

We just returned from a very successful National Grange session in Charlotte, North Carolina, graciously hosted by members of the North Carolina State Grange. I am thinking about the fatigue I feel having gotten up at 4:00 AM on Sunday to travel home, but I am also thinking about the excitement I am feeling about Grange here in the state of New Hampshire. We are hearing some great reports about new members being taken in around the state. Even though reports are good, we can't afford to sit back and just let a few Granges carry the water for the majority of Granges. At my installation I laid out a set of priorities for 2010 – 2011. They are as follows.

### **Grange Growth**

We are asking Pomona Masters to help us by appointing a Pomona Grange Growth Team, to help revitalize Granges within their Pomona jurisdiction. We are planning a membership conference during the month of March to train these teams. This conference will be open to all members, not just members of the Pomona Grange Growth Teams. I have also appointed an Organizing Deputy who will be responsible for organizing new Granges throughout the state as well as helping struggling Granges, to achieve new members. If you would like Steve Tracy's assistance, please contact General Deputy Arthur Merrill. But, the State Grange can't do it alone. **WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU ASKED SOMEONE TO JOIN THE GRANGE?** Remember someone asked you to join. As part of membership growth I have set a policy that no Grange in the state of NH will close without first meeting with a Grange Growth Team.

### **Focus on Ritualism**

We hear that members miss the ritualistic part of the Grange. Deputies will go back to making spring instructions, instructing each Grange on the proper exemplification of the opening and closing, as well as two selected pieces of the secret work. We are also asking the Pomona Granges to either do the First Degree or the Fifth Degree. On your fall score sheet you will either get the points for doing it or not. In the fall your Deputy will not only inspect your financial records but will also inspect your Granges on the opening and closing and ask your members to exemplify the two pieces of secret work that your Deputy did during the spring visit.

### **Fundraising**

By delegate action at State Grange in October we have set a goal of \$5,000 to raise this year. Help your State Grange meet its goal. I have appointed a Fundraising chairman who will be outlining how we are going to meet this goal.

### **Improve Communication**

I have asked each of the Directors that I have appointed to send quarterly letters to their Community and Pomona counterparts to keep them informed of State Grange activities. We will also attempt to publicize Grange activities in local newspapers as well as on the website and face book. We are planning area meetings in the New Year to give you all an

opportunity to meet the State Grange family in person and ask questions about the programming aspect of each of the Departments. Keep these dates in mind:

January 15, at Riverside Grange in Dalton,

January 22 at Rochester,

January 29 at the State Grange Building.

All of these meetings start at 9:00 a.m. with coffee and donuts, and the actual meetings start at 9:30. Lunch will also be available at all of these meetings.

I hope every Grange and Granger is as fired up as I am about the new Grange year, and I hope that you all have a great holiday season.

Jim