

Report of North Pole Grange #6

for

2014 Alaska State Grange Meeting in Ninilchik

Worthy Master, Officers of the Grange, fellow Delegates, Guests, and Visitors, I appreciate the opportunity to present this summary of activities and accomplishments of the North Pole Grange since our last meeting in Two Rivers:

North Pole Grange experienced another great year in 2013. Our building, The North Pole Grange Hall, continues to be our greatest asset as well as our biggest burden. Increasing fuel costs associated with winter building usage is our biggest challenge.

The monthly art shows have increased in popularity. The North Pole Grange Gallery regularly receives recognition as the best Gallery in the interior by local artists. This year, the North Pole Grange Gallery was recognized by the mayors of the interior and received the 2014 award for arts advocacy. A significant event for our Grange was the assignment of a postal address, 2800 Grange Road, to our building. We will be able to receive mail at this address and discontinue use of rented PO Box. We also participated in North Pole's July 4th parade. Michael Martin, National Membership director, participated in our Grange Month activities. Flint Hills Resources, the local refinery in North Pole, has been the regular sponsor of our art shows, providing funds to fill our fuel tank each fall. With the recent closure of the refinery, the future of support by Flint Hills is uncertain.

Three years ago we joined with the Fairbanks Chapter of the Alaska Farm Bureau to conduct an annual Christmas banquet in lieu of our December meeting. Participation continues to grow each year and we invite the other Granges in the Interior to join with us. This year, the North Ptarmigan Four H Club has begun meeting at our hall in North Pole. We hope this new relationship will bring good results to our organization.

Each summer we seem to be presented with a new challenge. Inspired by the Peony presentation at the 2013 State Meeting, we started a garden this spring. We planted 20 peonies, donated by "North Pole Peonies"; peas, beans, potatoes; and 5 varieties of turnips in an experiment conducted by Pingo Farms. Three days prior to the planned August vegetable festival we discovered that our building had been invested by a swarm of honey bees. The entrance to the hive was inches from the main building entrance, creating a dangerous situation for anyone allergic to bee stings. We decided to cancel the event and remove the hive, and were able to resume regular activities in September.

Our membership remains solid, and is growing slowly but steadily.

Respectfully submitted this 27th day in September 2014

By:

John E. Poirrier, President
North Pole Grange # 6