



Volume 60

Grange Beacon

A publication of the Rhode Island State Grange

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President

Eileen Hebert
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The State Grange Annual Session has come and gone, and had its good moments and not so good moments. You may have heard that we had a member who tested positive for Covid a few days later, and that turned into four other cases of Covid. Two had minor symptoms, the other two had more uncomfortable bouts of the infection, but all have recovered completely. Whew! It could have been so much worse. In case you are wondering, all had been previously vaccinated.

The session was held at Oak Lawn Grange hall, which marked the second year that we did not meet at a hotel. The State Grange did not have the overhead expenses of hotel fees, so we were able to pay for the delegates' and officers' lunch on both days and for pizza on Thursday evening. Friday evening's meal was partially subsidized by the State Grange, and required a \$15.00 payment from attendees. Compared to the last hotel banquet in 2019, which was \$35, it was a bargain! We also gave a generous donation to Oak Lawn Grange for the use of the hall.

On Thursday evening, in place of the sixth degree, we held an informal discussion on the location and format of future State Sessions. Anyone who wished to could give an opinion, suggestion or complaint, or ask a question. With the comments and ideas from that evening, the executive committee can come up with a plan for next year's session, fine tune some of the activities and come up with some new ideas.

On Friday, we held a discussion on the future of the National Grange building in Washington, DC. In recent years, the Grange building has required numerous and expensive repairs, which has put the National Grange in debt by several million dollars. A detailed survey of the building, which was built in the late 1950's, revealed that there are still expensive repairs and replacement of systems and equipment to be done. Other considerations for the building are that it is the only privately owned property in a block of federally owned buildings, two blocks from the White House and could be subject to seizure by the government under eminent domain. It would also be subject to federal background check and clearance of the buyer, if it were to be sold outright.

All State Granges were requested by the National Grange President to have a discussion at their state session about the future of the building. The National Grange Executive Committee has investigated several scenarios- the building could be sold outright and another purchased within the DC area. It could be retained and renovated, which would require all occupants, including the National Grange, to move into another facility for approximately two years. A third alternate would be to sell the building, with an option to retain our current occupancy, but this again would probably require us to move out of the building during renovations. The RI State Grange voted that the building should be sold outright.

At the National Grange Session, discussion was held again on the disposition of the building, taking into consideration the input from the State Granges. Even though there is a lot of nostalgia for the building and prestige of its location, the financial liability was the deciding factor, and it was voted to sell the building. You can read more about the discussion on selling the building at:

www.nationalgrange.org/news2/do-we-stay-or-do-we-go/

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Juniors
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The Junior Committee has already planned the 2022 Junior Program. We decided that to start the year some of the contests and events will be held at Junior Grange meetings at each Junior Grange instead of hosting statewide events.

One major change for this year, when you receive your program books you will notice the book is smaller full descriptions of events/contests will be located on the Junior Department website while the book will only include brief descriptions.

The Juniors of RI remained busy during 2020 despite the challenges with Covid. While were unable to hold some of the contests the Juniors were able to create crafts and awards were handed out in September.

The 2022 Junior Royalty remained the same as 2021.

- Mini Prince – Tristan Gotauco, Moosup Valley Junior Grange #27
- Mini Princess – Scarlet Gotauco, Moosup Valley Junior Grange #27
- Princess – Madison Sherman, Moosup Valley Junior Grange #27

I received a total of 30 entries in the different craft categories this year; the awards are as follows:

Big E Craft - Something From Summer

- **1st Place**
- Hailey Fish, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Scarlet Gotauco, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Tristan Gotauco, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Brooke Houle, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Jessica Sherman, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Madison Sherman, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27

Host State Craft – Kansas

- **1st Place**
- Brooke Houle, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Jessica Sherman, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Madison Sherman, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27

Recycle Craft – Coffee Filters and/or Cupcake Liners

- **1st Place**
- Kendall Gotauco, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Scarlet Gotauco, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Tristan Gotauco, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Annette Hartley, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Brooke Houle, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Jessica Sherman, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Madison Sherman, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27

Paper Plate Craft

- **1st Place**
- Hailey Fish, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Kendall Gotauco, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Scarlet Gotauco, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Tristan Gotauco, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Annette Hartley, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange. #27
- Brooke Houle, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Jessica Sherman, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Madison Sherman, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27

Handprint Craft

- **1st Place**
- Kendall Gotauco, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Scarlet Gotauco, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Tristan Gotauco, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Annette Hartley, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Brooke Houle, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Jessica Sherman, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Madison Sherman, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27

Rocket Craft

- **1st Place**
- Scarlet Gotauco, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Tristan Gotauco, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Annette Hartley, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Madison Sherman, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27

Paper Airplane Craft

- **1st Place**
- Annette Hartley, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Brooke Houle, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Madison Sherman, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27
- Jessica Sherman, Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27

Annette Hartley earned 4 National Passports (*these replaced the merit badges*):

- World Discovery: Reading for Success
- World Discovery: Learning French
- Career Readiness: What Doctors Do
- Career Readiness: Veterinarian Career

Thank you to everyone whom continues to support the Juniors of Rhode Island. A Huge thank you to the Junior Leaders and the parents for encouraging the Juniors to participate in events and doing what you could to Cultivate Connections while we continue to be apart. We look forward to seeing you at the Junior events coming up in 2022.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy, holiday season and a wonderful New Year!





Information

Howard Paster

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Since the last issue of the Grange Beacon, I had mentioned that I would have worked at the Washington County Fair in August. I will have to correct this information. Due to Carole coming home from a rehab facility Tuesday before the Washington County Fair, I was not able to work during the Fair. I had planned to work all 5 days. I was able before the Fair to be at Richmond Grange Hall Sunday before the Fair to take pictures of the Fair Royalty contestants with the judging of the contestants. I delegated Valerie Richard to take pictures of the contestants on the first night of the Fair announcing the winners. Then Valerie sent me the photos to decide on which one to send to the newspapers. So I decided on one of the photos. Then a week later, the photo was printed in a number of newspapers. I had Valerie enter one of the newspaper photos to enter in one of the contests in the Information Department. I would like to thank Valerie for helping me out with this. I appreciated it very much.

Next I will announce the winners in all the contests in this department. The Juniors had a Bookmark Contest, bookmarks made out of card stock. The Junior Grange Leaders were supplied with card stock for their Junior Grangers to participate.

The awards to the Moosup Valley Juniors for the Bookmark Contest were as follows;

8-11 years old	1st Place-Madison Sherman
	2nd Place-Hailey Fish
12-14 years old	1st Place-Nettie Hartley
	2nd Place-Jessica Sherman

There were Newspaper awards to the one Junior for National Grange Entries.

Newspaper Photo	1st Place-Nettie Hartley
Single Article	1st Place-Nettie Hartley

Juniors Essay Contest-“What Animal Would I Like To Have”

4 1/2-7 age group	1st Place-Scarlet Gotauco
8-11 age group	2nd Place-Tristan Gotauco

Newspaper Photo State Grange Entries Individual Entries-All received 1st Place

Jessica Sherman	Madison Sherman
Nettie Hartley	Hailey Fish
Tristan Gotauco	Scarlet Gotauco
Kendall Gotauco	Brooke Houle

Subordinate Grange Entries-Newspaper Photo Contest

1st Place	Walter Elwell-LittleCompton Grange
2nd Place	Peggy Fish-Exeter Grange

Subordinate Grange Entries-Single Article Contest

1st Place	Louise Roberts-Chepachet Grange
2nd Place	Kristen Flynn-Perryville Grange

Newspaper Photo-State Grange Entry

1st Place	Danielle Hartley
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Newspaper Photo-Pomona Grange Entry

1st Place	Valerie Richard
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Single Article-Pomona Grange Entry

1st Place	Meghan Sears
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The Information Department will still be having the same contests with the deadline of September 10, 2022. The contests are Single Article and Newspaper Photo Contests, Bookmarks for the Juniors, Essay Contests for the Juniors with two choices for a theme, and for Subordinate Granges, Paint the Rock to Promote Grange.

If anyone has any questions or needing help on anything to do with the Information Department, you can contact me or anyone on the committee. It will be the same committee with Barbara Rush, Lillian Kruszyna, Cathy Kamowski, Peggy Fish, Carole Paster and myself.



Deaf and Health Jennifer Lawson

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I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving. I would like to start by saying if you returned something to this department you should have your awards for participating.

The Deaf and Health Department has our usual program planned for this year: The bowl a thon will be sometime in March or April. Our thinking is March 27 or April 3 which are both Sundays.

We are still collecting Box Tops, and, as of this writing a few Granges have turned them in Thank You.

I would like to maybe do a zoom with the Director of the School for the Deaf so that you may ask her questions, as I have a few questions myself to ask. If we did have this maybe it could

be a statewide Zoom.

I will also be looking for suggestions for a speaker. If you have any health topic you would like to listen to please let me know, and I will try to find someone. We have a lot of wonderful Health Organizations in this state.

In closing if you have any questions please feel free to call or email me.



Chaplain
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Another year has gone by...another year of uncertainty...another year with the pandemic bringing illness and even death. But with the Christmas season upon us, we have the certainty that our Lord and Savior, who was born in the stable and spent His life loving others, gave His life that we might have the assurance of eternal life with Him. "Count your blessings, name them one by one," and even take the time to write all your blessings down, to see how blessed you really are! Christmas is a time of giving, but always remember the Greatest Gift of all was Christ Jesus, given to us by our Heavenly Father.

We made a beautiful Christmas wreath of the blessings that we share,

wrapped round with love from every Grange friend and filled with heartfelt care.

Our Grange friends have been such gifts to us - each in a special way,
 and we would like to let them know, in honor of Christmas day.

Some bring FAITH in times of doubt and some bring HOPE to set us free,
 some bring LOVE that casts out fear, and always with FIDELITY.

Our wreath entwines the gifts of all the caring folks we know...

we weave a ribbon of love around and tie it in a bow.
 We'll take our wreath to the Little Child as we speak to Him in prayer,
 and ask for Christmas blessings for our good Grange friends everywhere!

Christmas Blessings, Jack and Shirley



A note from Jeannette Kenyon,

I would like to thank everyone for all of the cards and well wishes I received during my illness. Hope everyone is doing well.

*Love,
 Jeannette*



"Membership Matters"
Steve & Claire Logan
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Congratulations to all of you and your Granges for getting us to where we are today. Through perseverance we are slowly recovering from this terrible Covid 19 Pandemic. You have continued to show to your communities that you care for them and are working hard to support and offer aid to them.

Quoting our National Membership and Leadership Development Director, Amanda Brozana – Rios – "The Work of Another Day Demands Your Attention!" She used this during a Membership Workshop during National Session to emphasize the work we need to do now for Membership. The Membership Department encourages all Granges have a Membership Chairperson and to have discussions of how to increase membership during their meetings. The work of another day demands your attention to the membership of your Grange! The Membership Committee is here to help you anyway possible, please do not hesitate to reach out to any one of us.

Our wish is for all of You to have a Very Happy Holiday Season, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Secretary
Roxanne Nelson
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Greeting Everyone!

It was so nice to see so many people at State Session in October! I wanted to give a big Thank You to Shirley Lawson for filling in for me at State Session late in the day on Thursday and all day Friday, as I had booked a trip to Iceland for the same weekend.....whoops!

This quarter, we were very pleased to welcome:
 Diane Montone to Exeter Grange #12
 Diana McGrath to Portsmouth Grange #29

This quarter no granges reported of any member deaths.

I am hoping that 2022 will allow us to get back to our normal meeting and events and that it will bring the end of this pandemic!

I wish everyone a very happy and healthy holiday season.



Lecturer
Danielle Hartley
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Hello,

My name is Valerie Richard and I am your newest Rhode Island State Grange Lecturer. Many of you know me, but for those of you whom I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting, let me take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. While I am a 3rd generation granger, I still consider myself to be new to the grange. Growing up I had fond memories of attending Turkey Dinners at Exeter Grange but, I have only been a Grange member for about 10 years now. Other than that I would say that my grange experience began, as a parent of 2 Junior Grangers. Attending their meetings made me want to check out what I was then calling “the adult grange.” Even though it was about 10 years ago, I still remember the program of the 1st Subordinate grange meeting that I attended, Roxanne Nelson’s Guess the Logo Program. The Lecturer’s Program was my fave part of the meeting then and still is to this day!

During this short 10 year span of time, I have been fortunate enough to hold multiple grange offices at multiple levels of the grange. I was surprised but delighted to have been nominated and elected to my favorite office of the Grange as my 1st State Officer Position. I would also like to thank the majority of the delegate body of the 2021 RISG State Session for their confidence in me by voting me into this position. Although I was sad to hear of Danielle Hartley’s decision not to continue in the position of RISG Lecturer, I understand her decision and wish her the best in her future endeavors! Thank you so much for all your hard work the past couple of years! I have some big shoes to fill and will do my very best to do so! I hope that my experience as Subordinate Lecturer of Hope Valley Grange (where I affiliate) will be enough for me to succeed in this position making her and all the other Past State Lecturer’s proud of me.

So enough about me...here’s the department’s progress so far. The new lecturer’s committee has met regarding the department books, and the dates, events, and contests have been set. The Department’s Program books are in the final stages of completion as I write this and will probably be out for distribution by the time you are reading this article. While I have some new ideas, I understand that change is difficult for many (myself included) so, this year there will only be one change. As soon as I get my Pomona Program Books from the other counties I will be reaching out to all of the Lecturers in the state at all levels to get their input, and assist with any questions or concerns. In the meantime, if you would like to reach out to me, please feel free to

email me at ristatelecturer@rigrange.org. I look forward to seeing you all soon! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

Sincerely,
 Valerie Richard,
 RISG Lecturer

The Rhode Island State Grange recently at their 135th Annual Session, held Election of Officers at OakLawn Grange Hall in Cranston. Two new officers were elected and installed - Lecturer Valerie Richard and Pomona Dorothy Moone. Shirley Lawson and Patty Cottrell were reelected as members of the Executive Committee for the next 2 years.



Photo by Howard Paster

left to right: Walter Hartley, State Grange Overseer, Valerie Richard, the new State Grange Lecturer, Dorothy Moone, new Pomona and Shirley Lawson, reelected to the Executive Committee for 2 years. Not shown in the photo was Patty Cottrell, also reelected to the Executive Committee for two years



Community Service

Marie Robidoux
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This year there is an increase number of family and friends gathered at Grange Thanksgiving tables. Heartfelt and grateful prayers are being offered to end these troubling times. There is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Thank you to the Grangers that submitted their Community Service Work Book Reports. The following is a list of participation and achievements. Big Book: Six reports were submitted. Honorable mention goes to Providence County #1 and Roger Williams-Rumford #52. Fourth place was Slocum #36, third place is Portsmouth Grange #29, second place is Chepachet #30, and first place, congratulations to Little Compton Grange #32.

Empty Plate: Fourth place is Slocum #36, third place is Little Compton #32, second place is Portsmouth #29, and in first place is Chepachet #38.

Helping out Four-Legged Friends: Tied for fourth place is Slocum #36 and Little Compton #32, third place is Portsmouth #29, second place is Roger Williams-Rumford #52, and first place is Chepachet #38.

Little Compton # 32 was the only Grange that participated in the Dictionary Project "Words for Thirds." In addition, Little Compton. was the only Grange that presented Community Recognition Awards. Citizen was Marjory O'Toole of Little Compton Historical Society. Educator was Carla Woodhouse from the Wilbur McMahon School, and Law Enforcement Officer, was Officer Caitlin Farrah of the Little Compton Police Department.

Community Service Junior Report: There was only one entry, Annette Nettie Hartley, from Moosup Valley Junior Grange #27, first place in the 12 to 14 age group.

The headline on ProJo today (November 22, 2021) read "1 in 6 Rhode Island households short on food." Hunger in Rhode Island remains a bigger problem now than before the pandemic. 18% of Rhode Island household cannot meet the basic food needs. Please be generous with food and monetary donations to local food pantries and the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. No one should go hungry this holiday season or any season. Of course, that includes our pets, too.

The V A V S (Veterans Administration Volunteer Services) are always in need of our help. Gift bags will be provided for veterans in hospitals and healthcare facilities for the holidays. Dottie Irving needs hygiene articles, low denomination gift cards, (five dollars, ten dollars) to CVS, McDonald's, Dunkin' Donuts and so on. Socks and gloves are also needed for the gift bags. We have until mid-December to get items to Dottie. Please call if you need me to pick up your donations.

Three fund raising events are planned for this grange year at Papa Gino's. They are:

April 28 at 700 E. Greenwich Ave (Rt 2), W. Warwick

May 26 at 623 Metacom Ave, Warren

June 23 at 400 Putnam Pike (Rt. 44), Smithfield.

At the writing of this column, Thanksgiving is in a few days. Please be thankful for our health, family and friends and still being able to continue our great work. Have a holy and happy Christmas. Remember the less fortunate. Love to you, Marie Dennis and Maggie.

Exeter Grange and Social Services Department of Exeter recently hosted a blanket making event. The event was held at the Fellowship Hall of Chestnut Hill Baptist Church on 467 Ten Rod Road Route 102 in Exeter. The church is located next to Exeter Grange Hall. All ages were welcome.

Blankets would be donated to the Seniors in Exeter and Project Linus.



Photo by Howard Paster

Shown above is the group of the people who made the blankets. The names of the people in the photo (not in any order) are the following:

Peggy Fish
Diane Swindlehurst
Lynda Geuss
Maci-Grace Jacob
Mary Whitford

Jessica DeMartino, Director of Exeter Social Services

Gina Kilday
Becca Kilday
Lydia Geuss
Bonnie Jacob

Peggy and Diane are members of Exeter Grange. Others mentioned are friends of Exeter Grange.

Programs of the Granges of Rhode Island
December 12, 2021 thru February 28, 2022

Moosup Valley Juniors - 10:00 am

Newport Cty Juniors - 10:00 am

Providence County Pomona – 4:00

Washington County Pomona - 7:00

unless otherwise stated

Newport County Pomona starts at 7:00
unless otherwise stated

Other Grange meetings start at 7:30 except:

* meeting at 7:00 pm

** meeting at 8:00 pm

OM - Open Meeting PL - Pot Luck

Outlined items are state events – the department sponsoring the event is listed at the right of the box. In most cases more information is found in the column for that department

<<Note – Due to COVID issues, you should call ahead to verify that a grange is meeting>>

Monday, December 13

Kickemuit Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 15

*Little Compton Christmas Dinner (no meeting)
Old Warwick Christmas Party/Pot Luck
RW-Rumford Christmas Party-Dinner @ 6:30PM

Thursday, December 16

Exeter Party- Merry Christmas
*Rocky Hill Christmas Party

Friday, December 17

Richmond Christmas Party

Saturday, December 18

Washington Cty Richmond
Time & Supper TBD – Christmas Party & Gift exchange

Tuesday, December 21

Chepachet Christmas Party 6:30PM

Saturday, December 25

Merry Christmas



Monday, January 03

*Ashaway Time Capsule

Thursday, January 06

*Portsmouth Agriculture Installation of Officers

Wednesday, January 05

*Perryville WAC-Kathryn Stedman in charge
Moosup Valley Winter Fun – Dues are due

Friday, January 07

Richmond Are you smarter than a 5th grader?

Monday, January 10

Hope Valley(6PM) Game Night
Kickemuit The Eyes Have It-
Dr. Lee talks on eye health

Wednesday, January 12

Kent Cty Rocky Hill
Dairy Farming in Rhode Island

Friday, January 14

Slocum Come with New Year's Resolutions

Tuesday, January 18

Chepachet TBA

Wednesday, January 19

*Little Compton(PL 6PM) Deaf & Health
Old Warwick Our Anniversary
RW-Rumford Deaf & Health Program

Thursday, January 20

Exeter SNOW! SNOW! And more SNOW!
*Rocky Hill Ways to save energy & stay warm

Friday, January 21

Richmond Family Game Night
Kickemuit Bingo

Wednesday, February 02

*Perryville Deaf & Health Awareness
Moosup Valley Love is in the Air!

Thursday, February 03

*Portsmouth Valentine

Friday, February 04

Richmond BINGO

Saturday, February 05

Providence Cty Pomona Zoom meeting at 2pm
Deaf & Health program

Sunday, February 06

Family Game Night/Pizza Party	Lecturer
Slocum – 4:00PM	

*Ashaway	Monday, February 07 Valentine Cupcake Decorating
Slocum	Friday, February 11 Deaf and Hearing
Saturday, February 12	
Family Cosmic Bowl	Youth
Old Mountain Lanes, Wakefield – 6:00-9:00PM	
Monday, February 14	
Hope Valley(6PM) Kickemuit	WAC Night- Guest Speaker Valentines-Women's Activity Night
Tuesday, February 15	
Chepachet	Valentine's Day/Deaf & Health
Wednesday, February 16	
*Little Compton(PL 6PM) Old Warwick RW-Rumford	Women's Activities Hearts & Flowers "You're a Grand Old Flag"
Thursday, February 17	
Exeter *Rocky Hill	Will you BEE my Valentine U.S. Presidents Theme
Friday, February 18	
Richmond	Youth Night
Saturday, February 26	
Washington Cty	Richmond Time & Supper TBD – Fair report
Monday, February 28	
Kickemuit	Brown Bag Auction-proceeds to charity



Youth

Walter Hartley
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Eileen Hebert
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Yes, you read that right. Walter and I have so much free time that we thought we would take this job on also.

I had already written this youth department column, when the world blew up. Sherry Harriman, President of the Maine State Grange, sent out an email to members of the Northeast Connection, state lecturers and state youth chairmen, stating that it the Leaders' Conference scheduled for March 2022 is canceled due to Covid (ugh, again?)

In putting together the Youth Program book for 2021-22, several changes were made to accommodate the new

format and scheduling of the former Northeast Youth Conference. There will no longer be a separate youth conference. It will now be part of the Northeast Leader's Conference, which is usually held in March. Any state winners in contests sponsored by the National Grange Youth Department will now be required to compete regionally at the Leaders' Conference. If anyone is interested in competing in any contests such as Public Speaking, Sing-a-song, or Debate contest(new), please send your entry form to Walter Hartley or me by February 1, 2022. The Debate contest rules and entry form are available at www.nationalgrangeyouth.org and the other two contests are in our state youth book. The National Grange may allow the region to have a virtual competition, so let us know if you are interested.

The youth committee did not set a definite date for a Tubing Day at Yawgo Valley. For several seasons the weather has been uncooperative in January, so we decided to play it by ear, and schedule the tubing if/when there is enough snow.

We hope to see everyone at the Cosmic Bowl Night at Old Mountain Lanes on Saturday Night, February 12. Price is \$15.99 which includes shoes and four hours of bowling. I know our book states 3 hours & shoes for \$14.99, but this is the price now listed in Yelp! Please let us know as soon as possible if you are interested, so that enough lanes can be reserved.

The Big IF in all of these plans is again the spread of Covid. We will let everyone know if plans change as soon as we know.

Have a wonderful and SAFE Christmas and Happy New Year!



Annette Hartley, with proud dad, Walter, shows her winning entry and awards earned in the National Grange Junior creative writing contest. She also received a cash award of \$200.

Annette Hartley's Best of Show Essay...

"If I Was National Master for a Day"

The hour of labor has arrived and the work of another day demands *my* attention...



If I was National Master for the day. Where do I even begin? I should start planning since I really want to be the National Grange Master in my future! It is going to be hard to narrow it down since I would only have one day

to be the master but I think I could do it. I would definitely need help with the things I want to do, as I know I couldn't do it by myself, so what I would ask for the guidance from national directors and office staff. One of the first things that I would do is retake a picture of me sitting in the National Master Betsy Huber's chair, in her office, in Washington DC.

One thing that I would really want to do and focus on is membership, as I am on the northeast regional membership committee. I would like to get people's input on why they would and wouldn't like to join the Grange. I would see if it is something we could fix and work on. Our junior granges in particular are having a hard time with the number of members. When we had our last membership meeting for the northeast membership committee in March, there were 50,479 grange members in general and only 2% of those are juniors. That would equal about 1,010 junior grangers out of all the States. As a junior granger and current Master of my junior Grange, I would love to see those numbers get bigger. I would also like to see so many more juniors that we would have to organize brand new granges.

Since I would only have one day I would make a zoom meeting to reach out to the state masters just to remind them that I would always be there for them if they needed

me. It's important to have a great communication line with all the states. In case something is happening in their state grange, they would like me to step in, to help where I can. I think that it could help a lot of the states out. In case they need advice with finances, membership, and any other things that they might need assistance with. I would also make the opportunity to schedule zoom meetings with Junior and Youth directors from all the states to discuss how we can recruit new members and keep the ones we have. After that meeting, I would meet with the membership directors from all states to see where we can incorporate ideas from the juniors and youth to come up with a plan to build up our membership, so our great organization could flourish and continue for generations to come.

With the assistance of the National Legislative Director, I would like to host a luncheon with our legislative contacts from Capitol Hill to discuss the important issues to the Grange and our members nationwide. With open communication and continued discussions, we can keep the granges important matters on their agenda and moving forward to achieve our goals.

After my luncheon, when I get back to my office, I'd like to meet with the building manager to get a full tour of the building and an update as to the needed repairs and priority levels. On my tour, I would also like to meet the tenants, to hear what their thoughts are on the status of the building. My final meeting of the day would be with the National Executive Committee to discuss my day's events and to share the concerns voiced throughout my day. Together we could come up with a plan to boost and retain our membership at all levels of the Grange, hear updates from our state masters, review our legislative agenda, and to go over the building status and options.

Once the labors of the day are completed, I would end my night with a guided tour of our nation's capital and dinner with the entire national/office staff.

Annette (Nettie) Hartley

Moosup Valley Jr. Grange #27

President's column from page 1

I have just received notice that the Northeast Leaders' Conference has been canceled, due to the increasing number of Covid cases in Maine and other New England states. It is not likely to be rescheduled in person, but could be a virtual conference. I will keep everyone informed of any further news.

If you are sitting at home this winter, and don't have anything to keep you busy, may I suggest any of the following. Start working on an entry for any of the department contests. You can access the program books for the grange year 2021-22 online at [//rigrange.org./books.html](http://rigrange.org./books.html). There is something for everyone. The Agriculture department has bird feeders, photo and scarecrow contests; the lecturer's department sponsors art and photo contests, and the 'My Favorite Anything' contest; women's activities department has the needlework contest with over 20 categories, one of which is woodworking. You can even enter a contest in the Information department, but just reading the newspaper – find and send in a positive newspaper story about the grange.

Some of the departments also collect items for donation to various charitable groups: you can make lap robes, hats and mittens, Chemo caps and anti-bullying caps. Aluminum pull tabs are collected and donated to Ronald McDonald House in Providence. The tabs are sold as aluminum scrap and the house receives cash to fund its needs.

Come up with some ideas for resolutions for next year's state grange session, and present them to your grange for discussion and adoption. If you are unsure about the format of a resolution, you can contact your own subordinate secretary. He/she would have received information on writing a resolution from the State Secretary, Roxanne Nelson. The topic of the resolution can be grange related, or community related. The resolution should be brought up at one of your subordinate grange's meetings, voted on and passed on to your Pomona Grange. Resolutions are due to the state secretary by June 30, so you have plenty of time

In my President's Address in October, I had a wish list of five wishes for the upcoming year. They were:

- That every grange signs up 5 new members during this grange year
- That every one of them submits an application for the sixth degree in 2022, and they go on to the seventh degree in 2023
- That we can finally get the many items in our Grange Research and Education center better organized
- That I can finally get the first line of the last charge of the installation of officers out correctly.
- That I never hear the word COVID again after this session

I guess the last one has already gone by the wayside, so I will replace it with:

- That we have a safe grange year and I don't hear that anyone has contracted COVID.

Have a Merry Christmas and looking forward to a Happy New Year.

Youth nights for 2022:

- Feb. 18 Richmond
- March 14 Hope Valley (6pm)
- March 17 Exeter
- April 5 Chepachet
- April 6 Moosup Valley
- April 23 Washington County Pomona at Perryville (7pm)
- June 4 Providence County Pomona at Kickemuit (4pm)
- June 13 Kickemuit
- July 20 RW-Rumford

Keep in touch...

Don't miss out on your next issue of the *R/SG Grange Beacon*! If you have moved since your last issue, or you will be away temporarily for the winter or other reasons, please let us know. You may mail address changes to the address at the right or to the email address: ehebert94@aol.com. We must have your correct address for delivery, even temporary addresses. **Beacon issues will not be forwarded by the post office even if you have filed a change of address form.**

We would also appreciate hearing from anyone who, for whatever reason, does not want to continue receiving the Beacon. We are sorry to see you go, but will respond to your wishes promptly.

The *Grange Beacon* is published quarterly in March, June, September and December and is mailed free of charge to members of Rhode Island granges.

Submissions for publication can be sent by email (preferred) to:

Eileen Hebert ehebert94@aol.com

Please include the word "BEACON" in the subject

or by snail mail to:

Eileen Hebert
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March issue	January 20
June issue	April 20
September issue	July 20
December issue	October 20

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Roxanne Nelson, secretary

749 Waites Corner Rd.

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