

WNF&GA National Annual Meeting Overview



The National Annual Meeting of Woman's National Farm & Garden Association will take place at the Grand Island Holiday Inn and Resort on Grand Island, NY. We will meet from Wednesday, June 2 until Sunday, June 6, 2010. The organizers, Julie Siefker (Ohio Division President) and Mary A Bertolini (National President elect) have worked to make this meeting both fun and affordable.

Our hotel is the Grand Dame of the Niagara River. This facility has hosted many conferences in the past and now it is our turn to enjoy all the amenities it has to offer. Our newly decorated guest rooms are equipped with everything you would expect at a quality facility. The rooms are affordable; the rate includes a sumptuous full buffet breakfast for everyone. The yacht, Grand Lady, docks at the hotel grounds and gives this property a luxurious feel. Please join us for a swim in the indoor pool, some cardio workouts in the fully equipped exercise room, or a beverage of choice in the lounge while the grand piano plays your favorite tunes. Our spacious meeting room includes plenty of space for marketing, with a secure anteroom to hold our supplies, if needed. There is a small gift shop that includes both snacks and articles you may have forgotten at home for purchase. For additional information visit www.myholidayinn.com

Wednesday, June 2, will be arrival day. Everyone attending can register at the hotel, gather meeting materials and meet other attendees in the lounge or at the gazebo next to the river. At 6:00 PM, our Bianco Coach from Michigan will depart for the Seneca Niagara Casino. Those attending will receive \$10.00 in free slot play. We can try our luck at one of the most beautiful casino buildings in the greater New York area. Dinner is on your own, either at the hotel or at the casino. The bus will depart the casino for the hotel at 9:30 PM with everyone and their winnings!

Thursday, June 3, is our tour day. We will begin at the hotel, departing for the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens: www.buffalogardens.com. We will tour the beautiful buildings and grounds of this stellar facility. Julie Siefker has scheduled a delicious Italian Buffet in the lunchroom. After our meal, we will enjoy a 3-hour tour of the greater Buffalo area on an open-air bus! For those who are less trusting of the weather, our coach from Michigan will have a step-on guide to narrate our trip. The tour includes highlights of the region and the Frank Lloyd Wright houses. The Martin Darwin home is Wright's ideal of his Prairie Style homes. We will return to the hotel for meetings as called and a chance to relax. After Orientation at 5:00 PM, we will dine with Amanda Edmonds, our speaker for the evening. Ms. Edmonds is the founder of the Ypsilanti Farmer's Market and *Growing Hope*, a community garden initiative.

Friday, June 4 is the first session of business. We will hear reports and address issues Farm & Garden is facing in the near future. Floral Arts Focus Chairman, Barbara Hochstettler and Designer, Nora Tebben, will again present a floral design demonstration. Bring your camera; you will be glad you did! After a lunch at the hotel, we will tour the Niagara River on the yacht, Grand Lady. Captain Rick will narrate our tour of the region, focusing on the flora and fauna. He pays particular attention to

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nesting birds along the river, and will include a brief history lesson too. That evening, we will travel to Niagara Falls State Park for dinner at The Top of the Falls restaurant. This facility, located on the edge of Niagara Falls, gives a 360-degree view of the area. We have plenty of surprises planned for that evening, so be sure to join us! You won't be disappointed, and our dinner includes a fireworks display over the falls at 10:00 PM.

Saturday, June 5, we will continue with our National Meeting. Our speaker that day will focus on the Slow Foods movement in the Buffalo area. If you aren't acquainted with this new look at food, we will enlighten you! Eating fresh, local foods year round is possible. The Slow Food movement will show us how it can be accomplished. Later that day, we will travel by bus to the Merritt Estate Winery in Forestville, NY. www.merrittestatewinery.com. Our visit includes a tasting of their award winning wines and a trip to the gift shop. An outdoor pavilion awaits our arrival, so be sure to dress for the weather. A nap will be in order on our way back to the hotel. We will enjoy a cocktail hour and silent auction bidding before our dinner at 7:00PM. The program for the evening will be final National Awards and the installation of our new officers.

Plan on joining us for fun and excitement in New York! Catch up with friends from other Branches. Find out how Farm & Garden affects YOU, and learn what *works* through new ideas and new friends. Become an active part of the organization by attending with us. Bring a friend, husband, sibling, anyone!