

## BERKS COUNTY CRUISE

by Nettie A. Kauffman

Who would ever think that our cruise would be such a success? But it was! On September 7, there were 104 individuals who traveled to New York Passenger Terminal to board the ship “Norwegian Spirit” for some ‘Freestyle Cruising.’ Of these 104 individuals, 66 were Grangers and 38 non-grangers.

We departed from the Ontelaunee Grange hall parking lot with two full busses. The participants were anxious to get on board the ship and enjoy a week of relaxing. Freestyle Cruising gives one the freedom to dress as one pleases. There is no need to check for a “suggested dress code” as on any traditional cruise. Resort casual attire was appropriate – morning, noon, and night. For those who did like to dress to the nines and get a portrait taken, there were some optional formal evenings.

Prior to getting on board, we all went through various checkpoints to make sure we were – citizens of the U.S., get our picture taken (this was used for disembarkation/embarkation at the various ports of call) and to make sure everything we purchased on board would be paid for by providing some credit to Norwegian Cruise Line company. These purchases were of a personal nature (soft drinks or alcoholic beverages, excursions, photographs, casino spending, jewelry purchases, etc.). Once this process was completed, we all headed for the gangplank and boarded the ship. First order of business was to head for the food . . . yes, it was a bit past lunchtime and everyone was hungry, so everyone headed for the buffet area in order to satisfy their hunger needs. No one was disappointed as there was a great deal to eat and this is the area where you could eat and drink (water/coffee/tea) as much as you wanted, and as often as you wanted.



After our “snack,” most of us headed for Deck 6 to see where we would rest our weary heads for the coming week’s cruise (some participants decided to upgrade and went elsewhere on the ship). Then it was up to the top deck to watch our disembarkation from the New York harbor. We sailed past the Statue of Liberty and headed out into the Atlantic Ocean. We were all thankful that Hurricane Hanna passed through the area the day before and left us with some delightful weather – clear, warm, and calm!

Our ports of call were Halifax - Nova Scotia, St. John - New Brunswick, Boston and Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts.

Our week was filled with good eating, relaxation, fellowship amongst the other passengers on board from other localities, card playing, casino gambling, excursions, entertainment each evening in the theater, and some fun amongst those who traveled with us.

The Tour Committee now begins the search for a trip for 2009.



The Paul & Dorothy  
Miller family were  
chosen 2008 Grange  
Family at State  
Session  
Congratulations!

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Berks County has  
FOUR State  
Grange Officers  
2008—2010

Derek Schroeder  
Henry Seidel  
Nettie Kauffman  
Tammy Schaeffer