



REGIONAL CONFERENCES PROVIDE EDUCATION, FUN, NETWORKING

submissions from Dave Roberts (CT)
and Diana Nordquest (OH)

North East Lecturers Association Conference

The recent North East Lecturers Association (NELA) Conference, held in June in Norwich, CT, was a unique and significant event in the Grange community's calendar. Hosted by the Connecticut State Grange, it was the first regional Lecturers Conference in five years. It brought together Grange Lecturers and members from around New England and New York, fostering collaboration and shared learning.

This year's conference theme was "Cultivating Leadership and Community," reflecting the Grange's commitment to empowering individuals and strengthening local communities through education and service.

One of the conference's highlights was the keynote address delivered by Joan C. Smith, Grange Foundation Chairwoman. In her speech, she emphasized the importance of the Lecturer's role within the Grange organization, highlighting how Lecturers serve as educators, cultural promoters, and community leaders. She encouraged attendees to bring the conference's knowledge and skills back to their local Granges to inspire and educate their members. She also discussed the Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors (RRSS) program and congratulated Connecticut State Grange on being the first State Grange across the United States to complete all the requirements to receive a monetary payment for promoting RRSS.

The conference featured workshops covering various topics relevant to



Joan C. Smith, Chairperson of the Grange Foundation, provided the keynote address at the North East Lecturers Association Conference, held in Connecticut in June.

Photo submitted

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UPCOMING DEADLINES

July 31 - Early Bird Registration
Deadline for 158th Annual
National Grange Convention
nationalgrange.org/158thconvention

August 1 - Distinguished Grange
Applications Due
nationalgrange.org/distinguished

September 1 -
Applications/Entries due for most
National Grange Contests