

To the offices the members of the Maine State Grange:

It is an honor to submit my first annual report on the activities of the lecturer's department for 2016-2017. Without the assistance of the members of the lecturer's committee and the participation of the members of the Maine State Grange this department would not be as effective as it has been.

I posted material on the Grange website most months. I sent out quarterly program helps to Subordinate and Pomona lecturers, or to the secretaries of Granges who did not have an elected lecturer. All material submitted for the various creative writing contests have been compiled into a booklet, passed out to participants and made available for sale.

A meeting of the Lecture's committee was held in early May to discuss programs and plans for the coming year.

North East Leaders Conference was held in January in Vermont. The State Lecturers solidified plans for the 102nd NE Lecturer's Conference.

North East Lecturer's Conference was held in August on the campus of Castleton University in Vermont. The theme for this year's conference was "School Days". The Maine contingent of 10 members presented a program on "Vocational Education." Thank you to each participant and those sponsoring Granges. Also thanks you for my personal gift that was presented to me during "Spirit Night." It was after much discussion that the North East lecturer's voted to discontinue this conference. The seven state lecturers will meet in the spring of 2018 to discuss where the association goes from here.

Creative Writing Contests: I am sorry to say that participation in the creative writing contests, which includes skit and story writing as well as poetry, was down this year. I received entries from only four Grangers. I sincerely thank those Grangers that took the time to compose these pieces of writing and applaud their accomplishments. The judges really enjoyed reading your compositions. I can only hope that next year's participation increases. All skits, stories and poems have been compiled and are included in the 2017 Creative Writing Book.

Poetry Awards: Each participant received a Creative Writing book, a notebook, and certificate. Ribbons were awarded in each category. There were 10 entries by 4 poets.

Nature

1st - *Wake Up* by Wes Ryder of Danville Junction #65

2nd - *The Pink Rose* by Wes Ryder of Danville Junction #65

3rd - *A Rainbow* by Ceneretta Ward of New Norland #580

Love:

1st - *A Broken Heart* by Wes Ryder of Danville Junction #65

2nd *Look on the Sunny Side* by Christine Hebert of Norway #45

Grange:

1st - *Since My First Degree Day* by Sherry Harriman of Bauneg Beg #382

2nd - *Maine State Grange* by Wes Ryder of Danville Junction #65

Other:

1st - *One Pathway* by Wes Ryder of Danville Junction #65

2nd - *Success is Golden* by Wes Ryder of Danville Junction #65

Skit Writing Awards: Each participant received a Creative Writing book, a notebook, and certificate. Ribbons were awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

- 1st – *You Stew* by Sherry Harriman of Bauneg Beg #382
2nd – *Close Call* by Sherry Harriman of Bauneg Beg #382
3rd – *The Picnic* by Ceneretta Ward of New Norland #580

Story Writing Awards: Each participant received a Creative Writing book, a notebook, and certificate. Ribbons were awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Sister Sherry Harriman's (Bauneg Beg #382) story "Move You Foot" placed 1st. Her "Just a Bug" place 2nd and her "A Cold Surprise" placed 3rd.

Subordinate & Pomona Lecturer's Reports: I received only 8 Subordinate Reports and 3 Pomona Reports. Each person submitting a report received an Achievement Certificate.

Book Reading Club: Twelve members reported reading 1015 books and 304,990 pages. Everyone submitting lists received bookmarks. All members who read 75 and/or 25,000 pages were given extra bookmarks. The top three readers in each category received ribbons and special awards.

Top readers based on Number of Books

- 1st - Dolores Moore of East Eddington #301 – read 215 books
2nd – Margaret Henderson of Seven Star # 73 – read 175 books
3rd – Ruby Parker of Meenahga # 555 – read 161

Top reader based on Number of Pages

- 1st - Ruby Parker of Meenahga # 555 – read 69607 pages
2nd – Dolores Moore of East Eddington #301 – read 55,171 pages
3rd – Rolf Staples of Bangor # 372 – read 52826 pages

Lecturer's Conference September 30. The Lecturer's Program book as well as Program Help booklets will be passed out to all Subordinate and Pomona Granges. Items will be for sale; new programs reviewed, workshops held, awards presented, and door prizes drawn during the conference. Talent contestants will be judged and the winning act will be given the opportunity to participate in the Evening of Excellence at the National Grange session in November. The winners of the Talent contest will be posted in the October bulletin as well as printed in the journal.

State Session is expected to again be a busy time for the Lecturer's Department. I am hoping for a large participation in the Photo contests as well as the Junior's Art contest. I wish to thank all those in advance who will assist at my tables, hanging art and photos, and all the other things that will do during the session. The photo chosen "Best in Show" will be sent to National Grange for judging. The winners of the Art and Photo contest will be posted in the November bulletin as well as printed in the journal.

I feel this has been a building year. After I was elected last October I hit the ground running feeling as if I was already months behind, but with the help and support I have received I believe that participation in the Lecturer's contests will only grow. THANK YOU to all who have supported, promoted, and participated in any of the programs or activities of this department.

I am very grateful for the help and encouragement from State Master Rick, State Secretary, Sharon and State Coordinator, Jim. A **THANK YOU** to the members of the Lecturer's committee for all their hard work and especially to Sherry Harriman who unselfishly shared her knowledge and materials with me.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret A. Morse, Lecturer