

National Grange Leadership Team Visits Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG — During the next few months, a four-member National Grange Leadership Team will visit 31 Grange-states for a series on leadership development in the Grange. As part of their nationwide tour, the team made their stop in the Keystone State. Five visits were made to various regions in the state. National Grange Master Edward Andersen was among the Grange dignitaries who visited Granges in Susquehanna, Montour, Clearfield, Indiana and Crawford counties.

"The National Grange Campaign for Leadership Development was well received by Grangers in the Commonwealth. The May meetings yielded over 500 Grangers," said Pennsylvania State Grange Master Charles E. Wismer, Jr.

"Pennsylvania is one of the few states that gains both in membership and in services each year," said Master Andersen.

The purpose of the meetings is to take a closer look at the Grange. "It is time to step back and take a look at the structure of the Grange," said Master Andersen. "This is the time to plan what the Grange will be tomorrow."

Master Andersen reminded the

Grangers present that change is all around. Everything is changing. He continued, "Rural America is changing. Agriculture has to maintain a presence in rural America. We have to examine what role the Grange should play."

National Grange legislative director, Bob Frederick, informed Grangers of important legislation in Washington, D.C. In addition to his legislative news, he reminded Grangers of the importance of their involvement. Legislation is not a spectators sport. It entails exercising legislative efforts," Frederick said.

He warned those in attendance that there are a few myths about legislation that are floating around. "Legislation is not for professionals. It is important at the grassroot level."

Frederick urged everyone to get involved. "I often hear 'I don't have time.'" Well, according to Frederick, there is always time. "You can drop a postcard or give a quick telephone call to your congressman."

Another myth he warns Grangers of, is the common excuse "My voice doesn't count." He said, "You are the most important ingredients in our legislative

process!"

Harry Massey, the membership director of the National Grange told Grangers there are three

important aspects to the Grange. They are family, community service and agriculture.

In conclusion, Grangers had the

opportunity to meet with the national officers and ask questions. Those in attendance gave the program rave reviews.



A KEYSTONE STOP — The National Team visited several Pennsylvania Granges during their 31-state tour. Pictured (left to right) are: Membership Director Harry Massey, Legislative Director Bob Frederick, Pennsylvania State Grange Overseer William Rangler, National Master Edward Andersen and National Lecturer Robert Barrows. William Ringler (center) is the newly elected trustee to the Penn State Board of Directors.

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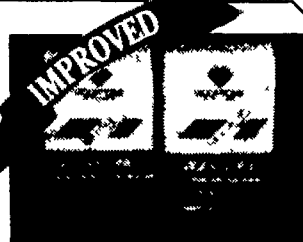


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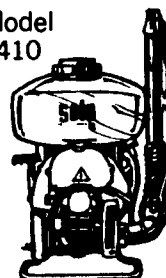
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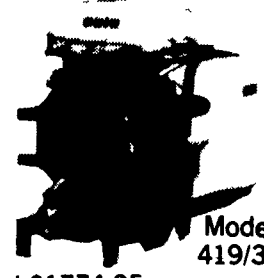


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