



# Grange Beacon

Volume 77

A publication of the Rhode Island State Grange

March 2026



## Master's Message

**Walter Hartley**  
*thehartleys@cox.net*

Hello Everyone!! Danielle, Nettie and I are hoping that you all had a very nice Christmas and you're settling into your New Year's Resolutions!! Many, MANY years ago, I made a resolution "not to make any more resolutions" – I've done pretty good keeping that one!!

As we've recently returned from the Northeast Leader's Conference, I want to share with you some important information regarding a National Grange Foundation Fundraiser, Project Sustenance, and Rural Health. I've sent some flyers to Eileen and I'm hoping they can be added to this issue of The Beacon. Rhode Island had a small showing this year with only 6 in attendance. Let's try for a larger turnout next year when it's in New York.

A couple of dates to remember for our Region are for the Lecturer's Conference in New York on April 17-19, Regional Youth Conference in New Hampshire on June 19-21 and the Northeast Church Service that will be hosted in Massachusetts on Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. You'll find more information on these events in the department articles.

Speaking of conferences, I'll be getting ready for the National Grange Leader's Conference in Sparks, NV from April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup>. This one will start a day early for me as we try to squeeze in a meeting of the National Grange Executive Committee while we're all there.

Thank you to all those that were able to attend our Statewide Information Day. It was great seeing you all there getting our various department books and different dates they have scheduled for all of our events. Please keep an eye on the pull-out calendar in this Beacon and mark your calendars so you don't miss anything. Or, like us at the 601, we put ours on the fridge....

At Info Day, I announced the following Deputy assignments:

- Special Deputy: Steve Logan #36 & #42
- Pomona Deputy: Claire Logan PCP, KCP & NCP
- Junior Deputy: Celeste Spencer All Junior and Plus 1 Granges
- Deputies: Glen Pierce #14, #24 & #26
- Kristin Paulson #32, #41 & #52
- Joan Clegg #6, #7 & WCP
- Nicole Ohneck #12, #27 & #38
- Ex. Comm. #40 & #50

I was very excited when approached by Paul Brodeur of Richmond Grange to volunteer to be a mentor for the newly installed Master of Exeter Grange, Mark Tourgee. Exeter Grange recently had a leadership changeover with a new Master, Lecturer, Secretary as well as members of their Executive Committee. Let me tell you, there was no pause or dropping of the baton. They all hit the ground running, and at full speed!! Congratulations to these members for stepping up to continue the great works that they've been doing!! Let's all show our support for them with their many planned activities and/or events. As far as Paul working with them, along with their Deputy, I couldn't have asked for a more dedicated Grange Member to guide them in the right direction. Thank you Brother Paul!!

*Continued on page 5..... MASTER*

### *Good reasons to get your issue of the Beacon electronically.*

- Save a tree...325 issues each quarter x 4 quarters per year, x 20 years that I have been mailing= 26000 copies.*
- Doesn't get lost in the mail --- Just keep your email up-to-date with the Beacon editor*
- Follows you when you go on vacation-the post office does not forward 4<sup>th</sup> class mail*
- Easy to share with friends – Send them their own copy and you won't lose yours*
- Saves the State Grange money – money that can be used for other programs, grants and donations.*
- Pictures are in color – need I say more?*
- Sign up today – just email me at [ehebert94@aol.com](mailto:ehebert94@aol.com)*

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**Chaplain**  
**Jennifer Lawson**  
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**Deaf & Health**  
**Jennifer Lawson**  
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A few developments in the Chaplain's Department:

First, Kent County Pomona will be hosting our annual State Grange Church Service. It will be on Sunday June 7th, 2026 @ 3:00 p.m. More information as soon as I know.

Second, plans are underway for a Northeast Church Service hosted by Massachusetts. So please save the date of Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 p.m. More information when it's available.

Lastly, thank you to all the members who have helped with the Chaplain's list each month. Just a reminder that name and address need to be sent to me by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 401-434-1491.

As, I write this it's 25 degrees outside, and we are expecting 8 inches of snow.

The Deaf And Health Department will be hosting a few events in the upcoming months.

The first is Lions eyeglass speaker which is Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at Roger Williams-Rumford. This program is open to all. Please ask family and friends to attend. There will be refreshments afterwards. Notices will be sent out to Granges soon.

On Wednesday March 25, at Providence Cty Pomona at Roger Williams -Rumford will be Deaf and Health Night. The meeting starts at 7:30p.m. The program for the evening will be the executive director of The Corliss Institute. The proceeds this year from the bowling will be going to The Corliss Institute in Warren. Notices will be going out to Granges soon

On Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00p.m. is the annual bowling. Again, this year it will be at Dudex in Warren. Refreshments will be back at Roger Williams -Rumford. This is open to all so please ask family and friends. Cost is \$20.00 per person which includes bowling and refreshments. More information as it gets closer

If you have any questions please call me at 401-434-1491 or email me at [statedeafhealth@rigrange.org](mailto:statedeafhealth@rigrange.org).



*Photos by Jen Lawson*



Above:  
Shirley Lawson,  
Master, and Eric  
Johnson, Chaplain  
of RW-Rumford  
receive Bible  
From Kelly  
Riley of Oaklawn  
Grange. At right,  
Shirley and Eric



*Photo by Jen Lawson*

Old Warwick Grange, in conjunction with Providence Northern Model Railroad Club, held an open house in December. Above, Grange Master Walter Webber staffs the information table.



**State Lecturer  
Annette Hartley**

*annettehartley@cox.net*

The past few months have been filled with wonderful opportunities to connect, learn, and build community as your Lecturer. I've had the pleasure of visiting local Granges, sharing ideas, and enjoying the fellowship that makes our organization so special. One highlight was attending the Northeast Leaders Conference in Vermont, where I met with fellow state lecturers during the Northeast Lecturers Association meeting. It was inspiring to exchange ideas, learn from one another, and bring new energy back home to Rhode Island.

Closer to home, we also hosted our second annual Soup-a-Bowl Contest and Family Game Night. As I write this, the event has not yet taken place, but based on the success and fun of last year, I am confident it went just as well—if not even better! Events like these truly showcase the strength of our Grange family and the joy that comes from spending time together.

Looking ahead, the Lecturer's Department has several meaningful and exciting events planned over the next few months.

Our **Paint and Sip** will be held on **March 21 at 2:00 PM** at **Oaklawn Grange**. This event will be hosted in loving memory of committee member **Patty Cottrell**. In her honor, we will be painting a **dragonfly**, one of her favorite symbols. The cost to attend is **\$45**, and all money collected will go toward creating goody bags to be donated to Patty's oncology clinic. Reservations and payment must be given to me by **March 7**.

On **April 17-19**, the **Lecturers Conference** will take place in **Cortland, New York**, at the **New York State Grange Headquarters**. This conference is always a great opportunity for learning, sharing ideas, and connecting with fellow lecturers. Once I receive more information about the event, I will be sure to share it with everyone.

On **May 23 at 8:00 AM**, we will gather for our annual **Flag Placing** at the **Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery**. We will meet in the **back left corner** of the cemetery. What better way to honor those who risked it all for us than by placing the flags they fought so hard for? This is always a powerful and meaningful experience, and I hope many of you can join us.

Then, on **June 13 at 2:00 PM**, we will meet at the **Washington County Fair** for our **Family Cookout**. This will also be the time to submit entries for the **2x2x2 Contest, Start Art Contest**, and turn in **Quilt Blocks**. For more information on these contests, please refer to the Department Book located on the State Grange website or feel free to see me directly.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or comments. I look forward to seeing you all very soon and continuing to make memories together.



**Women's Activities**

**Charlotte Hartley**

*charlottec2427@gmail.com*

Hello! from the world of Women's Activities! Happy New Year! I hope everyone is well and having a great time working on their projects.

Everyone should have their Women's Activities program books and are busily working on making blankets, hats, the quilt square and practicing for the baking contest.

A reminder, that on Sunday, March 22 at the Summit Baptist Church, we will be there from 2:00 – 4:00 working on our quilt project and granny square blankets. If you don't know how to make a granny square, this will be the perfect opportunity. Yarn will be provided as well as refreshments.



On April 25, is the statewide Women's Activity Day at the Rocky Hill Grange from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. On this day we will have the baking contest for both Juniors and Subordinate members, and working on all things Big E! Scrubbies, dog and cat toys and more! Bring your crochet needles, baking entries and your enthusiasm! Above is a picture of the quilt square. I am looking forward to attending Women's Activities program nights. If you have finished items, shoot me an email and I will be happy to pick them up! [Charlottec2427@gmail.com](mailto:Charlottec2427@gmail.com)



## Information Howard Paster

*paster\_howard@verizon.net*

Before I mention with this issue where I have been with Grange activities, I will write about an event outside the Grange. I was honored by an organization called "Twilight Wish Foundation," which is similar to a Wish Come True. My wish was to attend a New England Patriots football game at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, MA for the first time with 3 other people. It was a game on Sunday December 14th and not the best weather for attending. It was an experience. I received a Certificate of Honor and Thanks for maintaining an inspiring and uplifting spirit. Know that others remember and care.

On November 19, 2025, notifying newspapers for Slocum Grange members making pies for Thanksgiving, a photographer from the Independent newspaper was present at Slocum Grange and took a photo of members present with the pies. This included myself. The photo was printed into 2 newspapers on this event. Members made apple pies one day and pumpkin pies the next day.

I attended Statewide Information Day at Chepachet Grange on Sunday November 30, 2025. All department heads providing information to members present to their respective departments.

On Wednesday December 3, 2025 as part of Exeter Grange Community Service, I helped deliver 753 items of winter coats and other winter items to Camp Street Ministries in Providence for the poor families in the area with 2 other Exeter Grange members. Exeter Grange teamed with St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Charlestown. Took pictures with Camp Street helpers.

On Wednesday December 17, 2025, Friday December 19, 2025 and Monday December 22, 2025, I assisted with gift wrapping at the Wakefield Mall with proceeds benefiting Moosup Valley Junior Grange and Exeter Animal Shelter. I helped with part of 3 dates out of 6 dates that were scheduled.

On Thursday January 15, 2026, I attended the first Community Craft for a Cause at Exeter Grange Hall. Helped with labeling dictionaries to be donated to Metcalf School for 3rd & 4th graders. Took pictures at event.

On Saturday January 17, 2026, I supported the State Grange Youth Department by attending a Youth Trivia Day event at Oaklawn Grange Hall. There were enough people there, so that there were 3 teams that participated.

If anyone has any questions or comments with the programs in the Information Department, you can contact any of the committee Peggy Fish, Mary Petrarca, Kathy Stedman or myself Howard Paster.

## Crafting for a Cause at Exeter Grange

By Howard Paster

It was a wonderful first night of the event. A thank you to all who came out and made fleece tie blankets and labeled dictionaries for their upcoming Words for Thirds Dictionary donation to Metcalf Elementary School students in the Exeter-West Greenwich area.

The Grange had over 25 participants-including many new faces learning about the Grange for the first time. They made 10 fleece blankets to donate to Project Linus and local residents in need. They labeled over 200 dictionaries, now ready to donate. They shared about the Exeter Grange history and their mission and projects and made new friends.

Community Crafting for a Cause will continue on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 6 PM-8 PM and is open to the public, so add it to your calendar and bring a friend. Next month on Thursday February 19th, they will make more fleece blankets for teens and adults. Then on Thursday March 19th, they plan to use the scraps from the blankets and other materials to make dog and cat toys to donate to Exeter Animal Shelter.

This blanket making event is dedicated to Joan Tourgee, who made many fleece tie blankets with Exeter Grange's crafting groups in years past.



Photo by Howard Paster



Who are these people, where were they, and what were they doing and when?

See page 5...



## GRANGE FOUNDATION INVITES YOU TO BECOME PART OF THE MOVEMENT



If you've not yet registered, we welcome you to support the Grange Foundation through the Common Routes Challenge!

Ready for a fun, flexible event that supports the Grange Foundation? It's Race Time – Your Way! Whether you walk, hike, swim, dance, ride or even drive, every move counts in the Common Routes: Choose Your Challenge Virtual Event.

Set your own distance, pace, and company while supporting a great cause. Not just for runners – everyone can join in and earn fun rewards! Participants will be celebrated for their involvement with:

**Adults & Juniors:** Cooling towel + 12 waterproof stickers

**Kids under 5:** Keepsake sticker

**Pets:** Adorable bandana

**Drivers:** Keychain + sticker sheet

**Passengers:** Sticker sheet

Register now through  
April 30, 2026, at  
[runsignup.com/  
grangefoundation](https://runsignup.com/grangefoundation)



Prefer to cheer from the sidelines? You can support participants and enjoy the satisfaction of contributing to the Grange Foundation's mission, or simply order sticker sheets. Bulk discounts are available!

Share your journey with family, friends and fellow Grangers, and tell them why the Grange matters to you. Submit your photos through our race website, social media, *Good Day!* Magazine, or our annual report!

## Quotes about Project Sustenance

From National Grange President Christine E. Hamp

### General Quote

“As communities face increasing challenges, the need for meaningful, adaptable programs has never been greater. Project Sustenance is the National Grange’s answer to these challenges--focusing on real issues like food insecurity, resilience, and sustainability to empower Granges to uplift and serve their communities.”

### On Project Sustenance and ...

#### Granges assisting in food security

“Food security is a cornerstone of thriving communities, and through project sustenance, Granges can take the lead in ensuring no one in their area goes hungry. Whether it's organizing food drives, supporting local farmers, or teaching families to grow their own produce, Granges are uniquely positioned to tackle this critical issue.”

#### Building Personal and Community Resilience

“Resilient communities are strong communities. Project Sustenance encourages Granges to create programs that strengthen connections, provide resources in times of need and empower individuals to weather life's challenges together. This work builds the foundation for a brighter future for all.”

#### Promoting Individual Sustainability

“Sustainability starts with knowledge and action at the individual level. Through project sustenance, granges can inspire people to embrace practices like resource conservation, financial planning and self-sufficient living --equipping them with the tools they need for a sustainable life in a better tomorrow.”

#### Grange’s Advocacy for Rural America

“Project sustenance embodies the Grange's historic mission to support rural America by addressing our communities’ modern challenges. Just as we advocate for rural America through our grassroots legislation efforts, we believe that project sustenance is our fight for the future of our hometowns. From fostering food security to building resilience and sustainability, this program reflects our long-standing commitment to ensuring rural families and communities thrive for generations to come.”



The National Grange's 2025 Rural Health Report highlights ongoing disparities in health access and outcomes for nearly 20 percent of Americans living in rural communities. The report underscores the fragility of rural health systems and outlines promising, actionable solutions to protect care access and strengthen local resilience.

### ACCESS TO CARE

Rural Americans continue to face severe barriers to basic healthcare access including shortages of primary care providers and specialists. Many counties have no full-time physicians at all, and patients regularly drive an hour or more for routine appointments. These delays make preventative care more difficult to obtain and result in avoidable complications, more emergency-room reliance, and poorer long-term health outcomes.

### FRAGILE RURAL HOSPITALS

Over the past decade, roughly 182 hospitals have closed or converted to models without inpatient care and 432 more are considered financially vulnerable. Many operate with negative margins and face ongoing reimbursement challenges, particularly in Medicare-heavy regions. These closures and service reductions, especially in emergency care, obstetrics and oncology, force rural residents to travel hours for critical treatment, worsening health outcomes and leaving entire communities with fragile or nonexistent local care.

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ACCESS

Behavioral-health resources in rural America are critically insufficient. Many rural counties have no practicing psychiatrist, psychologist, or licensed clinical social worker, leaving residents without timely care for depression, anxiety, trauma, or substance-use disorders. This shortage directly contributes to higher suicide rates, untreated addiction, and preventable behavioral-health crises in rural communities.

### THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Telehealth holds strong potential to close access gaps, but broadband limitations prevent rural communities from fully leveraging it. Unreliable, slow or unaffordable internet service limits remote visits, digital monitoring tools and specialist consultations. These barriers reinforce existing disparities in chronic disease management, behavioral health access and preventive care.

### CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Rural Americans experience significantly higher rates of heart disease, stroke and hypertension. Limited access to primary care and cardiology services means conditions often go undetected or unmanaged. Long travel distances and fewer specialists reduce opportunities for routine monitoring, early intervention and rehabilitation after cardiac events.

### CANCER OUTCOMES

Cancer mortality is consistently higher in rural America due to later-stage diagnoses and limited access to oncology specialists. Many rural hospitals have discontinued chemotherapy services, forcing patients to travel long distances for weekly treatments—an obstacle that leads some to delay or discontinue care. Screening rates for colorectal, cervical and lung cancers are also lower in rural counties.

### MATERNAL & INFANT HEALTH

Rural communities have higher rates of maternal complications and infant mortality. The reduction in obstetric units across rural hospitals has created vast maternal-care deserts where pregnant individuals must travel hours for prenatal and delivery services. This delay in routine prenatal monitoring increases the risk of preventable complications.

### DIABETES & METABOLIC HEALTH

Rural communities face elevated rates of diabetes and prediabetes, driven by barriers to preventive care, fewer endocrinologists, reduced access to healthy foods, higher rates of obesity and limited diabetes education programs. These gaps lead to higher rates of diabetic complications – kidney disease, amputations and vision loss—many of which are preventable with consistent care.

### INSURANCE & COVERAGE GAPS

Insurance instability is a major driver of rural health disparities. Rural Americans are more likely to rely on public insurance, face greater difficulty affording premiums and experience lapses in coverage tied to seasonal or gig-based employment. In states that have not expanded Medicaid, rural residents disproportionately fall into coverage gaps—earning too much to qualify for traditional Medicaid but too little to afford marketplace premiums. Limited insurance options, high deductibles and narrow provider networks further restrict where patients can seek care, straining rural health systems and discouraging timely treatment.

This report emphasizes that rural health disparities cannot be resolved with isolated interventions. A sustainable solution requires consolidated investments in workforce development, hospital stabilization, broadband expansion, transportation, preventive care and social supports. Strengthening every layer of the rural health ecosystem is essential to improving outcomes for the 60 million Americans who call rural America home.



photo courtesy of Howard Paster

At a recent meeting of Kickemuit-Portsmouth Grange, Kristin Paulsen presented the Quilt of Valor to Steve Skuba, from the Bristol-Warren area. Steve served in the United States Navy.

The photo above shows Steve, second at right, with his family, at the presentation.



photo courtesy of Howard Paster

As part of the Community service activities of Exeter Grange, for the past 10 years we have donated winter coats and other winter items to Camp Street Ministries in Providence.

The Grange teamed up with St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Charlestown and the community of Exeter and received help from one of our Grange members, Amanda Carsten, through her work at University Orthopedics. The church held 2 coat drives during November for this purpose.

Recently three Exeter members made the trip to Camp Street and delivered 753 donations of the winter clothing via Roch's Food Truck. The clothing was very much needed.

In the photo front Peggy Fish and Howard Paster from the Grange with two people from Camp Street who helped bring the items from the truck into the building. Some of the bags are shown in the background. Not in the picture was Andrew Slater, also a member of Exeter Grange, who drove the truck to Camp Street.

During the year, Howard Paster kept a running count of the winter items that were collected.

### *Holiday pics from Rocky Hill Grange*

**By Christine Palmer**



- Menu (YUM!)
- Vegetables/dip
- Chili
- Ham
- Apple Cider
- Chicken
- Quiche
- Mac & Cheese
- Sweet Potato
- Casserole
- Brownies
- Cranberry/apple
- Crisp
- Peanut butter
- Fudge

Members of Rocky Hill Grange prepared a meal for the families staying at Ronald McDonald House.



Members of the Rocky Hill Grange pose with Santa after volunteering at the Military Family Program's Holiday celebration for families of the Rhode Island National Guard.



## Juniors Judi White

[statejuniors@rigrange.org](mailto:statejuniors@rigrange.org)

[juniors.rigrange.org](http://juniors.rigrange.org)

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As I write this article in mid-January, I am already looking forward to warmer weather and more opportunities to get outside and enjoy some sun. The 2026 Junior Program Books have been distributed to all Granges, and our Juniors are looking forward to an exciting year filled with activities.

On **Saturday, May 9**, the Junior Department will host the **Grange Showcase** at **Roger Williams–Rumford Grange**, beginning at **10:00 a.m.** The Showcase will include the Lip Sync Contest, Junior Public Speaking Contest, Junior Sign Language Contest, Grange Baseball Trivia Contest, and several crafts to be submitted to the Agriculture Director. It will be a wonderful day of fellowship, friendly competition, and food.

At the time of writing this article, we have not yet received the National Junior Program; however, it is hoped that by the time you receive this issue of *The Beacon*, it will have been released.

If any Grange would like more information about the **1+ Junior Program**, please feel free to reach out to me. I am more than willing to visit your Grange and give a presentation explaining how the program works and how it can benefit your Grange.

Please remember that children want to feel welcomed and included. Creating an environment where they feel valued and involved will encourage them to keep coming and inspire them to become members of this great organization.

#### Upcoming Events

May 9<sup>th</sup> @ 10am Grange Showcase

Location: Roger Williams-Rumford Grange

Lip Sync Contest

Junior Public Contest

Junior Sign Language Contest

Grange Baseball Trivia Contest

Agriculture Birdhouse Contest

Agriculture Bird Feeder Contest

Agriculture Grow Seed in Bag Contest

Agriculture Diorama Contest

August 1<sup>st</sup>

Due to State Junior Director

#### State Contests

Creative Writing Contest

Big E Craft: Painted Birdhouse

Host State Craft: Oklahoma  
Creative Art Craft: Plastic Straws  
Mini Prince & Mini Princess Applications  
Junior Ambassador Applications  
Master of the Year Applications

#### National Contests

*\*\*Will update once the 2026 National Junior Program received\*\**



## Community Service

Marie Robidoux

[dwrobidoux44@gmail.com](mailto:dwrobidoux44@gmail.com)

Hi! Happy 2026 Grangers and Friends,

It gets a little repetitive when I hear the meteorologist on TV reporting the winter forecast in a negative tone and counting down the days to spring.

There's a cruise line also advertising on TV that quotes "get away from the winter blues." I like cold weather and snow. It is a combo for cozy indoor activities, cooking a yummy stew, beans, or muffins to enjoy with hot chocolate. No yardwork, canceled meetings, and TV or game time with family and friends. And what about the kids? They have a chance to slide, make snowmen, and enjoy the snow. However, there is another side to the story. It gives us leisure time to plan Grange activities.

April is Grange month. It's a great time to have an Awards Night to honor a citizen, teacher, LEO, firefighter or group. Check your local newspapers or Facebook. Was there a person or group that went above and beyond to help citizens or animals? Even if you don't have someone for all the categories, that's fine. Recognizing a person or group brings joy and memories and makes everyone happy.

The Rhode Island State Grange Community Service has supported the VAVS "Veterans Administration Volunteer Services" for over 15 years. Our liaison to VAVS, Dottie Irving, needs our help. Every Christmas and Easter season and throughout the year, she brings over 200 gift bags and supplies to vets hospitals in Brockton, MA, Providence and the veterans' home in Bristol. She relies on items and monetary donations. She also has raffles of gifts donated.

This past holiday season she had very little items for gift bags and thankfully monetary help came in and she was able to purchase what she needed for the vets. As always, she is in need of hygiene articles, \$5 or \$10 gift cards to CVS, McDonald's, Walmart, and so on. She also needs socks, underwear, light gloves, denture products, pads, pencils and of course monetary donations are forever welcome.

Dottie has recently adopted the Homeless Clinic at the Providence VA hospital. Homeless vets can eat a hot meal, take a shower, do their laundry and receive medical attention. And they can also take home goodies when they are available. The homeless clinic could use bottled water, detergent (pods, only), sandwich and gallon size plastic bags, hygiene articles, bar soap, and body soap. LET'S MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO HELP THE VAWS.

There's still time to participate in Words For Thirds, the Dictionary Project. Teachers find a dictionary, a good learning tool, and the students love to take them home at the end of the year. Congratulations to Old Warwick Grange, for the first time last year. they participated in the Dictionary Project. They gave dictionaries to a local school and plan to continue their work in 2026 by donating to two elementary schools in an unserved Warwick area.

This winter has been increasingly difficult for the needy families and the homeless to get food. Please be generous in your contributions to food pantries and the Rhode Island Food Bank. Don't forget our pets, that also need our help.

Today is February 2, 2026, the Pennsylvania groundhog showed his shadow. Six more weeks before spring arrives. Enjoy the rest of the winter. Thank you, Grangers and Friends for all you do for Community Service.

**Our annual fundraiser for Community Service at Papa Gino's will be on March 26 in Warwick starting at 4 PM. Thank you.**



## Honoring Veterans at Chepachet Grange

By Dennis Robidoux

Chepachet Grange held a Veterans Patriotic Program in November, 2025, honoring a number of people who served very faithfully in the Armed Forces for many years.

Susan Leahy served as emcee for the event.

Sgt William W. Leahy, spoke about his time and travels in the Air Force.

Richard "Dick" Mende, Commander of the Korean War Veterans Post in Chepachet was recognized.

James Loghry, 92, a Korean War Vet, was presented the "Quilt of Valor" by Kristin Paulson of Kickemuit-Portsmouth Grange. He is pictured with Dick Mende.

Short video presentation on the veterans was shown.

Some of the vets talked about their time in the service.

A Luncheon followed the program.



## 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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Make check payable to:  
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**Roxanne Nelson, secretary**  
**749 Waites Corner Rd.**  
**West Kingston, RI 02892**

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Education/Travel Fund                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Ronald McDonald House Fund           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Aid Fund  | <input type="checkbox"/> Kenyon Memorial Scholarship Fund     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woodrow and Marjorie Tucker Research and Education Center |   |



**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.**

**Return Service Requested**

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