

OUTSIDE MY WINDOW ON KEENE ROAD

Greetings from your State Master.

Since the last time I had the opportunity to write a column for the GSG, the State Grange family has had a few very busy months, plus I think that everyone is a little sick of the snow. It seems like every time I look out my window it seems to be snowing again. Now, realize that my office at the Town Hall in Winchester is in the basement and the window is a little larger than a typical basement window, so the view is basically a snow bank unless I stand up on the counter. Having already fallen off that counter once this year, the town of Winchester doesn't really like me to do that.

I want to take a minute to thank all of the State Grange Directors, including the State Secretary, State Lecturer and Don Ross for filing in for State Grange Treasurer, Gail Turcotte, for traveling the state with me during the month of January to promote the Grange at our Area Meetings. THANK YOU ALL!! I also want to thank the members who came out to support this event. It was a pleasure at these Area Meetings to have the opportunity to meet many long time and dear friends again, as well as many new friends. I hope that you were able to attend one of these three meetings that the State Grange hosted in Dalton, Rochester and the State Grange Building in Hooksett. This was your opportunity to meet the State Grange family and ask each of the State Grange Directors about the programs in each department. We had the opportunity to discuss the State Grange priorities for 2011. The major priority we all need to focus on is Grange Growth. A question that I asked, at the Area Meetings, of every member present was **“WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THAT YOU ASKED SOMEONE TO JOIN THE GRANGE?”** The answers were varied from not for years to yesterday. In order to grow our GREAT FRATERNITY, it starts with a simple question, **“Would you like to join the Grange?”** I am very excited about the potential I am seeing for membership growth here in NH. We are hearing some great reports about Granges taking in new members. Here is the Membership Challenge I want to throw out to each and every Grange in the State of NH. be looking for the New Member Challenge forms from the State Membership Department, when you take in a new member send this form to the Membership Director Anne Boisvert with the names and information of your new members and we are going to post your Grange's name on the State Grange Website as a **“GRANGE BUILDER”** I will be excited to see many individual Grange's on the website in the coming months. We are also having a *Grange Growth Summit on April 15-17 at the State Grange Building. Look for more information to be published on the State Grange Website.*

One of the other priorities that I want to focus on is **Fundraising**. State Grange Fundraising Director Sherrill Bokousky is busy running our first state wide fundraiser. We are sponsoring our first \$1/20 Club raffle. The tickets are \$20.00 a piece and for 20 weeks we are going to draw a \$25.00 prize, then on the 20th week we will draw prizes for \$25.00, weekly drawing 1st prize \$300.00 2nd prize \$200.00 and the 3rd prize \$100.00 the first drawing was on February 19th but we can still sell you a partial ticket. If you would like to purchase a ticket, contact Sherrill.

As I write this article, I am preparing to attend the Masters Conference in Henderson Nevada. I am excited to attend this conference to have a chance to continue to build my leadership skills to better lead our State Grange. It is my hope that the events we sponsor here in the State of New Hampshire help each of you to better lead your local Granges. If you have any

suggestions of any ways that the State Grange can assist you, please feel free to contact myself or any State Grange officer.

We have lots of events coming up that I hope you will all consider attending.

1. March 13th bowling Lake Side Lanes 11:00 AM
2. April 2nd Spring Fling Belmont School
3. April 15th – 17th Grange Growth Training State Grange Building Hooksett

Fraternally,

Jim Tetreault,
State Master