

Outside My Window on Parker Street

What a great fall season it has been for the New Hampshire State Grange! Deputy Inspections have now closed, and we had a great State Grange Session in Concord. Thank you to Ken Berry, our Session Coordinator, and to the members of Merrimack County and Suncook Valley Pomona who played host to the State Grange this year. What a great job these two Pomona Granges did in hosting the hospitality room.

We were pleased to announce that 16 Granges in New Hampshire had net gains in membership. The Grange Growth Team also premiered its Grange Growth kit which can be used at any events where your Grange wants to promote itself. If you have an event you want the Grange Growth Team to assist you with, please make reservations with State Ceres Tricia Taylor by e-mail at: jdno7tt@yahoo.com or by phone at 630-0159. We ask that each Grange asking for assistance make a commitment of human resources. We will assist you, but we need members of your Grange who know people in your community to assist us by being present and able to talk to people.

We also announced our new members' website at <http://www.grange.org/nhstategrange>. You can direct potential new members to this website for a clear explanation of who we are. Please be advised that this in no way replaces our official website expertly maintained by Brother Wayne Turcotte at <http://www.nhgrange.org/home/>.

The State Officers did a tremendous job exemplifying the Sixth Degree on 35 new members of the New Hampshire State Grange. Our State Grange banquet was outstanding this year and congratulations to all of the State Grange Award recipients who received awards at the banquet. The contribution you make to our communities is appreciated. Kudos to Dick and Deb Patten who arranged the entertainment for our banquet this year. The talent of the young man who sang was outstanding!! Who would think that we would hear someone sing opera at a State Grange Banquet?

I also want to congratulate Sister Beth Merrill on her re-election to the Executive Committee. A special thank you goes out to the regalia elves who are the unsung heroes of the State Grange and can take a hotel ball room and make it into a "Grange Hall".

A great opportunity to promote the Grange in New Hampshire came just prior to our State Session with the Seven to Save list announcement with every Grange hall in the State being spotlighted with this historical designation. What a tribute to our organization to talk about the roles our Granges have played historically and continue to play in our local communities.

The 147th Annual Session of the National Grange recently held in Manchester was a tremendous tribute to the strength of Grange in the Northeast. Members from across our region really stepped up to the plate and did a great job in pulling off a great National Grange session. Some of the highlights were a video welcome from Senator Jeanne Shaheen, a welcome proclamation from Governor Maggie Hassan, as well as a visit from Senator Kelly Ayotte. Brother Ed Luttrell of Oregon was re-elected as your National Master.

I was pleased to hear the announcement that the New Hampshire State Grange was one of 12 State Granges to achieve a net gain in membership on the membership year that just closed. Thank you to all of the Granges who made this possible, and let's not get complacent. This is our first net gain in 50 years. This means we are on the right track of growing the Grange. I also want to take a moment to share this achievement with Past State Masters Sister Beth Merrill and Brother John West who really started the process under their administrations. I say thank you to both of these Grange leaders for having the vision to put forward a new thought process to grow the Grange in our state.

Our State Grange was also recognized as a "Distinguished State Grange." Thank you Brother Bob Trombi, State Steward, who coordinated this award. Congratulations also go out to Antrim and Rochester Granges who received "Distinguished Subordinate Grange awards.

Matt and Lynn Clark did a great job representing our Youth at the Youth opening on Friday, Matt served as Master and Lynn as Chaplain.

Sister Beth Merrill retired as your National Grange Lady Assistant and Brother Dan Bascom as Priest Archon of the Assembly of Demeter. We have been proud to have both these outstanding NH leaders serve as Officers of the National Grange over the last few years.

I was pleased to have been elected Lecturer of the National Grange, but I want to make it clear that my primary job and focus over the next 10 months is leading and growing the New Hampshire State Grange!! If I or any State Grange leader can be of any assistance please feel free to contact us.

I hope that you all have A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!!