

National Grange In Harrisburg Adopts Policy, Elects Officers

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Environmental Resources into two different agencies and revising the agency missions from seeking enforcement to seeking compliance is an example of getting government out of the way.

But he also spoke about the federal level government and "over-zealous environmental regulation."

"Perhaps there is no better example than the need to replace the outdated Delaney Clause, private property rights and the call for wetlands reform."

He said he has been working to create a better regulatory environment that assists residents in accomplishing their goals while preserving the environment.

He reiterated a number of points on issues that he has discussed in campaign speeches and those made since, promoting increasing the profitability of family farms through expanding export opportunities, supporting research and development of technology that provides a competitive edge, and to provide educational opportunities through school choice — not just public to private, but public to public.

He also called for greater local control of regulations affecting non-educational aspects of education, such as the number of trees on school grounds, the number of soap dishes in lavatories.

"It's time that state government gave them the power to meet local needs in the way they see fit — in a way that meets your communities' needs."

"The rewards could be great by removing mandatory sabbaticals alone. In Pennsylvania, on study

shows that their (sabbaticals) elimination alone could save taxpayers \$225 million."

In so many words, the governor said that what is needed is a change in government to allow rural Americans to regain their "can do" attitude and enthusiasm, instead of wallowing in the malaise that comes from government-imposed "must do" and "can't do."

Officers Elected

The National Grange elected its first female overseer, a position analogous to that of vice president.

Jeanne Davies, of the Colorado State Grange, was installed this week into that office, replacing outgoing Kermit Richardson, who moved up to succeed Barrow as national master (president).

Davies has received numerous state and national recognitions. She joined the Grange in 1951, she and her husband Miles were the 1964 National Grange Young Couple of the Year, she was elected master of the Colorado State Grange in 1981 and to the National Grange Executive Committee in 1986. She became secretary to the Executive Committee in 1991.

In community service, Davies was appointed by the governor of Colorado to several state advisory boards involving agriculture.

She was recognized as an organizing member and an officer of the "Always Buy Colorado" marketing committee. She is an officer of the Denver Agriculture and Livestock Club, and the Council of Agricultural Lobbyists.

She was inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame in 1993, and in 1994 she was

appointed by the U.S. secretary of agriculture and the U.S. trade representative to serve as a member of the Agriculture Policy and Advisory Committee.

"Being elected overseer to the National Grange is an exciting challenge that I welcome," she said. "It's a natural extension of the work I've been doing with the Grange. I look forward to working with all Grangers."

Richardson, of Orange, Vt., has been a member of Grange since he was 14, holding a variety of local, state and national offices. In 1971, he was elected national chaplain. In 1975 he was national lecturer (program director) and held that until being elected overseer in 1985.

He has been serving as town moderator for Organe since 1960, was director of the Organge School from 1961 to 1973. Currently, he is director of Farmers and Traders Life Insurance Company.

He is also a member of the Windsor County Board of Realtors, past director of the Independent Mutual Agents of New England, and is a member of the Masons.

"I want to thank the National

Grange delegates for their support and confidence in electing me their new national master," he said. "This is an exciting time to be involved with the Grange because of our strong stance in agriculture and family values."

Awards, Other

In other business, the Grange presented community service awards to outstanding chapters.

The winning members from each of the 37 states were forwarded for consideration by a judging panel.

Judging was based on how well organized the work was, how well the project addressed community needs, public needs, how innovative and labor-intensive the project was, how well it promoted environmental awareness, how well it promoted the Grange, was a socially useful idea and provided

real long-term value, and was a clear and complete presentation.

Edneyville Grange No. 1051 in North Carolina garnered first place honors for its work to save an abandoned school building and turn it into a law enforcement academy. They used grassroots lobbying efforts to organize local citizens, city and county officials and state lawmakers to work together for the academy.

Others recognized included Riverside Grange No. 455 in Vermont for addressing an increasing number of burglaries and acts of vandalism in the community; Golden Gate Grange No. 451, in Colorado for installing 65 cisterns throughout wildness areas to help battle wild fires; and the Happy Camp Grange No. 395 for the efforts of 75 workers for planting two acres of lawn at a community park.

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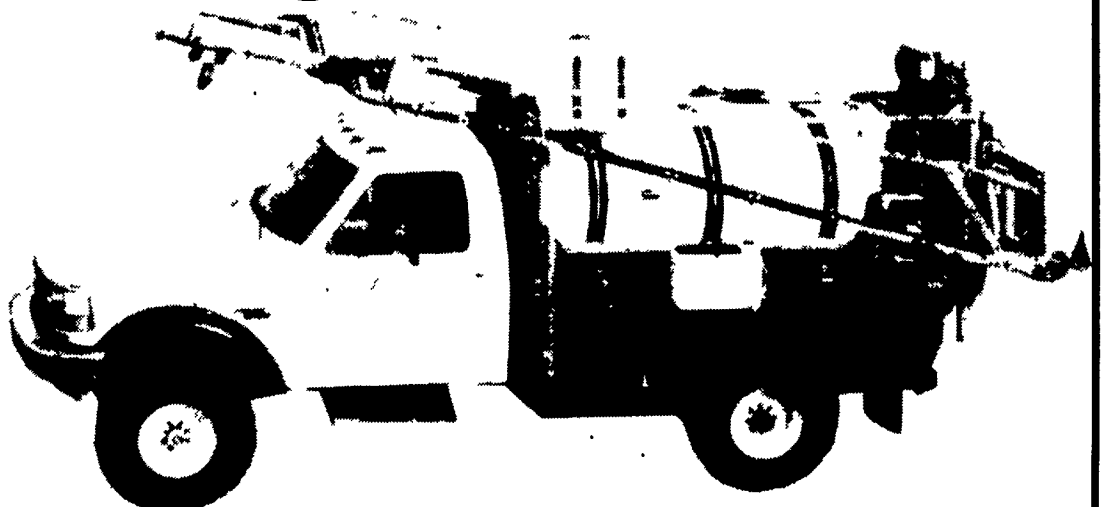
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