend. I offer heartfelt thanks to my own Grange; Arlington #139 in Winchester, having the State Master be an active member of your Grange is not easy. Sometimes the ball gets dropped. Sometimes you are away at other people’s Grange meetings, when you are really needed at your own. Thank you, Arlington #139 for your continuing support.

Our order will only prosper if we are guided by, “relying upon the spirit of fraternity that originated and has prospered our order,” since 1867.

Fraternally

James M. Tetreault.
Master NH State Grange