



MASTER'S MESSAGE – Kendal Holden

First, I hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving and will enjoy the rest of the Holiday Season and have a Happy New Year.

I also wish to thank Joe and Lisa Goodrich for being our delegates to National Grange as I was unable to attend.

I have been mulling over the idea of joint workshops for Masters, Secretaries, Treasurers and Directors. I miss the ones we used to hold at the Orange School with general information, potluck lunch, and breakout sessions. I believe a second such day was held at Bomoseen Grange. We cannot pull it off this year as I'd want to meet right after National Grange. Sounds like I'll be setting up Zoom meetings this Fall/early Winter. Next year I hope to hold those workshops.

Looking at the Pomona Granges and the imbalance of Subordinate Granges under their jurisdiction, it has been suggested that we reassign Subordinate Granges to fewer Pomonas. I sincerely want your input on this as it needs to consider distances and topography, and a willingness for change, among others.

As always membership and service to the community are always on my mind. Having said that, you may have read in our latest calendar that Beacon Light Grange in Richmond is shutting down. This Grange has served its community well: feeding attendees at Richmond's 4th of July Celebrations, feeding canoers as they traverse the Winooski River, handing out Words for Thirds dictionaries to schools in Richmond,

Huntington, and Bolton, and more activities than I can remember. The Grange community as well as the Richmond community will miss them. I hope the town will realize the treasure they had in that Grange and wonder what they might have done to alter this ending.

Sister Debbie Ploof and Brother Joe Goodrich have expressed an interest in the Membership Committee I'm still looking for a Jr. Director. I do have a younger Granger willing to take on the Jr. Camp and am looking forward to the new ideas she has. That's all for now as the November winds are threatening to overpower our technology! Stay safe, stay warm, enjoy the Holiday Season.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE – Jenny Nelson Need or want?

I remember asking our kids for one idea for each category when it came time for gift-giving ideas. And when our grand kids came this Thanksgiving, they saw my Norman Rockwell coffee mug of the Four Freedoms- Freedom from Want, Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, and Freedom from Fear. Finally, our pastor used five kernels of corn to talk about our gifts of Faith, Freedom, Food, Family and Friends, as well as healing of a bruised soul. And the greatest of these is LOVE.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16

When the Grange founders formed the Grange based on the principles of Faith, Hope, Charity, and Fidelity,

they had to base it on this verse. And they must have thought a great deal about the Christmas Spirit touching people's hearts, understanding their own shortcomings, witnessing God's place in their lives, and sharing compassion for others.

With grateful hearts from a Thanksgiving shared with family and friends, we move on to the hustle and bustle of Christmas. I believe we are mindful of the happiness we seek to give others, the peace we long for in our communities and country and around the world. I can't help but think of these lyrics:

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in his wonderful face, And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace".

As you seek the face of Jesus in the manger, may you see your Faith come to life, singing, loving, sharing throughout the holiday season. May you have Hope in the New Year listening for God's plan for your life. May God's spirit of Charity touch your lives and give you a sense of even more compassion for the less fortunate. Finally, may you always know you are part of God's family and hold fast to the principles of Fidelity.

I wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and may God bless your lives in the coming year. Fraternally and with God's Love, Jenny

LECTURER - Alice Daley, State Lecturer

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and didn't eat too much. State Session was held last month, and I was re-elected as Lecturer. I hope to have a meeting soon with all Lecturers. It most likely will be via Zoom and probably in January. I hope everyone has. Merry Christmas and safe and happy New Year.

NATIONAL CONVENTION 2023

**- Linda Sanderson, VT
Coordinator**

I am writing this just a few days after returning from the 156th convention. The other regions do things differently than our Northeast Region., sometimes they work out and sometimes not.

This year coach buses were going to cost \$10,000 so instead of tours they brought activities in and had workshops. You had to purchase an "Experience Pass" (\$16) to attend these workshop that were held on Friday and Saturday. But they had several cancel a few days before and had to pull in some "Grange Activities". I attend a Barn Quilt painting workshop and a workshop on mining where we broke into small groups and panned for beads in birdseed. The Western region had a Host Reception this year, serving cake and coffee and anyone could attend. Each State Master spoke about what their State was doing, and then a group of Junior and Youth did some regional dancing. Plans for the 2023 National Convention are going smoothly so far. We sold over 65 shirts in Reno last week and many liked the Cardinal Red shirts **and if you want to purchase one, contact Brenda Rousselle.** I will be making a trip to Niagara Falls sometime in March next year to view the facilities and hope to have a better handle on where things will be.

We are still looking for Trumpet Girls (because of the stage size, there was one Trumpet girl this year). Lorretta Washington (National) has asked us to provide volunteers for the Grange Store and the show case and Paula and I will be talking to her more this Spring. NO homemade food can be served, it all must be pre-packaged for 2023, and that does not leave much room for good nutrition. Breakfast bars, fruit cups, chips and salty snacks, fruit gummy or strips, cookies, candy and for beverage water, juice, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT – Jenny Nelson, Director

As the new year approaches, it is time to take stock in where we have been and what's ahead. How many times have you heard on the television or read in the newspapers about the increasing food insecurity that is around us here in VT and across the country and world?

As we see the more unpredictable and often more extreme weather patterns, it is not surprising to learn that the USDA and State Agencies of Agriculture have tried to place staff in positions to offer help to farmers for increased sustainability practices- tools they need to stop erosion to save the soils for growing crops and food, as well as decreasing the greenhouse gases which wreak havoc with our atmosphere and its ability to deflect ultraviolet rays from warming our oceans, melting our glaciers, and which send warming air currents further and further north on our continent. Here in VT we can see the difference for the first day of frost. Yes, in some ways it seems to be great for a longer growing season- will we one day have oranges growing in VT? Will it be too warm to grow our crispy apples or have a maple sugaring season? We need to keep our land productive and well-managed, and we need to keep our farmers viable to grow our food.

It is often hard to wrap our minds around the big picture, but statistics continue to show a more rapid change and more devastation from the extreme dryness of the western states and the tornadoes and flooding of the southern states. And yes, it does seem like there isn't much a small state like Vermont can do, but we all have to do our part. I, for one, still haven't made it a habit to take reusable bags to the grocery store- Dah! I do recycle and I can tell you, we, as Grangers, need to support the volunteers and volunteer

ourselves at these recycling centers- it is a true service and such a good habit to recycle. We have a makeshift compost pile out our back door. It is used, but not well! We could do better. Sounds like a time to make a New Year's Resolution. Will you join me?? Like so many other things, it takes a village, or at least a Grange, to do their part. Here's a final question to ponder. Is a conservative an environmentalist? By conserving our finite natural resources, our fresh water up to 95% in mining and manufacturing for many materials, and preventing waste from going into our oceans, we can live a thoughtful, healthy, and positive life now and in the future for our grand kids. See you in the New Year!

COMMUNITY SERVICE - Deborah Ploof, Director

I would like to introduce myself as your new Community Service Director recently appointed by Master Kendal Holden. Most of you know me from the various offices I have held in the past and the woman behind the laptop at State Session. I am currently a member of the State Executive Committee and co-editor of the GMG. I am a 52-year member of the Grange and currently belong to Blue Spruce Grange and am Master of Champlain Valley Pomona Grange. I have 3 daughters who also grew up in the Grange.

All of the established programs are in the program book. If you do not have a copy of the 2022-2023 book, it is available at:

www.vtstategrange.org under downloads. You can print the section you need. What Community Service you do in your community is not limited by these programs. Consider them opportunities/suggestions for programs. When you think of community, don't think just about your town, but about your county, state, nation, and world! Skies the limit as they say!

One of the projects this year is to raise money for either Ronald

McDonald House that serves UVMCM in Burlington, VT ([Wish List | Ronald McDonald House – Burlington, Vermont \(rmhcvf.org\)](#)) or David's House that serves DHMC in Lebanon, NH (<https://davidshouse.org/donate/grcery-list/>). At our October State Session, the delegates voted to have the proceeds from the Silent Auction, which were all items generously donated by Grangers throughout the State, benefit these 2 organizations. A check for \$300 has been sent to each of them. I have included the websites in this write up because besides money these houses need food, sandwich bags, trash bags, household necessity, etc. and might be another way you could support these programs besides sending a check. Please visit the sites for more information about their services and their needs. Wishing all a very Merry and Blessed Holiday season and may the Grinch not steal your happiness away! Let us count our blessings as we gather to celebrate this holiday season, no matter what our color, religion, or personal beliefs are, we are grateful that we can continue to celebrate in the Land of the Free.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES - Linda Sanderson, Director

Happy Holidays!
I will be mailing out this year's Northeast Needlework brochure and a letter from Dawn Percoski, New England Building Craft Manager, asking for items for the building. This year the building brought in over \$38,000 to help pay bills, about a third of that was raised by people

using their credit cards (second year for this service).

This year is going to be very busy for me, but I will try to get out at least one page of helpful hints to you each quarter. I will mail this first to the Family Activities person that is listed in the VSG Directory, then to the Secretary or Master in hopes that it gets passed on. If you want to see something special in the Family Activities Notes I will do my best to research it.

Read the section in the Program book to see what is new. Please let me know if you want to see something else for next year as the Directors will start planning in mid-January.

HEALTH - Alice Daley, Director

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. State Session was last month and new officers were elected. Our new State Master/President is Kendal Holden from Blue Spruce Grange. Congratulations Kendal. Merry Christmas to all.

LEGISLATIVE DAY

Mark your Calendars! Legislative Day in Montpelier is March 22nd, 2023.

The Legislative Policy Book 2022 is at our website vtstategrange.org and find it under Downloads. Also a copy of that will be going to Legislative Chair and Master of each Grange. The Master will also be getting a copy of the Internal Policies. If you receive it, and currently are NOT holding that position in your Grange, be sure to pass it on to the new holder of that office.

MEMBERSHIP/LEADERSHIP – Deborah Ploof, Interim

Membership kits are available for any Grange that needs them Email me at deborah.ploof@outlook.com with Membership Kits as subject line. This is so your message doesn't end up being classified as SPAM.

I also have application forms and associate member brochures.

YOUTH - Jessica Falker, Director

BIG news!!! The dates for a combined Junior AND Youth Grange Camp have been set! July 9th - 15th, 2023 for ages 5 - 17, at the Grange Center in Brookfield. Youth ages 14-35 are invited to join us on Saturday July 15th for a Grange Youth Day Camp! We decided to start camp on Sunday July 9th so that families attending Family Camp that weekend don't have to make a separate drive up to drop off their kids. More information and online registration can be found on our social media pages (Facebook, Instagram & Twitter), or complete the enclosed registration form in this issue of GMG. Any questions please call Jessica at 802-483-4330 or email Melody at mfalker03@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS – From Patron's Chain

National Grange is excited to announce Grange's new partnership with **MemberDeals!** Now you'll have access to exclusive savings on theme parks, hotels, attractions, movie tickets, tours, shows, & more. Be sure to visit often, as new products and discounts are constantly being added! Scan to access savings to:

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Access Savings Here: <https://memberdeals.com/nationalgrange/?login=1>

OFFICER AND MEMBERSHIP LISTS

Worthy State Secretary Nancy Perkins has sent out a request for the current membership and officer's list. Due Date is December 15th. These lists are very important to the communication chain from National, to State, to Pomona, and to Community Grange. This is how the distribution list for this newsletter is generated. This is how the Directory information is generated. PLEASE get these lists sent in!

FIFTH GENERATION GRANGER

Blue Spruce Grange #574 welcomed Fifth Generation Granger, Camden Yandow, as a member on August 26, 2022. Camden's Grange line starts with his great great grandparents, Nelson & Adelaide (Parizo) Valyou, who joined Essex Center Grange #155 in 1941 and Joseph & Ethel (Houghton) Bergeron who are charter members of Colchester Grange #456 organized in 1911. His great grandparents are Past State Master Harold & Mary (Valyou) Bergeron. Mary joined Essex Center #155 in 1941 and was a 75-year member. Harold joined Essex Center #155 in 1946 after his service in WWII and was a 70-year member. His grandparents are Lawrence & Ann (Bergeron) Yandow. Ann joined Essex Center in 1957 and just received her 65th pin and seal. Larry joined Essex Center #155 in 1963 and organized Blue Spruce Grange #574. His father, Chris Yandow, joined Essex Center Junior Grange #74 at age 5 and is

now a 42-year Subordinate member.

Blue Spruce Grange is excited to have Camden carrying on his family's Grange heritage with us. Ann Gray, Reporting

POMONA HAPPENINGS

Champlain Valley Pomona will be meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, December 13th and we will be having Installation of Officers by Worth State Master Kendal Holden and our calendar for the next year of meetings. Merry Christmas and Happy New Years to Everyone! Deborah Ploof, Master

Heart of Vermont Pomona met on October 1 at Chelsea Grange. Kendal Holden installed most of the officers. After the installation, Ellen Moody, Health chairman presented her Health program. She spoke about vaccinations, what they do for you, etc. as well as the flu and covid. She handed out a flier for all to take home. The next meeting will be before you read this, but I will report it anyway. The December meeting will be the holiday program. Bring a gift (\$10 maximum) and join in the fun. Lots of happenings planned for the day. Lois Allen, reporting.

COMMUNITY GRANGES RAISED RIGHT!

Beacon Light will meet on the 6th to finish with a potluck and ending donations. After the last bank statement is in we will divide our money to non-profits in the community and send State the balance. Merry Christmas and

Happy New Year to all Grangers. Darcelene Lewis-Wedge, Master Blue Spruce - I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. Blue Spruce Grange met recently to sign Christmas cards for the VT Veterans Home in Bennington. Our next meeting is December 9 where we will finally install new officers. It will end with a potluck dinner and our Christmas party. Open to all and starts at 4:30. Merry Christmas to all. Alice Daley, Master

Lake View Grange has held their last breakfast until spring. They have been meeting regularly at the hall, but that may change with winter weather. The last meeting held was on November 14th and the program was under the direction of the Agricultural director, Debby Perry. We were pleased to have as our guests a couple who are farm stading in the Cabot area. They are looking for more land to spread out on. Very enjoyable. Their names are Chris Brabant and Schikoy Hause.

At this meeting, we brought food for the Open Door food bank in Danville. Last I heard there was about 36 pounds collected. We are planning a pound auction for early December (will be over with when you read this. Sure hope it is successful). It is to benefit the Saint Johnsbury Santa Fund.

Next meeting will be December 12th. Program will be the holiday program. Bring a gift to exchange. (limit \$10). January's program will be the Health program. Lois Allen, reporting

Marble Valley Grange - This issue of GMG seems to have

come very quickly, but we have still been very busy! In October, we participated in Pittsford's Trunk or Treat dressed as pirates! At the last minute we decided to collect money there for UNICEF, in conjunction with the National Grange's effort. We were thrilled to collect \$71.00! In November, our Grange sponsored the annual musical play at Otter Valley High School (five of our members are alumni of that theater group), and donated winter clothing for people in need to the Comfort Zone Clothes Closet. We are currently collecting holiday gifts for the Brandon Are Toy Project and have already collected over 100 gifts! We wish all of our Brothers and Sisters a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Jessica Falker, reporting

Middle Branch Grange - After 2 years, we have returned to our traditional schedule. We are having regular meetings on the first and third Fridays of the month. Officers were elected and installed in September. Our 2nd annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale was a success. Proceeds totaled over \$300 which will be donated back

to the community in some way. We are planning to participate in the Annual Christmas Parade in So. Royalton on December 10. Our Christmas party and gift exchange will be at the December 16 meeting, all are welcome. Depending on COVID numbers, we are hopeful that we can have card parties this year. We will be conferring the degrees in February and March. The Junior Grangers have also been busy. On November 18, they held a graduation ceremony for Leah Rogers. They also did a Thanksgiving Basket raffle and are working on a program for the Christmas party. The members of Middle Branch Grange wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Judy Powell, Lecturer

Blue Spruce - As a special note for Blue Spruce, we will be exemplifying the first of the 4 degrees at our meeting on January 13 starting at 4:30. This meeting is open to anyone who would like to see it or who hasn't seen it done. We meet at the First Congregational Church in Essex Junction. Email if you have any

questions at adodds0322@gmail.com
IMPORTANT CHANGE TO DATE FOR DEGREE
It will be Saturday, January 14 at the Church. It is scheduled to begin at 1:00. No Cover Dish Dinner so we can get people on the road home before dark.

Tunbridge Grange hall recently had some much-needed repairs and several members got together for a work bee to paint some exterior parts of the hall. Our annual harvest supper was a huge success with plenty to eat and homemade pies for dessert. We will participate again this year in the light parade in South Royalton. We met to discuss ideas for the float and will meet again prior to the December 10th Christmas parade. We gained one new member making a total of four new members. On Friday, December 23rd we will be hosting another "Safety Break" at the Sharon Welcome Center. Linda Lazaroff, Master Tunbridge Grange



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2022 Contest Winner - Andrea Myers Mannix