



# Grange Beacon

Volume 61

A publication of the Rhode Island State Grange

March 2022



## President

**Eileen Hebert**  
*ehebert94@aol.com*

Happy spring! The weather is gradually improving and soon we can say goodbye to the cold and snow.

My first order of business is to recognize and congratulate Nettie Hartley on all the honors she garnered recently from National Grange. In the last issue of the Beacon, her “Best of Show” entry in creative writing was published – “If I Was National Master for a Day.” The essay was thoughtful and imaginative agenda for a very busy day, tackling a number of issues.

Nettie has also been awarded the Cape of Honor for 507 hours of community service activities.

She was also chosen as Junior Granger of the Year and was named to the National Membership Committee representative for the Northeast.

Nettie and dad Walter were each also recognized as Cultivator of the year – an award given to an individual member or grange who has inspired membership resources and growth, implemented programs that strengthen members bonds to the grange, and provide membership training experience.

I hope I have covered everything! Good Work, Nettie!

As was mentioned in the last issue, the NE Leaders Conference has been cancelled. This leaves the Youth contests up in the air, as they were supposed to compete at the Leaders Conference. As soon as I know the status of these contests, I will let everyone know.

We are looking forward to having a Degree Day this year, on April 24. It all depends on what Mr. Covid is doing, but it does look better than last year. I will be meeting with the membership committee soon to get their thoughts on this, and get out the word as soon as possible.

I have a number of reminders to mention. The first is about resolutions for State Session in October. Resolutions are the important business of the state grange. They can call for action in the grange, at any level, or take a stand on issues outside the grange on a

local, state or national level. Some of the events and policies that we have today, such as the PIN Fund, were the result of resolutions adopted by the state grange. The resolutions are to be presented at your subordinate grange, discussed and adopted. It should then be sent on to the Pomona Grange for adoption, and forwarded to the State Grange. Last year, the resolutions were given out to committees 1-2 weeks before the session, and they had the option of getting together in person, or with a Zoom call. They commented that it was beneficial to have the resolutions ahead of the meeting so that some research could be done, if needed. Please send your resolutions to Roxanne Nelson, state secretary, by June 30.

Another reminder is for help in the Corn Dog Booth. This is the major fund raiser for the state grange. It provides money to fund the programs of all the departments, pays part of the rooms for delegates at the state session, paid for or subsidized all of the meals at last year’s state session and gives us a cushion for unexpected expenses. All of which makes it possible to operate the state grange without raising the dues or asking for more donations for our projects. Give Walter a hand this year – don’t let him end up face down in the grass this year!

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**Information  
Howard Paster**

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

Since the last issue of the Grange Beacon, due to covid-19 concerns, as of this writing in January, there hadn't been too much Grange activity. On November 28, 2021, there was a Department Heads meeting at Slocum Grange Hall to collect books for the Granges, and helped deliver books to them.

On Sunday December 5, 2021, there was a Zoom Statewide Meeting with all Department Heads presenting their programs and contests for the 2021-2022 Grange year.

Back in November, organized a Coat Drive for three consecutive Sundays at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Charlestown. Collected over 100 coats from the church partners. Combined with Exeter Grange with helping to bring over 540 coats and other warm items to Camp Street Ministries in Providence for needy families in the Providence area.

I assisted with Christmas Gift Wrapping for part of two days, Sunday December 19, 2021 and Thursday December 23, 2021 at Wakefield Mall. The proceeds were to benefit Moosup Valley Junior Grange and Friends of Exeter Animal Shelter.

I also assisted with a number of activities for St. Andrew Lutheran Church. On Monday December 20, 2021, helped stock food at the church's Food Pantry and then on the same day assisted in distributing Christmas baskets. On Friday December 24, 2021, I was one of the Greeters for one of the Christmas Eve Services. Also I am assisting with distributing food once a month for their Food Pantry and also once a month for the Personal Needs Closet distributing items.

Hopefully by the time that we receive the next Grange Beacon, we have already started to get going with State Grange events and Granges will be able to have their awards night.

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.



**Northeast Connection  
Annette Hartley**

*[annetehartley@cox.net](mailto:annetehartley@cox.net)*

Hello Everyone!

As most of you know, Eileen and I are representing Rhode Island on the Northeast Host Committee for National Session in 2023 in Niagara Falls, New York. We are still selling shirts with the sessions logo, that I designed with the Empire State Building and Niagara Falls! Short sleeve shirts are \$10 and long sleeves are \$15. We have sizes Medium-3XL.

At our last committee meeting, we finally decided on our community service project. We will be collecting socks to donate to shelters and homeless communities throughout the entire region. So, if you're out shopping and see some brand new socks on sale, for MEN, WOMEN and CHILDREN, we would gratefully appreciate them. Whenever you see me, I'll gladly take them off your hands so you won't have to wait till 2023.

On Rhode Island's Host Day TUESDAY, we'll also need your help in Niagara with working in the hospitality room, helping at the registration table and a few other things. We understand with Niagara Falls being about 7-8 hours away depending on where you live, it would be hard for you to get there but if you could be able to come and help us, we would be beyond grateful! If you can help us, or have any questions, you can always call me or email me at (401)934-3756 and [annetehartley@cox.net](mailto:annetehartley@cox.net)

Sincerely,

Nettie Hartley



## Membership Matters Steve & Claire Logan

*membership@rigrange.org*

At the time of this writing Covid cases seem to be on the decline – this is good! Hopefully our Granges will be back to some sort of normal and we all have acknowledged that “The Hour of Labor Has Arrived and The Work of Another Day Demands OUR Attention”.

Membership should be our #1 priority at this time. With our membership book this year we stressed that every Grange should have a Membership Chair and at least one meeting a year should have a Membership Program. Or perhaps set a time aside at several meetings to discuss membership strategies. All of us must be concentrating on gaining membership and retaining them. We have learned that recognizing and truly appreciating our members is important. To address this, we have begun some new programs-

- Membership recognition which will recognize a member with 5, 10, 15, and 20 Years of service.
- Having a membership recruitment program for Subordinate and Junior Grangers beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup> which will recognize a member that brings in new member(s) \$5 per member gained up the 5 (\$25) new members. They will also be recognized at our State Session.
- Will continue with any new member (family) will receive a one-year subscription to “Good Day Magazine”.

April is Grange month and hopefully we will have some sort of Degree Day on Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup>. Another necessary thing that we need to do is a school of instruction. Hopefully things will improve and we will be able to gather again.

We all need to work together to make our organization that we love so much perpetual This is a changing world we now live in and change is inevitable. As our founders told us through the ritual work, they left us – “even as we change, evolve and grow, it is essential that we retain and impart upon new members our most sacredly held values”.

We the members of the Membership Committee hope you will invite any one of us to your membership program and/or other membership discussions and call on us anytime you would like assistance.

## ≡ 75 YEARS ≡



*Photo by Dennis Robidoux*

Marge Casbarro (left) of Chepachet Grange celebrated a milestone of 75 years of Grange membership in December, 2021. She was presented with her 75 year award from the National Grange by RISG President, Eileen Hebert

## It's Never Too Early For A Corn Dog!!

**And it's never too early to start planning either!**



Please mark your calendar so you don't miss hanging with your fellow Corn Doggers down at the Washington County Fair!! The dates this year are August 17 - 21. Shifts will run in the 4-hr blocks as usual, but you know you can always sign up for as many as you want.

**If you have any questions, please give us a call @ 934-3756 or 339-5012.**

**Thanks, and we'll see YOU at the fair!!**

**~Mr. & Mrs. Corn Dog**



**Juniors**  
**Judi White**  
*statejuniors@rigrange.org*  
*juniors.rigrange.org*



**Chaplain**  
**John A. Lawson, Jr.**  
*[jalawson.risg.chap@verizon.net](mailto:jalawson.risg.chap@verizon.net)*

Happy Blizzard Snowy Day!!!! As I'm writing this article, we are under a Blizzard warning and the snow is flying. I'm hoping as you read this article that the weather is much nicer.

I'm looking forward to Spring and the hopeful return of many Grange events. The Juniors will have a busy Spring with most of their events scheduled during the next few months. The decision was made to hold these events at each Junior Grange. Please keep checking the website for updates.

### Upcoming Events

March 5th - 10am: Lip Sync Contest at Moosup Valley Junior Grange

March TBA: Lip Sync Contest at Newport County Junior Grange

April 2nd - 10am: Junior Activity Day at Moosup Valley Junior Grange

April TBA: Junior Activity Day at Newport County Junior Grange

May 7th - 10am: Public Speaking & Sign Language Contests at Moosup Valley Junior Grange

May TBA: Public Speaking & Sign Language Contests at Newport County Junior Grange

August 1<sup>st</sup>: Junior Department Due Date

The Bible urges us to pursue teamwork as a model of living out our faith in Jesus. "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Our goal is not to "finish first" in the race of faith, but to reach out in various ways of encouragement by setting an example and lending a helping hand along the way.

So let's continually encourage one another, be ready to help, and keep pulling together as a team every day.

**Save the Date: Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Rhode Island State Grange Church Service**  
**Hosted by Washington County Pomona - Time and place to be announced**

Information will be available at a later date.

### **Correction to the State Grange Calendar**

Apr 2 Jr. Public Speaking/Language Contests-  
 Newport County Jrs.

Should read

Apr TBA Jr. Public Speaking/Language Contests-  
 Newport County Jrs.

Also, my apologies for the heading on the lecturer's column in the last issue. I forgot to change the name to Valerie Richard. If you used the email listed, however, your email would have gotten to the correct person.



**Community Service**  
**Marie Robidoux**  
[drobidoux@cox.net](mailto:drobidoux@cox.net)

Congratulation to our new Lecturer, Valerie Richard, for hosting a well-attended and fun family game day. It was wonderful to visit and laugh with our Grange family. Accolades too, to Slocum Grange.

Peggy Fish invited Dottie Irving, from the Veterans Administration Volunteer Services and gave her \$400 in gift cards, 84 pairs of socks, 42 scarves, and 65 other articles for the VAVS. Exeter Grange and Mrs. Barbar's third grade class at Metcalf Elementary School worked together again to help our vets. Please follow Exeter Grange's example. There is a need for five-dollar gift cards to CVS, Dunkin' Donuts, warm gloves, tooth paste, deodorant, and so on. Needs vary, but all contributions are welcomed.

For the past two years or so, participation in Words for Thirds the Dictionary Project has been almost nil. It was difficult to donate to schools because of health and safety restrictions and virtual learning. Times have calmed down and dictionaries will be welcome again. Please call the schools you serve and maybe some new schools, and give them the opportunity. Don't forget that a thesaurus is another option. Some Granges are doing in-school presentations and others just deliver the dictionaries with a cover letter. Personally, I'm just dropping the dictionaries off this year. Distribution of the books has to be a comfortable decision between your Grange and the school.

April is Grange Month. A great time for your Grange to do Community Service Awards for a citizen, LEO(Law Enforcement Officer), teacher, firefighter and group. This hasn't happened for two years in most Granges. It is very difficult to get back into the swing of things. I'm waiting for invitations to award/community service nights. Honor as many people as you feel comfortable (one in each category). The evening can be incorporated with Grange memberships awards, or honoring members for special projects. The list is endless. From my past experience with Girl Scouts of RI, Inc., Recognition Committee, it is gratifying to make people feel special.

There is still a huge need for staples and money for food banks and pantries. Please continue your generosity. Easter is April 17<sup>th</sup>. Candy would be very much appreciated as part of your donation to the Food Bank. The Easter Bunny could use a little help. Don't

forget, too, to help our four-legged friends as much as possible.

I wish you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day and a Blessed Easter. Marie, Dennis, and Maggie.



**Women's Activities**  
**Kathy Stedman**  
[chipmunkscrafts@gmail.com](mailto:chipmunkscrafts@gmail.com)

Hope all of you are staying safe and well. Looking forward to seeing you when things calm down a little.

Reminding everyone about State Women's Activities Day on May 7<sup>th</sup> at Exeter Grange from 9a.m. to 2 p.m. All are welcome to come and have a fun day with us. We are asking you bring a lunch and we will supply beverages and snacks. We will be having the state baking contest for subordinate and junior granges that day. Entries must be there by 10 a.m. sharp, so the judges can get them judged. Also all items for the seafarer's diddy bags are to be brought that day. Last year you did an awesome job getting them there. The list of items due from each Grange is in the WAC booklet which you can see on line or just contact me.

This year we added anti-bullying hats to our projects. These hats need to be made with blue yarn. Patterns are in the WAC book or you can use a pattern of your choice. If you don't knit or crochet you might think of donating yarn to someone who is willing to make the hats.

This year our department is sponsoring a Patriotic Centerpiece craft for Subordinate Granges, open to both men and women. Centerpieces can be no larger than 12 inches x 12 inches x 8 inches. All entries will be donated to the Veterans Home in Bristol and NOT RETURNED TO THOSE WHO ENTERED.

Changes have been made to the State Contests for Harvest of Handicrafts. We have Class Q – Christmas ornament; Class R – Decorated Wreath and Class U – Punch embroidery. The state committee has agreed to make more contests for those who don't knit or crochet, so they can enter contests. Also a reminder Class T = Woodworking no bigger than 20 inches x 24 inches. This contest is open to men and women.

Hope to have more entries this year and some in our new contests.



Photo by Howard Paster

On February 3, 2022 Jim Rebello was honored by Portsmouth Grange for his 32 years of military service, 28 of those years in the National Guard. He was presented with a Quilt of Valor\*. He also received a Citation from the Rhode Island House of Representatives and a Certificate of Honor from the National Grange for patriotism, courage and service to country above self during the time of the Korean War.



Quilts of Valor is a national organization, founded in 2003 to thank veterans for their service, sacrifice and valor in serving our nation. Each quilt is handmade by volunteers and donated materials (actual material or monetary donations for supplies). As of June 2020, this group has awarded over 250,000 quilts throughout the U.S. You can read more about them at: [www.qovf.org](http://www.qovf.org)

**LECTURER**  
NATIONAL GRANGE

**2022 VIRTUAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST**

4 Divisions

- Agriculture
- Sky
- Trucks
- Water

Everyone can enter up to 3 photos!

WINNERS WILL BE INCLUDED IN A 2023 PROMOTIONAL ITEM FROM THE LECTURER'S DEPARTMENT

Submit using the link [bit.ly/22grangephoto](http://bit.ly/22grangephoto)

PLEASE NOTE  
NEW DEADLINE  
June 30, 2022

**STATEMENT OF INTENT**

To encourage members and friends of the Grange to submit photos that can be used in National Grange publications and virtual media. All photos entered will become the property of the National Grange.

**RULES**

- A. The National Grange Virtual Photo Contest is open to all Grangers and yet-to-be Grangers.
- B. All entries must be received electronically as a single (1) file no larger than 1GB via Google Forms at <http://bit.ly/22grangephoto> by June 30, 2022 (note change of deadline).
- C. Divisions – there are four divisions:
  - Agriculture
  - Sky
  - Trucks
  - Water
- D. Each individual is limited to entering a total of three (3) photos.
- E. Entries should be no more than one (1) year old.
- F. Any photograph deemed inappropriate will not be judged or exhibited in the National Grange Virtual Photo Contest.
- G. Any entries received after the June 30, 2022 deadline will not be judged.

**PRIZES**

Monetary prizes will be awarded for each division: 1st – \$50, 2nd – \$30 and 3rd – \$20. The top three photos in each category will be used in future marketing and promotional items.

Programs of the Granges of Rhode Island

**March 1, 2022 thru May 31, 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>>**

**Tuesday, March 01**

Chepachet Agriculture Program

**Wednesday, March 02**

\*Perryville St. Patrick's Celebration

Moosup Valley Bean Bag Baseball

**Thursday, March 03**

\*Portsmouth

**Friday, March 04**

Richmond Women's Activities Program

Ashaway visit Richmond Grange

**Saturday, March 05**

<b>Moosup Valley Junior Lip Sync</b>	<b>Juniors</b>
<b>10:00AM Moosup Valley</b>	

**Wednesday, March 09**

Kent Cty Rocky Hill

Bean Bag Baseball – All Welcome!

**Thursday, March 10**

Newport Cty Kickemuit

**Friday, March 11**

Slocum Women's Activity

**Monday, March 14**

Hope Valley(6PM) Youth Night &

Brown Bag Auction, Pie Contest

Kickemuit Irish Sweepstakes

**Tuesday, March 15**

Chepachet Agriculture Program

**Wednesday, March 16**

Old Warwick National Pig Month

RW-Rumford Bean Bag Baseball

**Thursday, March 17**

Exeter Youth Night & let's laugh day

\*Rocky Hill St. Patrick's & St. Joseph's Day theme

**Friday, March 18**

Richmond How Irish are you?

St. Patrick's Day Quiz and Gold

**Saturday, March 26**

Washington Cty Exeter

Flower ID proud

**Sunday, March 27**

<b>Bowl-a-Thon (or April 2)</b>	<b>Deaf &amp; Health</b>
<b>4:00 PM, Dudek Bowling, Warren</b>	

**Monday, March 28**

Kickemuit Paper Airplane Challenge

**Friday, April 01**

Richmond Fact or Crap?

**Saturday, April 02**

<b>Moosup Valley Junior Activity Day</b>	<b>Juniors</b>
<b>10:00AM Moosup Valley</b>	

Providence Cty RW-Rumford

What Bugs You?

**Tuesday, April 05**

Chepachet Youth Night

**Wednesday, April 06**

\*Perryville(OM) Grange Month/Community Service

Moosup Valley Youth Night

RW-Rumford Easter Candy...Yum! Yum!

**Thursday, April 07**

Exeter Peanut Butter and Jelly Day

\*Portsmouth

**Friday, April 08**

Slocum Agriculture

**Saturday, April 09**

<b>Rockin' Music Bingo &amp; 2x2x2</b>	<b>Lecturer</b>
<b>1:00PM Oak Lawn</b>	

**Monday, April 11**

Hope Valley(6PM) Community Service Awards Night

Kickemuit Happy 131<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

Community Service Night

**Thursday, April 14**

Newport Cty Kickemuit

**Friday, April 15**

Richmond Agriculture Program

**Saturday, April 16**

Richmond Easter Egg Hunt

**Monday, April 18**

\*Ashaway Seed Planting fun

**Tuesday, April 19**

Chepachet(OM) Awards Night

**Wednesday, April 20**

Old Warwick Arbor Day Celebration

RW-Rumford(OM) PL-6:30 Community Night

**Thursday, April 21**

Exeter short meeting and setting up

for yard sale

\*Rocky Hill Planning our vegetable garden

**Friday, April 22**

Exeter Friends & Family yard sale pre-shop

**Saturday, April 23**

Washington Cty(possible 6PM supper) Perryville  
Flower ID proud

**Saturday, April 23-Sunday, April 24**

Exeter Gigantic two day indoor yard sale  
**Sunday, April 24**

<b>Degree Day</b>	<b>Membership</b>
<b>3:00PM</b>	<b>Providence Cty TBA</b>

**Monday, April 25**

Kickemuit Lincoln & Crescent Parks – do  
you remember?

**Thursday, April 28**

<b>Papa Gino Fundraiser</b>	<b>Community Service</b>
<b>4:00PM</b>	<b>Rt 2, West Warwick</b>

**Sunday, May 01**

<b>Bean Bag Baseball, Public Speaking,</b>	<b>Youth</b>
<b>Sign-a-song entries due</b>	

**Tuesday, May 03**

Chepachet Membership Night

**Wednesday, May 04**

\*Perryville Memorial Service by Chaplain  
Moosup Valley Memorial Program by Chaplain

**Thursday, May 05**

Exeter Bubble Blowing Day  
\*Portsmouth

**Friday, May 06**

Richmond Carnival Night

**Saturday, May 07**

<b>Moosup Valley Junior</b>	<b>Juniors</b>
<b>Public Speaking &amp; Sign Language</b>	
<b>10:00AM</b>	<b>Moosup Valley</b>

<b>WAC Activity Day</b>	<b>Women's Activities</b>
<b>Baking entries due by 10:00AM</b>	
<b>9:00AM-2:00PM</b>	<b>Exeter</b>

<b>Ag contest entries due</b>	<b>Agriculture</b>
<b>Bird House, Milk Jug &amp; Compost</b>	
<b>due by 10:00AM</b>	<b>Exeter</b>

**Monday, May 09**

Hope Valley(7PM) Memorial Program  
Kickemuit Mother's Day Memories

**Thursday, May 12**

Newport Cty Kickemuit

**Friday, May 13**

Slocum Community Service

**Monday, May 16**

\*Ashaway Memorial Quilt

**Tuesday, May 17**

Chepachet Memorial Service by Chaplain

**Wednesday, May 18**

Old Warwick Memorial Tribute  
RW-Rumford Memorial Program and  
C.W.A. Program

**Thursday, May 19**

Exeter Memorial Program  
\*Rocky Hill Getting your vegetable garden planted

**Friday, May 20**

Richmond Memorial Service

**Saturday, May 21**

Washington Cty TBD  
Memorial Service and Quiz

**Sunday, May 22**


<b>Spring Youth Fun Day</b>	<b>Youth</b>
<b>Cookie entries due by 1:00PM</b>	
<b>Bean Bag Baseball tournament, youth walk-a-thon,</b>	
<b>chocolate chip cookie contest, potluck supper</b>	
<b>1:00PM-6:00PM</b>	<b>Washington County fairgrounds</b>

**Monday, May 23**

Kickemuit Memorial Day Program

**Thursday, May 26**

<b>Papa Gino Fundraiser</b>	<b>Community Service</b>
<b>4:00PM</b>	<b>Metacom Ave, Warren</b>

	<b>Youth</b>
	<b>Walter Hartley</b>
	<a href="mailto:thewhartleys@cox.net">thewhartleys@cox.net</a>
	<b>Eileen Hebert</b>
	<a href="mailto:ehbert94@aol.com">ehbert94@aol.com</a>

The next three months will be a busy time for youth activities. We are rescheduling our bowling at Old Mountain Lanes to either March 5 or March 12 and have sent out an email notice to subordinates and officers. I will be making the reservations for lanes by February 26, but if you are interested in joining us, please call (401-529-4693) or email [ehbert94@aol.com](mailto:ehbert94@aol.com).

The Northeast Leaders Conference scheduled for the end of March has been cancelled due to Covid concerns. While the cases are dropping now, the decision had to be made three months ago to cancel the commitment with the hotel without a penalty. As this was to be the first combined conference, the youth contests such as

sign-a-song and public speaking were to be held for the region. At this point there has not been a definite decision on whether this region will hold a one day session at a central location for the contests, or participate in person or via Zoom at the Eastern Leaders conference. This conference is being held in Delaware on June 17-19, and is at least a 5 hour drive from Rhode Island, so hopefully another alternative can be worked out. Will let you know as soon as we know.

In April, the youth department has an Earth Day Activity scheduled. At this time, there is no definite activity planned, but any suggestions are welcome. If your grange youth would like to plan something for your grange, please let us know and we will help promote it. More one this activity at a later date.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the following entries are due: Bean Bag Baseball, Public Speaking and Sign-a-song. Bean Bag Baseball is open to all members, all ages. The Public Speaking and Sign-a-song also have categories for youth and young at heart. Even if you do not want to compete past the local level, we welcome your participation. Entries forms are included in the Youth Program book, or you can download them from [//rigrange.org/books.html](http://rigrange.org/books.html).

Spring Youth Fun Day is scheduled for May 22, at the Washington County Fairgrounds. Entries for the chocolate chip cookie contest are due for judging at 1:00PM. Bean Bag Baseball tournament will be held starting at 1:30PM, so be sure to get your team there on time. We will also be holding the PIN Fund Walk-a-thon concurrently with the tournament. There will be a course set out around the fairgrounds, where participants will walk a set number of laps to complete the Walk-a-thon. You do not have to complete all of the laps at one time, so you can participate in other activities during the course of the afternoon (or take a rest if you need it). A pledge sheet for donations is included in the Youth Program book, or you can download them from [//rigrange.org/books.html](http://rigrange.org/books.html). At 5:00PM, we will have a potluck supper, so please bring an item of your choice. We will be enjoying cookies from the chocolate chip cookie contest for dessert. This is a rain or shine event, so don't stay home because of bad weather!

Please support the youth nights. There are several coming up during March-May:

March 14 Hope Valley (6pm)

March 17 Exeter

April 5 Chepachet

April 6 Moosup Valley

April 23 Washington Cty Pomona @ Perryville (7pm)

### *President... continued from page 1*

For the past two years, all granges have experienced some downtime from in-person meetings. Even with Zoom meetings, the Grange ritual, floor work and procedures tend to suffer from neglect. If you are just getting back to in-person meetings, or plan to in the near future, consider having your deputy attend one of your meetings to help you "polish up" your grange work. The deputy assignments have not changed since last year, so you still have the same deputy.

The National Grange bonding insurance has changed since last year, as you have probably already seen. The insurance is still through the same company, but the number of levels of insurance is less than previously offered. Additionally, for amounts of \$50,000 and \$100,000, granges must fill out a brief questionnaire. Starting with next year's policy, granges are required to submit their payments by December 31 for the next year, instead of March 31 of that year. You will receive a reminder from the State Secretary. Do not let your insurance lapse! If you do, you must wait two years to get back into the National Grange policy. During this time you will need to find bonding insurance on your own, as the National Grange requires it of all granges.

It's never too early to start planning for the Big E, September 16-October 2, 2022. The Women's Activity committee is looking for donations of items for the boutique, we welcome support on Grange Day, and the store is always in need of workers for the 17 days of the fair. Please contact me or Steve Logan if you are willing work in the store. A big thank you to Celeste Spencer who faithfully helps in the store every year.

In this issue of the Beacon, I have included an article written by Burton Eller, National Grange Legislative Director, regarding foreign ownership of agricultural land in the United States. The pandemic has exposed major vulnerabilities in our supply chain because we rely on China for the many of our critical goods. Many drugs, including antibiotics are not produced in the United States, giving China an upper hand in the health of our citizens. It is distressing to learn that China is also buying up our agricultural land, our source of food for our citizens and income for our farmers. Although they currently own a smaller percentage than Canada or European countries, their rate of acquisition has increased ten-fold since 2009. Eller's article points out that we may not even have an accurate accounting of how much land is owned by foreign countries.

## Foreign Land Ownership in America

By Burton Eller,  
National Grange Legislative Director

### The Issue:

Land ownership by foreign entities is once again getting attention in Congress. USDA says 37.6 million acres, or about 3%, of the nation's farm, ranch and forest land are under foreign ownership. That's up from about 25 million acres in 2010. An increase of 2.4 million acres in 2020 was seen as a relatively safe investment choice and a hedge against inflation by buyers. Most of the new acres added were in Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado. Under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978, foreign investors are required report their land purchases to USDA. However, USDA depends on companies to self-report. Because of incomplete and late-filed paperwork, most observers suspect the numbers in the report are understated. Investors from Canada, including entities owned by Canadians and by U.S. corporations with Canadian shareholders, hold 12.4 million acres or about 32% of foreign-owned land. The Netherlands followed with 13%, Italy with 7%, United Kingdom with 6% and Germany with 5%. Roughly 46% of all foreign-owned land is in forestry.

### Why It Matters:

Federal, state and local records of who owns what land don't seem to match. The USDA's FSA Form -153 used to report foreign ownership and the source for the USDA database doesn't specifically correspond to USDA's foreign ownership database. What's more, USDA does not routinely transfer data from their FSA Form-153 with local county governments. Those counties then have no idea whether a land title transfer in their county is to a foreign or domestic owner. Multiple bills have been introduced over the last decade to provide more oversight of foreign investment in American land, but each died in committee. Proponents of these legislative initiatives cited national security, food security, land conversion, and access to land by young and aspiring farmers as reasons to more closely monitor and possibly restrict foreign ownership.

### What You Can Do About It:

Reach out to your county government and ask if it has accurate records of foreign owned land ownership in your county. Ask your congressman to cosponsor legislation to require USDA to share its foreign owned land data with county governments in an accurate and timely manner. Right now, the total amount of foreign ownership doesn't appear to be a major problem.

However, precise monitoring of foreign ownership trends is just good public policy for the future

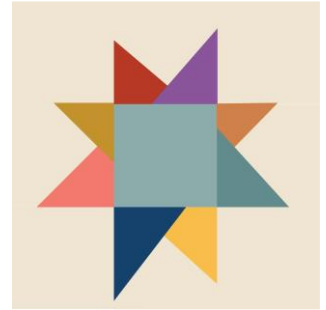
## National Lecturer's Quilt Block Contest

### PATTERN, SIZE & COLORS

• 12 1/2" unfinished Wonky Star (pattern available, courtesy of Scissortail Quilting Company)  
Instructions can be found at:

[//bit.ly/22wonkystar](https://bit.ly/22wonkystar)

• Background color white or light gray; star color monochromatic (print or solid)



### RULES

- A. The National Grange Quilt Block Contest is open to both members and prospective members.
- B. All contest entries must be received by the National Grange Lecturer by **June 30, 2022**.  
Send entries to: Ann Bercher, National Lecturer  
777 Excelsior Blvd. #310  
Excelsior, MN 55331
- C. Any entries received after the deadline will not be judged. However, all entries received will be exhibited at the 156<sup>th</sup> National Grange convention in Sparks, Nevada.
- D. The quilt block you enter in the contest for judging must be made by you.
- E. There is no limit on the number of quilt blocks a person may submit, but choose one quilt block per person to be judged.
- F. All entries will be retained by the National Grange to be made into finished quilts and will be sold at a later date to raise funds for the Grange Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity. You will receive a donation letter from the Grange Foundation acknowledging your donation.
- G. A 2022 Quilt Block Contest Entry Form must be completed for the block to be judged.

### GROUPS

- Group I – Adult (Age 14+)
- Group II – Junior (Age 13 and under)
- Group III – Men (Age 14+)

### PRIZES

- Monetary prizes will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in both Groups.
- Ribbons will be awarded to all entries.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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
June issue	April 20
September issue	July 20
December issue	October 20

### RHODE ISLAND STATE GRANGE FOUNDATION, INC

The Rhode Island State Grange Foundation was established to fill a need for a non-profit entity that would handle the educational and charitable aspects of the Rhode Island State Grange. Donors may deduct contributions to the Foundation from their taxes. Bequests, legacies, transfers or gifts to the Foundation are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes. As a publicly supported corporation, we accept personal and corporate donations.

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Mail to: **R.I. State Grange Foundation, Inc.**

**Roxanne Nelson, secretary**

**749 Waites Corner Rd.**

**West Kingston, RI 02892**

Credit my donation to the following fund:

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Rhody Fresh thanks all the Grange members who are purchasing Rhody Fresh products. If you do not see what you want in the dairy case of the stores you shop in, independent or Stop & Shop or Shaw's ask the dairy manager, it may be in the back cooler.

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