

Alaska State Grange Meeting
Saturday, May 5, 2012
Held at the Alaska Plant Materials Center in Palmer, Alaska

Opening

At 9:00 a.m., Master John Poirrier opened the meeting in the sixth degree.

Roll Call of Officers and Delegates

Master, John Poirrier
Overseer, Brad Sworts
Lecturer pro tem, Linda Albers
Steward, Bill Campbell
Assistant Steward pro tem, Dee Roberts
Lady Assistant Steward, Ann Roberts
Chaplain pro tem, Sig Restad
Treasurer, Gaye Hunt
Secretary pro tem, Lori Restad
Gatekeeper pro tem, Frank Shor
Ceres, vacant
Pomona, vacant
Flora, vacant
Executive Committee, Steve Albers, Michael Kennedy (absent), Leon LaSalle (absent)

Delegates from:

Northland Pioneer #1, Sig Restad and Brad Sworts
Two Rivers #3, Ann Roberts
North Pole #6, Kate Poirrier
North Star #10, Dee Roberts
Slikok Creek #12, Linda and Steve Albers
Homer #13, excused

Introduction of National Representative

Amanda Leigh Brozana, Communications Director for the National Grange, was introduced.

Business continued in the fourth degree.

Host Announcements

Sig Restad, Master of Northland Pioneer Grange # 1, welcomed the Alaska State Grange and spoke briefly about the history of the Alaska Plant Materials Center.

Reading of 2011 State Meeting Minutes

The 2011 minutes were read. Amanda Brozana offered a correction, stating that the National convention had been held in Charlotte, North Carolina, rather than Grand Rapids, MI. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Video Address from National President Ed Luttrell

The National President congratulated the Alaska Grange on its 9th annual session and updated the delegates on the National Grange Foundation and continuing trademark protection efforts.

State Master’s Address

State Master, John Poirrier, welcomed delegates and guests and thanked the Northland Pioneer Grange for hosting the 2012 State Grange Meeting.

President Poirrier presented awards to the Two Rivers Grange #3 and North Pole Grange #6 for having a net membership increase.

The State Master described his efforts in cooperation with the Alaska Farm Bureau to advocate for House Bill 191, which proposed a Department of Agriculture. Efforts will have to be renewed in the next legislative session.

Challenges for the coming year include revision of the Alaska State Grange By-laws and efforts to both stabilize and increase community Granges.

Responsibilities of the Alaska Grange for the next National Convention to be held in Boise, ID were discussed and include the following:

- 500 inexpensive items to go into convention attendees goodie bags from each local Grange
- Coffee (estimated 5 pounds) for the hospitality room from each local Grange
- Christmas ornaments for the Alaska tree, 5 per local Grange
- A volunteer to fill the Treasurer position for the 6th degree ceremony

Schedule of Future State Meetings

President Poirrier suggested this schedule for future State Sessions:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Fall 2013	Two Rivers #3	Charlotte Strickland
Fall 2014	Homer #13	Nantia Krisintu
Fall 2015	Northland Pioneer #1	Sig Restad

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Gaye Hunt handed out copies of the 2011 and 2012 State Grange Treasurer’s report. Dee Roberts moved to accept the report as presented. The motion carried.

Resolutions

John Poirrier distributed copies of “A Resolution Changing State Annual Meeting Schedule from May to October, Beginning in 2013” proposed by North Pole Grange #6. Brad Sworts moved to add the words “current May” before “State Grange Meeting” in paragraph 3. The motion was seconded and passed. Brad made a motion to change the phrase “first weekend of October” to “last weekend of September” in paragraph 6. The motion passed. Linda Albers moved to change the title to reflect the September meeting date. The motion carried. The resolution then passed by unanimous consent.

“A Resolution to Establish a New Membership Category” was introduced. Steve Albers moved to strike the phrase “through the Executive Committee and the bylaw review committee” from the final paragraph. Brad seconded the motion and it carried.

Guest Speakers

Doug Griffin, City Manager for the City of Palmer, spoke about the Babb Arboretum cooperative project with Northland Pioneer Grange in Palmer. He said it is included in the Parks and Rec plan for the city and the City of Palmer is talking to the Great Land Trust about possible conservation projects that could involve the arboretum.

Amy Poplawski, a graduate student at Alaska Pacific University, spoke about her project to connect Burchell High School students with agriculture. She has funding to offer college credit, food and transportation assistance for students interested in learning about agricultural operations. The project is still in development, but she hopes to have 5-6 student interns in the program this summer.

Tour of Alaska Plant Materials Center

After a lunch of pizza and sourdough waffles made with Alaska Barley flour, Bill Campbell, Potato Disease Specialist and member of Northland Pioneer Grange, gave the group a tour of the facility and described the services provided by the Alaska Plant Materials Center.

National Communications Director Address

Amanda Leigh Brozana demonstrated the new Grange website, including a new format for local Grange websites. She thought that the Alaska Executive Committee could probably reserve TeamSpeak time to conduct meetings. Time can be reserved by calling Stephanie Wilkins (extension 101).

Report on State Future Farmers of America (FFA)

Sig reported on the Alaska State FFA Convention held in Palmer last month. About 80 students participated. The FFA has been seeking support from the Alaska legislature for a state organization, and it looks like they were successful in receiving some funding.

Reports of Community Granges

Written reports were distributed to the group for Granges #1, #3. Grange #6 President delivered an oral report.

Budget

President Poirrier displayed a proposed budget for the Alaska State Grange. Brad Sworts moved to accept the budget. Sig seconded the motion and it carried.

Officer Elections

The following people were elected to fill officer positions:

- Master, John Porrier
- Overseer, Brad Sworts
- Lecturer, Nantia Krisintu
- Steward, Art Robinson
- Assistant Steward, Dee Roberts
- Lady Assistant Steward, Ann Roberts
- Chaplain, Kirsten Sworts

Treasurer, Gaye Hunt
Secretary, Nancy Graff
Gatekeeper, Mark Restad
Ceres, Sandra Giddings
Pomona, Linda Albers
Flora, Wendy Beverstock
Executive Committee, Bill Campbell
Musician, Lindianne Sarno

John Poirrier conducted the installation of officers.

Suggestions for the Good of the Order

It was suggested that we send letters of thanks to the Alaska Plant Materials Center and Bill Campbell, Denise of the *Non-Essentials* store in Palmer, who donated the barley flour, and speakers Doug Griffin and Amy Poplawski.

The Alaska State Grange Meeting closed in the fourth degree at 5:00 p.m.

Fraternally submitted,

Lori Restad
Recording Secretary for State Meeting

Report by Alaska State Master for the 9th Grange Convention
Palmer, Alaska
May 5th, 2012

Worthy Master, Officers, Delegates, and members of the 9^h Annual Session of the Alaska State Grange:
Welcome to Palmer, Alaska.

This is a great day to be in Alaska and a great day to be in the Mat-Su Valley at this wonderful Alaska State Grange Convention. On behalf of the Officers of the Alaska State Grange, I want to thank the Northland Pioneer Grange for organizing this weekend event.

The State Grange is a delegate body. Community Granges are membership organizations. Each of them is unique. Each has its own sense of self identity. We all should get past the falling into the we –they trap. Our duties at the State level include bridging the gap between local and national issues.

Ritual

Traditions Secret Exclusive Inclusive

Annual word passed down through two channels of communicated Cipher and code master and overseer, one envelop now. This this an arcaic tradition do we need to do this today? Well if you'r in NPG hall with your portable device and want to log into the Wi-Fi network, you need to know the network password

Amanda will talk about this later this afternoon

Other topics were verbally presented from notes below:

- Making the State Level organization more effective
- Current challenge for the Alaska State Grange Organization is to become effective as a statewide organization and implement the procedures for operation described in our own bylaws and the national digest. This has been a struggle for a long time
- Forming new granges:
Regarding 15 in 15 - Become a two delegate grange
- National Master visit in Fall of 2012
- Statue HB 191
- Tyson trademark protection
- Executive Committee:
Conducts regular monthly meetings
Declared HQ Location in Palmer
Established account with Alaska USA Federal credit union

BUDGET 2012

State Meeting Expenses

General Administrative	150
Officer travel	
Lodging & Meals for National Representative at State meeting	450
Total	600

Representation at National Level

National Conference Boise

National Assessment (\$1 /member at midpoint)	108
Stipend for master's Attendance	250
Additional expense for western region	200
Total	558

National Training Conference

Total	

Annual Administration

Teleconference (executive committee meetings)	150
Shipping/ Postage	25
Administrative supplies	25
Post Office Box (share with Palmer)	70
Website	240
Travel for officers to subordinate Granges (milage@.5/mile)	
	510

INCOME from Dues **\$1,320**

Misc. Income **\$348**

Total Expenses **\$1,668**

Report of Northland Pioneer Grange No. 1 for 2012 State Grange Meeting

- Northland Pioneer Grange is awarding a \$2,000 scholarship to Augustus Topp, a graduate of Palmer High School.
- Grange members continue the Ag in the Classroom project. It is in its sixteenth year. A \$500 scholarship is awarded to the best high school presenter.
- The Grange and Palmer FFA chapter held an arboretum clean up at the Myron Babb Arboretum in Palmer.
- Grange members plant a flower garden at the UAF Experiment Farm.
- Northland Pioneer Grange organized a Harvest Dinner with funds from the dinner and auction going to area 4-H and FFA organizations.
- The Grange reviewed proposed legislation for the 2011 legislative session regarding establishing a Department of Agriculture. Comments were provided to the bill's sponsor and testimony given to the committee hearing the HB 191.
- The Grange presented a lecture to the Ag in the Classroom Teacher Institute about the history of agricultural research in Alaska.
- We ended 2011 with a Christmas party and gift exchange.

Two Rivers Grange #3
PO Box 16211
Two Rivers, AK 99712

Alaska State Grange
State Grange Master
John Poirrier

April 30, 2012

Dear State Master,

Here is an update of what the Two Rivers Grange has done in the past year.

We have done fundraising estate sales where estate items were donated to the Grange for sales purposes.

We have given away \$1500 from the Mutkala Fund to deserving children in the Two Rivers Community. This has helped one student attend a class trip to New York, one is going as a Student Ambassador to Europe, and one used the grant towards the purchasing of college books.

We have currently closed our building down and are moving our meetings to the rescue center until we are able to repair the Two Rivers building. We have fund raising opportunities coming up in order to help us cover the costs of repairs. We are researching grants in order to help us get the foundation under the building repaired and we need a new heating system.

So as you can see we have a busy year ahead of us. We will be doing more yard sales, a Father's Day fundraising and community event, and we will be picking up litter along the highway during Clean-Up Day. We are also looking forward to hosting a local farmers market this summer.

Sincerely

Charlotte Strickland
Master, Two Rivers Grange #3

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