



# Grange Beacon

Volume 66

A publication of the Rhode Island State Grange

June 2023



## Master's Message

Walter Hartley  
*thehartleys@cox.net*

WOW!! This issue just snuck up on me. Makes me glad that it's only quarterly, lol.

The girls (Danielle & Nettie) and I hope you all had a Blessed Easter and were able to celebrate the reason-for-the-season with your friends, families or loved ones.

*"But if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you." Romans 8:11*

I'm very pleased to see and hear of all the Grange Month activities going on around our little state. I hope you've been able to visit a Grange and watch some of these for yourselves. With the arrival of spring, it'll be nice to get out and visit our Grange families without having to worry about the weather canceling events. Please visit as many Granges that you can to show your support for their continued service to our Order.

It was disappointing to have to cancel Rhode Island hosting the NE Leader's Conference. With the prices of hotel type accommodations, it was very difficult for Eileen and I to find a location and keep it within a reasonable price. In the planning process, the Northeast Lecturer's Association chose to withdraw from participating as did the Youth in the last hour. With that happening, it only lowered our numbers and any type of "group" discount to be worked out. Even though the dates were fixed, there didn't appear to be much interest from the rest of the region and we didn't want the RISG to get left with any outstanding bills. According to our normal rotation schedule, it should be New Hampshire State Grange hosting in 2024 and we wish them the best of luck with their plans and are looking forward to the day that we can get back to this very important weekend event.

On the topic of hotels, Eileen and I are working very hard to try to get our own State Grange Session back into a hotel. I'm sure you've all missed this as much as we have. On that note, I'm very excited to announce that our National Representative this year will be the Treasurer of the National Grange, Joe Goodrich and his wife Lisa. Brother Joe is the most recent Past Master of the Vermont State Grange, he's also a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation member joining

*Continued on page 10-President*

## REMINDER

### WE NEED HELP!!!

**Corn Dog Booth** – August 16-20, 2023 –  
Washington Cty Fair

Need help to sell, prepare hotdogs for cooking,  
Cook corndogs & onion rings

Shifts 10AM-2PM 2PM-6PM 6PM-10PM

*"These dogs don't cook and sell themselves..."*

Contact Walter Hartley 401-339-5012 or 401-934-3756.

+++++

**NE Grange Bldg (Big E)** – Sept 15-Oct 1, 2023

Need help in the store –cashier or wrapping and  
bagging items

Other tasks as requested

Shifts 9AM-3PM 3PM-9PM

*"Great place for people watching"*

Contact Walter Hartley 401-339-5012 or 401-934-3756.  
By July 15<sup>th</sup>.

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**Chaplain**  
**Stephen Logan**  
[statechaplain@rigrange.org](mailto:statechaplain@rigrange.org)

Reminding you of annual State Grange Church service on June 4 at 3 PM. Let us all plan to come together as a Grange Family to worship at Wood River Baptist Church 246 (Rt 138) Kingstown Rd, Richmond, RI 02898. Be sure to invite Family and Friends to join us for worship and the social gathering to follow. We thank Washington County Pomona Grange for being our host. How great it would be to fill up the Church. Let us hope!

My message with the last quarter Beacon article was Faith, this quarter is Hope and next quarter is Charity.

What is hope? It is an expectation of a good that is yet to be. It is an inner knowing that the future holds positive things. It is trust that no matter the current circumstances, the days to come will reveal happiness. It is forward-looking—yet experienced in the now. There are certainly times when we can feel hopeless and there are so many reasons to feel discouraged: When we hear the news of problems in the world, when we face challenges that seem overwhelming, when we have problems that do not seem to have solutions. Paul knew that all of us need hope. The Bible tells us that hope endures (1 Corinthians 13:13). No matter how dark or depressing our circumstances may appear, we always can hope in God! He wants to give us hope in any situation, no matter how dark things might seem. But we should not merely hope. God wants us to *rejoice* in hope! Paul knew what it was like to have hope during hopeless situations. As he and Silas sat in a Philippian jail, they could have been in despair. But, instead, they had hope and sang praises to God. And God brought them deliverance and victory (Acts 16).

I would like to ask you to send me people in need that I can put on The Chaplain List which is emailed or mailed out the first week of each month. Please let me know before the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month before. The categories are Sympathy, Get Well, Thinking of You and Celebrating (a special event) Thank you!



**Information**  
**Howard Paster**  
[paster\\_howard@verizon.net](mailto:paster_howard@verizon.net)

Since the last issue of the Grange Beacon, as far as the Information Department is concerned, the activity in February that was not covered was the Family Game Night/Pizza Party that was held on Saturday February 18th at Slocum Grange Hall with a very good turnout of members, including myself.

Then in March, I attended three State Grange activities. The first activity was the Junior Grange Lip Sync Contest on Saturday March 4th, in connection with the meeting of Providence County Pomona Grange at Roger Williams-Rumford Grange Hall, which both Juniors and adults can participate.

I took a group photo of all the participants and was sent to the Grange Beacon.

The second activity that I attended in March was the 2'x2'x2' Contest, combined with Rockin Music Bingo on Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup> at Roger Williams-Rumford Grange Hall. I transported six entries of the 2'x2'x2' Contest to this event and I participated with Rockin' Music Bingo.

The third activity that I attended in March was the first Papa Gino fundraiser of the Grange year that was held at the Papa Gino's in West Warwick on Thursday March 30th. Took a photo of the display with Marie Robidoux, State Grange Community Service Director.

Then in April on Thursday April 6th, I was present for Awards Night at the meeting of Portsmouth Grange at St. John Lodge in Portsmouth, honoring a Middletown Police Officer and received many certificates from many different sources. I took pictures and also sent a bio to the Grange Beacon and different newspapers.

Later in April, I attended the meeting of Kickemuit Grange in which, Leo and Shirley Guertin were honored for 70(Shirley) and 75(Leo) years of Grange service. I will mention it some more about this at the next issue.

Any activities for the next few months, I plan to support the other departments by attending them and assist whenever needed. The events will include Women's Activity Day/Ag Contest Entries at Exeter Grange Hall in May, State Grange Church Service in June, Washington County Fair in August, among other events.

The programs and contests that the Information Department has to offer are as follows; Single Article and Newspaper Photo Contests, Paint the Rock to Promote Grange for Subordinate Grangers, Creative Bookmark Contest for the Juniors. There is also a special Essay Contest for Juniors. The theme is to tell how using Reduce,

Reuse and Recycle can make an impact in the community and world around you. Entries are sent to the National Grange and the State Grange Information Department.

If anyone has any questions or comments with the programs in the Information Department, you contact any of the committee members Paul and Barbara Rush, Peggy Fish, Cathy Kamowski and myself Howard Paster.



### **Agriculture** **Joyce Bastien**

[jeh.31@yahoo.com](mailto:jeh.31@yahoo.com)

Well it looks like Spring is finally here! I love when the flowers start popping up out of the ground and the leaves start blooming! I get excited about starting my garden and things I will do this summer. By the time you get this, I will have already had my Birdhouse, Bird Feeder and Compost contests at WAD and will post the results next issue.

The next contests are due September 2nd. They are the Photo Contest, Coloring Contest and Agricultural Farm Contest (for Juniors only). If you cannot get a picture to me, you may text or email it to me and I will print it up. I know sometimes it is hard to get items to people if you are a bit of a ride away.

The last contest is the Scarecrow @ the Washington County Fair. I have had some great ones in the past years! Keep them coming! As you are doing yard work this Spring, rake up those leaves and get stuffing.

If you have any questions about any of the contests, you can call or text on my cell (401-465-9571), email me at [jeh.31@yahoo.com](mailto:jeh.31@yahoo.com). Please put GRANGE in subject line. Call my home number (401-295-9788) or look at the Grange Website at <http://rigrange.org/books.html>



### **Deaf & Health** **Jennifer Lawson**

[\*statedeafhealth@rigrange.org\*](mailto:statedeafhealth@rigrange.org)

I hope everyone is enjoying the spring weather so far. This is the time of year when the Deaf and Health Department starts to get busy with its program.

First on the list, Lorraine Potter-Cooper, RN, who is the sister of Joan Clegg, gave a presentation about "Strokes" on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm at Roger Williams-Rumford Grange hall which was open to the public. Thank you to all who attended.

Next on the list was the Bowling on Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> at 4pm at Dudeks Bowling Lanes in Warren followed by a light meal at Kickemuit Grange hall. Again, thanks to everyone who supported this project. We had lots of fun and fellowship and funds were raised for Meeting Street School.

This year we are doing very well in the collection of receipts, etc. for the Box Tops for Education project for the School for the Deaf. As of April 20, we have recorded \$70.00 worth of receipts, and my goal for the whole year was \$100.00. Great job and thanks to those members who are participating! Please check the Facebook pages for updates. I would just like to note that Nancy Heath, the Director of the RI School for the Deaf, will be retiring soon. As of this writing, I do not know who the new director will be.

If you have any questions, please call or email me.



### **Women's Activities** **Kathy Stedman**

[\*chipmunkscrafts@gmail.com\*](mailto:chipmunkscrafts@gmail.com)

Hope everyone had a nice Easter. Time is surely flying by fast. State WAC Day was May 6<sup>th</sup> at Exeter Grange. Looking forward to a productive and enjoyable day with Grangers and friends.

I hope you are working on your Harvest of Handicrafts entries and check out the new classes added to the state judging.

We have tried to include different types of crafts so more people will be able to take part in this year's WAC program.

Reminder all reports and entries are due to me in August, 2023.



## Juniors Judi White

*Jeepgirl388@gmail.com*

*juniors.rigrange.org*

Spring has arrived and the warmer weather is coming!! With the arrival of spring comes all the RI Junior Department contests, which I couldn't be more excited about. The Juniors of this state have amazing talents, hopefully you got out to one of these events and saw the Juniors give it their all.

The Lip Sync Contest was held on March 4<sup>th</sup> at Roger Williams-Rumford Grange with 8 performances. Everyone had a fantastic time, and the performances were incredible! The results of the contest are as follows:

### Lip Sync Contest

- 12-14 Age Category:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Annette Hartley
- Group Category: Juniors
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Kendall Gotauco & Hailey Fish
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Scarlet Gotauco & Mason Houle
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Hailey Fish, Scarlet Gotauco, & Brooke Houle
- Group Category: Juniors & Adults:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Annette Hartley & Walter Hartley
- Group Category: Adults
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place (tie): Barbara and Paul Rush
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place (tie): Joyce Bastien and Rachel Mesyna
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Jasmine Richard & Desiree Richard

Junior Activity Day, the Sign Language Contest and the Public Speaking contest were held on April 29<sup>th</sup> at Moosup Valley Grange. A great day was had by all who attended. We had 11 entries in the Finger Spelling Contest, 4 entries in the Sign-A-Song Contest, and 9 entries in the Public Speaking Contest. The results of the contest are as follows:

### Finger Spelling Contest

- Under 5 Category:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Kendall Gotauco
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Mason Houle
- 5-7 Age Category:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Cohen Piers
- 8-11 Age Category:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Hailey Fish
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Lily Piers
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Tristan Gotauco
  - Participant: Scarlet Gotauco
  - Participant: Raymond Ivins, Jr
- 12-14 Age Category:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place (tie): Brooke Houle

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place (tie): Annette Hartley
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Bradley Ivins

### Sign-A-Song Contest

- Novice/Beginner
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Cohen Piers
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Brooke Houle
- Group
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Lily Piers & Juliana G.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Scarlet Gotauco, Tristan Gotauco, & Kendall Gotauco

Cohen Piers was awarded Best of Show in the Sign-A-Song Contest and is eligible to represent RI at the National Grange Convention this November in Niagara Falls, NY

### Public Speaking Contest

- Under 5 Category:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Kendall Gotauco
- 5-7 Age Category:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Cohen Piers
- 8-11 Age Category:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Lily Piers
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Scarlet Gotauco
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Hailey Fish
  - Participant: Raymond Ivins, Jr
  - Participant: Tristan Gotauco
- 12-14 Age Category:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Brooke Houle
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Bradley Ivins

Lily Piers was awarded Best of Show in the Public Speaking Contest and is eligible to represent RI at the National Grange Convention this November in Niagara Falls, NY.

Thank you to everyone who has come out and supported the Juniors this spring at their various events. Our next major event will be Awards Day on October 1<sup>st</sup>, please put this date on your calendars. Awards Day is the day where we celebrate everything the Juniors have accomplished throughout the year. It would be great to see a full hall of people showing their support for the young members of our great organization.

### Upcoming Events

August 1<sup>st</sup>                      Due to State Junior Director  
    Host State Craft: New York  
    Recycle Craft: Golf Balls  
    Car Craft  
    Sock Craft  
    Wind Chime Craft  
    Bottle Cap Art Craft  
    Creative Writing Entries (State & National)  
    Mini Prince & Mini Princess Applications  
    State Junior Ambassador Applications  
    Master of the Year Applications  
    National Junior Local Advocacy Project  
    National Junior Agricultural Awareness Project  
    National Junior Creative Writing Entries

National Junior Creative Art Posters  
 National Junior Deaf Awareness Service Project  
 National Junior Cape of Honor Award Applications  
 National Grange Community Service Contest  
 National Grange In Action Report  
 National Junior Ambassador Applications  
 National Lecturer's Photo Contest  
 National Lecturer's Garden Design Contest  
 National Lecturer's Weather Watcher Challenge  
 National Lecturer's Quilt Block Contest  
 National Grange Publicity Item Contest

October 1<sup>st</sup> @ 3pm Junior Awards Banquet  
 Location: The Lodge at Camp Westwood  
 2093 Harkney Hill Rd, Coventry, RI



Photo by Howard Paster

Group photo of the participants at the Junior Lip Sync Contest with juniors and adults from MV Grange and Junior Grange, which was held at the meeting of Providence County Pomona at RW-Rumford Grange hall.



National Grange Session will be here before we know it. The Northeast region is hosting this year, so we need volunteers to help with various tasks. We are in need of several more members to work in the hospitality room on Tuesday, November 14.

Please contact Eileen at [ehebert94@aol.com](mailto:ehebert94@aol.com) or Nettie at [annettehartley@cox.net](mailto:annettehartley@cox.net)



**State Secretary**  
**Roxanne Nelson**

***Roxie1313@hotmail.com***

Greetings Everyone!

I hope that everyone is staying healthy and getting out to enjoy the nicer weather that has started to grace us in the New England Area.

Now that we are getting into the warmer months, this is a great time to review your membership records, and request any membership longevity awards that may be due for your membership.

Since my last Beacon Article, we were very pleased to welcome:

Lauren Barrow to Richmond Grange #6  
 Patrick Barrow to Richmond Grange #6  
 Kelsey Brodeur to Richmond Grange #6  
 Marie Gars to Richmond Grange #6  
 Alicia Peckham to Richmond Grange #6  
 Brian Kraut to Chepachet Grange #38

Congratulations to our new members who were present at Degree Day to take their first Four Degrees. I hope that you will continue on and become both a Pomona and State Grange member. You also have a great opportunity to join National Grange, as it will be held in our region this year.

Unfortunately, we were saddened with the passing of the following members:

Carole Paster from Exeter Grange #12  
 Ralph Woodmansee from Exeter Grange #12  
 Nancy Beals from Perryville Grange #14  
 Patricia Stedman from Perryville Grange #14  
 James Rebello from Kickemuit Grange #24  
 Helen Dunbar from Moosup Valley Grange #26  
 Betty Roche from Slocum Grange #36  
 Edith Keach from Chepachet Grange #38  
 Kathy Rechter from Chepachet Grange #38  
 Paul Potter from Old Warwick Grange #41  
 Helen Crewes from Roger Williams-Rumford Grange #52  
 Barbara Kinniburgh - Roger Williams-Rumford Grange #52  
 Louise Roberts from Roger Williams-Rumford Grange #52  
 and affiliate of Chepachet Grange #38

As we move into the summer months, I hope to see many of you at the Washington County Fair, and at our State Session in the fall.





## Community Service

Marie Robidoux

[drobidoux@cox.net](mailto:drobidoux@cox.net)

Thanks to Kelly Riley's state wide campaigning for membership which resulted in a very successful Degree Day on April 30. Eleven new members were inducted in a hall full of Grange members. Dinner was delicious. Good job Kelly.

Attention: Junior Grangers, parents, and Junior Grange leaders. Please, please encourage your juniors to enter the Rhode Island State Grange Community Service contest: Red Sneaker Step-up. This Community Service project may be entered as a group or individual effort. There may already be a project that is being done such as making favors and giving them to a nursing home. Send the information with some documentation (take a picture with your phone) and fill out the simple form.

The other contest is VETS. This is really easy. It stands for Very Enthusiastic Thanks for Service people. This project is for juniors to write a short thank you for VETS service in the form of a saying or poem. Entries are divided into age brackets (see page 19 of the Community Service workbook). These contests are easier than you think: Talk to the grown-ups, if you need more information, call this grown-up, I'll be glad to help. Nettie Hartley always entered these contests, I'm sure if you ask her, she will be glad to give you some ideas.

I've only been to two awards nights. There is no set time to honor people. Awards Night can be done any time until the end of August. A Grange picnic is a fun time to honor a teacher, LEO, etc. Good food, cake, and games of corn hole can be enjoyed by young and old alike. Let me know so I can attend.

Bravo to all who came to the Community Service fundraiser at Papa Gino's on March 30, 2023. It was well attended and profitable. It was so gratifying to see everyone talking and laughing together. Thank you so much. The last Papa Gino's fundraiser will be in Greenville on June 29. Please attend, if you can.

We still need items for the Veterans Administration Volunteer Services for the vets. Call me and I'll come and pick it up. Please continue to give food for pantries and pet shelters. The VAVS received \$125 in gift cards from the Lecturer's Rocking Bingo night. Thanks everyone.

As most of you know, Diane Andrews of Portsmouth Grange passed away on April 25. She was a member of my Rhode Island State Grange Community Service Group. Diane was always insightful and full of fun. Personally, I will miss her very much. RIP.

Thank you so much everyone for all the cards and well wishes after my hip replacement. I'm healing well, no cane, doing therapy, and exercises. Progress is slow and steady.

Don't forget: Community Service reports are due to me by September 1, 2023. Please call me if you have any questions or need information. Happy summer!

## Portsmouth Police Officer of the year



Photos by Howard Paster

Portsmouth Grange recently honored Officer Jonathan Gonzales of the Middletown Police Department with a Community Service Award. John is a partner at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Charlestown, RI, where he joined a mission and participated in relief efforts for the victims of Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi. Officer Gonzales is also a member of the Aquinnah Wampanoag Native American Tribe based out of Martha's Vineyard.

John is currently the community liaison between the Forrest Avenue elementary school and the Middletown Police Department. He is a second degree black belt in Muay Thai and has fought professionally in the past.

In photo above Portsmouth members, Mary Petarca, Secretary and Kristin Paulson, Lecturer display awards with officer Gonzales. Photo below him with his family. Officer Gonzales was presented with a number of awards from a number of people that were in the hall.



**Programs of the Granges of Rhode Island  
June 1, 2023 thru August 31, 2023**

Moosup Valley Juniors - 10:00 am  
Newport Cty Juniors - 1:00 pm  
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>>**

**Thursday, June 01**

\*Portsmouth Election of Officers

**Friday, June 02**

Richmond Election of Officers

**Saturday, June 03**

Providence Cty Pomona Kickemuit  
4:00PM – Pot Luck Supper  
5:00PM – Election of Officers

**Sunday, June 04**

**State Grange Church Service-3:00PM Chaplain**  
**Wood River Baptist Church, Wyoming, RI**

**Tuesday, June 06**

Chepachet(OM) Awards Night

**Wednesday, June 07**

\*Perryville Election of Officers  
Moosup Valley I scream, you scream, we all scream  
for ICE CREAM  
RW-Rumford(OM) Anniversary Night  
Membership Awards

**Thursday, June 08**

\*Newport Cty Pomona Portsmouth  
Election of Officers

**Friday, June 09**

Slocum Election of Officers

**Monday, June 12**

\*Hope Valley Community Service Awards  
Grange Longevity Awards  
\*Kickemuit The Eyes Have It  
Dr. Lee talks on eye health

**Wednesday, June 14**

Kent Cty Pomona Memorial Program  
& Summer Fun

**Thursday, June 15**

Exeter I scream, you scream, we all scream  
for ice cream

\*Rocky Hill To be announced

**Friday, June 16**

Richmond Mystery Ride?????

**Tuesday, June 20**

Chepachet Grange Potluck Picnic at 6:30

**Wednesday, June 21**

\*Little Compton Dairy Month program  
Old Warwick Election of Officers  
RW-Rumford Brown Bag Auction for  
Jules Hope Chest

**Saturday, June 24**

Washington Cty Pomona Hope Valley  
6:00PM – Supper  
7:00PM – Election of Officers

**Monday, June 26**

\*Kickemuit(OM) Scholarship Awards Night  
Dinner at 6:30

**Friday, June 30**

Resolutions for state session due to State Secretary

**Saturday, July 01**

Monetary donations due for WAC Projects  
Ronald McDonald House, Meeting Street School, NE  
Seafarers' Mission  
send checks to State Secretary, Roxanne Nelson



**HAPPY**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> OF**  
**JULY**

**Wednesday, July 05**

\*Perryville Summertime Fun - TBA  
RW-Rumford Night at the RWR Derby &  
Ice Cream Social

**Monday, July 10**

\*Hope Valley Deaf & Health Night

**Friday, July 14**

Slocum Pot Luck Supper

**Saturday, July 15**

**Summer Movie Night & Ice Cream Lecturer**  
**To be rescheduled**

**Saturday, July 15-Sunday, July 16**

**Northeast Youth Conference Youth**  
**Brookfield, VT**

**Tuesday, July 18**

Chepachet Mystery Ride – time TBA

**Wednesday, July 19**

\*Little Compton Cookout

**Thursday, July 20**

Exeter Meet at the West Greenwich Pavilion  
for Concert Series at 6:30

**Friday, July 21**

Richmond Ice Cream Social

**Tuesday, August 01**

Essay Contest – Reduce, reuse, recycle Information  
All State and National contest entries due Juniors

**Wednesday, August 02**

\*Perryville Planning for Washington Cty Fair  
RW-Rumford Hot Dog Roast at 6:30  
Bean Bag Baseball

**Friday, August 04**

Richmond Picnic – Potluck – Grange to  
provide burgers & Hotdogs – bring a dish to share

**Monday, August 07**

\*Hope Valley Fair Prep

**Monday, August 14**

Scarecrow contest entries due at Fair Agriculture

**Tuesday, August 15**

Chepachet TBA

**Wednesday, August 16**

\*Little Compton Ice Cream Party

**Thursday, August 17****Wednesday, August 16-Sunday, August 20**

Washington County Fair Richmond, RI

**Sunday, August 20**

Ag Photo contest entries due Agriculture  
Ag Coloring contest entries due – juniors & adults

**Tuesday, August 22-Sunday, August 27**

Harvest of handicrafts entries due WAC  
Junior crafts for WAC, items for Big E

**Saturday, August 26**

Slocum Picnic at Gotauco's

**Thursday, August 31**

Papa Gino's Fundraiser-4:00PM Comm. Service  
Rt. 44, Smithfield, RI

**Thursday, August 31**

Requests due for National & State Information  
Grange Recognition Certificates

**Jenga Queen, Shirley Lawson**

Photo by Howard Paster

Marie Robidoux, State Community Service Director with her display at a recent Papa Gino's Fundraiser.



*President... continued from page 1*

Center Grange #290 when he was 14 and was a member of the Junior Grange prior to that. He is currently the VTSG's Membership Director. He has commented many times to me that he's NEVER been to Rhode Island before. I've worked with them both over the years at National and within our Region and they're good people, so let's make sure we give them both a very warm welcome to our great state! Remember, this year our State Session starts on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday due to the Columbus Day Weekend. Mark your calendar, Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. I'm hoping that you and/or your Grange have been working on submitting a resolution or two. That was one of my challenges to each of you from the beginning or my term; resolutions, Resolutions, RESOLUTIONS!!

We had a GREAT turnout on Degree Day when the four Pomonas conferred the full four Degrees. As this is the year that National will be on our region, it'll be a good opportunity for those interested to make sure they take the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Degrees this year so you won't miss your chance to witness the 7<sup>th</sup> Degree. After all, you never know when they'll discontinue this theatrical production and return to a traditional Degree like the previous six.

Jumping over to National Session, I made the great road trip out to Buffalo/Niagara Falls, NY last month to meet with some other region members along with National Master, Betsy Huber and National Staff member, Loretta Washington to tour the facilities. Let's get the white elephant out of the room and discuss the biggest concern; the drive! Yes, I won't BS it, it is quite the drive, but the destination is what it's all about!! From my house, going up 395 to pick up the Mass Pike, it probably was between 7-7 ½ hrs. When I say the Mass Pike, you're on that straight through MA all the way to Buffalo where you bang a right and it's just up the street, maybe 30-minutes. Very Easy Commute! Maybe you should talk amongst your Grange to carpool. The dates are November 14-18. Opening day is Tuesday and that's also the day that Rhode Island typically hosts. This year, however, we'll be co-hosting with CTSG. Our two state coordinators, Eileen and Nettie have been working very hard planning this week long National Session with their cohorts from the other regional states. Let's show them support by volunteering some of your time if you can. I'm sure Nettie or Eileen will have a blurb or two here in the Beacon somewhere for you to get more information. We'll all be staying at the Sheraton at the Falls with the Conference and Event Center Niagara Falls right across the street. The Conference Center is large enough for all of the Session activities with scheduled meals and banquets to be hosted right there. The hotel is very nice and clean. There's **FREE** off street parking that you check into if you drive and get your card stamped by the hotel's front desk when you check in. This year's hospitality center will be on the first floor just off the main lobby by the front desk. It's pretty big and there will

be plenty of room to hang out and socialize with our long distance Grange friends. There's also an indoor pool area that looked very nice. The U.S. side of the falls is literally a short 3-block walk from the hotel and they're absolutely gorgeous! There are some great tours scheduled and all transportation will be provided. I found plenty of food locations there on site as well as a short walk from the hotel's entrance. If you're looking to try your luck, there's a casino that's just a short tunnel walk away with 4-5 restaurants located there as well. Please, consider making this the year you make the trip to National Session. It's always nice when it's in our own region. Remember, it's all about the destination! I would strongly recommend that you bring your PASSPORT. You're that close, you might want to cross the bridge to check out the Canadian side. If you already have it, make sure to check the expiration date so you don't get left at the border.

Just after my NY trip, Nettie and I jumped in the car to head down to Washington, DC for her to participate in her National Junior Ambassador role with the other two Youth Reps during some AG Day events. Let's just say that, "She had a BLAST!!" She was able to have a face to face meeting with Senator Jack Reed and get a tour of the U.S. Capital. Also with them were Samantha Wilkins, National Grange Junior/Youth Director as well as National Master, Betsy along with the full staff of the NG Office, Burton, Stephanie, Philip, Amanda and Sean. Besides feeling like the Dad that got stuck holding coats, pocket books and the sash bags for many, MANY photo ops, my favorite part was holding little Lena, 7-month daughter of the Young Adult rep from PA. My ALL TIME favorite part was lunch on Monday at We, The Pizza!! Oh My GOODNESS, the pizza selection here was to die for!! There were 9 of us that took a road trip to Westminster, MD to join and support the MDSG's town-hall meeting with an awesome presentation with Jeff Winton, Founder and Chairman of RURAL MINDS. National Grange has partnered with them where he gave a very touching presentation at last year's National Session in NV. This is from their website, [ruralminds.org](http://ruralminds.org), **"The Rural Minds leadership team sets the strategic path for the organization, supporting our passion for ending the suffering, silence and stigma surrounding mental illness in rural America."** I will invite Jeff to one of our State Sessions to give his presentation to us.

Congratulations to the Granges that have brought in new members recently and to those 11 new members who joined us on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM in Oak Lawn Grange where they can truly enjoy the exemplification of all four Degrees the same day, with a dinner provided between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Degrees. Our new Membership Director has been very busy with her visits to your Grange meetings and I'd was happy to have many people show her our support with a great turnout of candidates on Degree Day. Kelly has taken on a huge task when it comes to membership for our State Grange. We all know that without new members, our Granges won't last too much longer. Please, sell the

Grange to your communities, friends and families. Let them know, learn and experience all that you have since you first joined. We all know this, so I'll get off my soapbox, for now.....

This spring and summer, we'll be having some work done down at the Corn Dog Booth. Our hood and fire suppression needs to be installed prior to June. I've been working with the Town of Richmond and Allstate Restaurant Equipment out to Pawtucket. It appears that we'll be able to use our existing hood, it just needs to be taken down so some fireproof sheetrock can be put up and the hood will then be put back in place within the proper height code restrictions. That may help with ventilating the building much easier at the correct height. So, now that I've precluded into the Corn Dog Booth, what do you think you'll read next?? You guessed it. We're going to need volunteers and lots of them. The dates this year are **August 16-20<sup>th</sup>**. The shifts are the same; 10-2, 2-6 and 6-close. You already know that you'll have lots of fun, so please reach out to me for your selected shifts so you don't get left out.

With that being said, The Big E will be **September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>**. We're always looking for volunteers to work in the New England Grange Building. Rhode Island usually get a Monday and Tuesday assigned to us and I will get those out to you as soon as that's figured out. I will be doing something a bit different this year than in the past. **YOU WILL NEED TO LET ME KNOW when you want to go BEFORE the fair starts.** I will not have time to run around to deliver tickets/parking passes. Plus, I'd also like those that are getting these **FREE** tickets and parking passes to at least sign up to volunteer as some point during your visit. It's not hard work or long shifts. So please think about being able to do that.

In closing, I'll announce that I've swapped out a couple of Deputies from their assigned Granges. Shirley Lawson will be picking up Exeter Grange and Paul Rush will be taking Kickemuit Grange. Disa Johnson has stepped down as our Junior Deputy and I can't thank her enough for the 8 ½ -years she has worn that sash. Thank you, Disa for your dedication to our Juniors!! Just like the onion rings, **"YOU'RE AWESOME!!"**

Hoping to see you all during my travels and visits,

Any questions, you can always contact me at 401-339-5012 or 401-934-3756.



**Youth**  
**Walter Hartley**  
[thehartleys@cox.net](mailto:thehartleys@cox.net)  
**Eileen Hebert**  
[ehbert94@aol.com](mailto:ehbert94@aol.com)

All of the scheduled Youth nights for the grange year have passed, so if you are planning to hold a youth night from now until September, please let me know the date, so we can promote it. If you had a youth night, don't forget to send me a report. I have received two so far.

I would like to remind everyone of the membership commercial video contest (new).

-Purpose: To promote membership in the grange –  
 "What my grange membership means to me."

-30-60 seconds in length

-4 categories: (ages as of September 1, 2023)

(a) youth 14-21

(b) Individuals with than 2 years of membership

(c) members with 40+ years

(d) open – any age or category

-The entry is due by September 1, 2023.

The Northeast Youth Conference will be held on July 15-16, 2023 at the Vermont Grange Center in Brookfield, VT. The conference was originally scheduled to be part of the NE Leadership weekend, but when that conference was canceled, several of the state youth directors managed to put together a youth conference in a very short time. If you are interested in attending, please let me or Walter know so we can make sure you get an application. The cost of the conference will be \$35.

I am disappointed to report that I had only one person enter the digital scavenger hunt. I was hoping that this might get some interest from members who weren't youth and maybe even some that didn't attend meetings on a regular basis. All you had to do was take pictures and email them to me each week. So, this person will be declared the winner, but you will have to wait until State Session to find out who it is.

Have a nice summer!

## Keep in touch...✍

Don't miss out on your next issue of the *RISG 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

221 Grange Rd.

North Smithfield, RI 02896

**Deadlines are as follows:**

March issue January 20

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September issue July 20

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