

Report by State Master for the 11th Alaska State Grange Convention

Ninilchik, Alaska
September 27th, 2014

Fellow officers, delegates, members, and guests, welcome to the 11^h Annual Session of the Alaska State Grange, and welcome to Ninilchik, Alaska.

This is a great day to be in Alaska and a great day to be on the Kenai Peninsula at the fairgrounds in Ninilchik. On behalf of the Officers of the Alaska State Grange, I want to thank the Executive committee and those members of the Homer Grange who helped put this meeting together.

At our session in Palmer in 2012, we decided to change our annual meeting date from May to September. We did this for several reasons. One is to get to get our Grange activities in Alaska to be more in line with the activities of other Granges across the country. Another was to overcome the time conflicts that affect attendance at May meetings that includes Mother's Day, spring graduations, and getting supplies equipment ready for the new growing season. So here we are, 28 months later at our second meeting on our new schedule.

From the perspective of the State Master, this makes administration of the State Grange easier. After our recent 2nd QTR reporting effort some of our Grange masters may disagree that it simplified our reporting process. Some minor adjusting may be required. But I do need to thank our Treasurer for gathering the quarterly reports and assembling the documents and payments to meet the National Grange requirements. We remain on a quarterly reporting cycle. Third quarter ends next Tuesday so reports and dues need to be sent to our Treasurer within two weeks of the close of the quarter. Please make a special effort to get your reports turned in on time.

Even though we have come a long way bringing the State Grange to its current position, we have some serious challenges in front of us. We must increase our overall membership and establish new Granges in Alaska. As a member of a community Grange, you cannot think that this is a State level responsibility. It is your responsibility. The State grange is mere a delegate body. Each person serving at State Level is also actively engaged in Community Grange activities. If you think of the State Grange as "them" you are missing the key point that "they are us". We all share equally in the responsibility of growing the Grange in Alaska

We set a goal several years ago to have 15 Granges in Alaska by the year 2015. We should spend some time today reviewing this goal.

Once again, welcome to this 11th annual Alaska State Grange meeting.

John E. Poirrier, Master
Alaska State Grange