

March 22, 2011

Dear Worthy Master:

Happy Spring! I think that we are now going to see some warmer weather and less snow. I hope that your winter Grange meetings have been productive. I also hope that besides doing business you are focusing on having fun. Fun will help to increase our membership.

Increasing membership is one of the priorities for 2011. I am very encouraged with the results that I am hearing, and we are seeing new members being obligated all over the state. Let me ask you the same questions that I asked the members who came to the area meeting: “**WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU ASKED SOMEONE TO JOIN THE GRANGE?**” Potential new members are only going to join if you ask them to. Be looking for information coming to you soon about the Grange Booster program. Is your Grange going to be a booster to our organization in 2011?

I hope that you have set up your spring Deputy Instruction. One of the other priorities that I established for 2011 was more focus on ritualism, and your Deputy will be imparting several pieces of the Secret Work this spring for exemplification of these signs in the fall. The Deputy will also be offering to assist your Grange with corrections and suggestions for the opening and closing, which we are again asking the individual Granges to exemplify for the Deputy at the Fall Inspection. The other role of a Deputy is to be a representative of the State Master and State Grange throughout the Grange community in New Hampshire. If your Grange is having any difficulties, please contact your Deputy for assistance. I want each and every one of you as Masters to understand that the State Grange is here to assist and support our local Granges.

I want to give a shout out to Merrimack County Pomona who just celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. GREAT JOB! I am looking forward to your next 125 years of Grange service. If your Grange is having a special anniversary, please let me know I would look forward to attending and bringing the greetings of the State and National Grange.

A special note to Pomona Masters: have you appointed your Pomona Grange Growth Team? We are trying to do two things here. First, we are trying to recreate a role for Pomona Granges within our organization using the methodology of care and assistance to the Subordinate Granges within your Pomona jurisdiction. Let me ask you: What has your Pomona done for the Subordinate Granges within your jurisdiction of late? Second, we are trying to give you the tools to help strengthen the Granges in your area by creating the individual Pomona Grange Growth Teams. We look forward to having them come and receive the training at our Grange Growth Summit, April 15-17, 2011 at the State Grange building in Hooksett.

I also wanted to inform you of a change that delegate body of the 137<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the New Hampshire State Grange made to the by-laws. Here is the change that the delegates adopted **Be It Resolved, Article XIV Section 1 be amended by adding Division 6 to read: “Subordinate Granges that are late in filing reports to the State Grange be required to pay any back dues to cover the amount already paid to the National Grange.”** So its imperative that your Subordinate Granges report on a timely basis, to avoid being billed for members that have been dropped from membership. I encourage you to have a discussion with your Secretary and Treasurer about the importance of timely reporting.

For your convenience, here is a list of upcoming events.

- April 2 Spring Fling, Belmont Middle School
- April 15-17 Grange Growth Training, State Grange Building, Hooksett
- May 7 Degree Day Dorchester
- May 14 ME/NH day, NH hosting (Legion Hall, Gorham, NH)
- June 4 Lecturers' Variety Show, State Grange Building
- June 10-12 Summer Youth Weekend
- June 26 NE Go-to-Church Sunday, Rockingham Meeting House, Rockingham VT

I hope to see you at some of the events and have the opportunity to meet you in person. The best wishes for your and your Grange during the coming months

Fraternally,

Jim Tetreault,  
Master NH State Grange