



MASTER'S NOTES – KENDAL HOLDEN

It's March 17th and I've just enjoyed a St. Paddy's Day Meal. Yesterday the VSG held a GRIT gathering at Bridgewater Grange Hall. We had 21 attendees and 9 presenters, 12 out of 29 Subordinate Granges represented. For those of you who didn't attend, GRIT is coming to you as there are concepts that need to be shared. This is a work in progress. The bulk of the presentations were well received, and we covered a lot of territory. For those who attended I say, "Thank you for giving your time and talent".

One of the concepts repeatedly presented was the idea that the executive committee, but always and only in conjunction with the Worthy Master, may meet in time of emergency or need on behalf of the Grange itself. If the matter can be dealt with by the Grange members, then the executive committee has no business making the decision.

From the Grange Law and Good of the Order Committee at this year's National Grange Session comes a Policy Statement that was adopted by the voting delegates, and among other matters, the statement contains the following:

"The Grange Law Committee urges that the traditional opening and closing ceremonies or the approved alternative opening and closing ceremonies always be used. Granges at all levels enjoy the fraternal and lodge classification under the Internal

Revenue Service (IRS) tax code. It is vital that these ceremonies be used so no Grange jeopardizes their IRS status if they are ever audited."

"The Grange Law Committee further urges that recitation of the verbal portions of either the traditional opening and closing or the approved alternative opening and closing ceremonies must be used, regardless of whether or not that Grange can regularly follow the physical performance portions of these ceremonies, because at a bare minimum, these verbal recitations are necessary in order to legally conduct business as a Grange."

In short, a Grange must act like a Grange if it is to remain in good standing in the Order. Otherwise, regardless of the good it may do in the community, it becomes just another service club and cannot be considered part of our fraternity.

By now most of you know we have a new National Grange President, Chris Hamp. What's that they say? A new broom sweeps clean. Samantha Wilkins is no longer our Youth and Junior Director. On March 31, the National Junior Grange, Youth, National Grange Lecturer, and National Chaplain Facebook pages will be consolidated into the National Grange Facebook page. @ NationalGrange on Facebook is a new source of Grange news. A new program entitled New England Grange Building Youth Trustee Program, adopted January 14th, is encouraging youth (age 16-25) to apply for one of three possible positions as

Youth Trustee. Youths should seek out a letter of recommendation from their State Youth Director and submit an application and letter of interest. From the Membership Matters online meeting comes the idea that we need to help each other in times of change. Leadership coaching was touted, state leadership mentoring state leaders, especially if they listen. It was noted that the biggest need is at the subordinate level. One thought was being competitive coaches/mentors, never stop coaching, motivating people to play/work beyond their potential. And then there is time management, not burning yourself out but doing the best of your ability.

Another online meeting addressed Rural Development and Broadband and the BEAD program, Broadband Equity Access Deployment. There are maps out there indicating areas being served. The Grange can review those maps and challenge them if needs be.

How does a Host Banquet "Down the River" sound for our next National Grange Session? Several stops along the way. Information will be coming out in the first week of May.

Today, March 24th, we heard that Garry Sharon ascended to the Great Grange Above. Godspeed. It is now March 24, 2024, and Underhill Flats is quickly recovering from a snow dump of 7 inches. Snowflakes were so fine it was almost like looking through fog. Here's hoping Spring now gets the upper hand.

Take care of each other AND yourselves. Hope to see you soon as the Grange year gets busier!

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -

Submitted by: Brenda Rousselle,
Secretary

The Executive Committee met via ZOOM on March 3. Beth Morse and Debby Perry attended the first part of the meeting to give a report on the Fall Festival/Family Camp resolution passed at State Session. Discussions are being held with the committee on how to merge the two events into one. Ruth Hovey-Sicely joined the meeting to give information on what has been happening at the Grange Center with the insurance company. Work needs to be done in the kitchen to bring the stoves into compliance with requests from the insurance company. Work on the electrical system in the Winter Building and the Butler Building needs to be taken care of.

Work is continuing on the sale of Maple Valley #318's hall. The Church is no longer interested in purchasing the property. A new real estate dealer is being contacted to put the hall on the market.

Brother Joe Goodrich reported on the Masters Conference that was held in Myrtle Beach. He reported that some of the department areas are being changed over to Teams, which representatives from each Region making up the Team. He reported that the Grange Building in Washington, DC has been sold. The National Grange moved its offices to the first and second floor where they will be for the next six months. A search is continuing for permanent office space.

Information was presented that the 2025 National Convention may be held on a Carnival Cruise Ship.

The Policy Books are ready for printing. Two copies of the External Policy Book will be sent to each Grange---one for the Master and one for the Legislative Director. Two copies of the Internal Policy Book will be sent to each Grange---one for the Master and one for the Secretary.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE – JENNY NELSON

A time of renewal, a time of rebirth, a time to cast away winter blues and frustrations with the weather and move forward with gusto. The Easter season came early this year, but I imagine we were all ready for the beautiful message to fill our hearts: "For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." What a promise. What a relief. What a great sense of calmness and delight we can all take advantage of, as we count our blessings one by one.

And this summer, July 26-28 at our own VT Grange Center in Brookfield, we will have the chance to gather at our "Chapel in the pines" to worship together at a restored event following a long hiatus due to COVID. But more than that, instead of just a day's event, the program includes a family time of fellowship and fun. The Center has lots of games to offer and the Board will be cooking up a storm. Look elsewhere in the GMG for the registration form. You will see that you can come just for Saturday or come spend a couple nights in a cabin or your camper. New England and New York Granges are invited. The weekend promises to be a great time for meeting new people and finding old friends. Let Grange be an avenue for you to get back to God's great landscape and enjoy the fellowship that we have all been known to love. Please save the date, share this information, talk it up, and bring a group from your Grange for a promising fun-filled day or weekend.

LECTURER'S NOTES: ALICE DALEY, VT STATE LECTURER

I went to the GRIT session last weekend held in Bridgewater. We had a pretty good turnout. I presented my program on Flag Day that I will be presenting at the Lecturer's Conference in June. All Pomona lecturers have the info about the Conference. It is open to everyone, and you don't have to be the lecturer.

On another note, the Program Directors are meeting shortly o plan next year's program. Do you have any ideas? It might be too late this year but they can be incorporated into next year's calendar

Are you working on your contests? There isn't much time left.

EDUCATIONAL AID FUND - LOIS WAKEFIELD, CHAIR

April is the month we will be scoring scholarships. We do not know how many yet, but it is always interesting reading the students' essays.

As always, we have loans and grants available. The information is in the program book or on the website.

GRANGE CENTER – RUTH HOVER-SICELY, CHAIR

Yikes! Will someone tell Mother Nature that Spring is officially here! This is crazy the amount of snow we are getting now that Spring has arrived. With the warm temps, my snowbanks had finally started going down and now they're building back up again. This means that there's still a fair amount of snow at the Grange Center and no easy access, that is once you fight your way through the mud to arrive at the gate! Our Insurance Company made a visit to the Grange Center in February, by walking through the snow to inspect the Winter and Butler Buildings. In the Winter

Building he found open breaker slots that need to have plugs inserted. In the Butler Building it was determined that a hood with a sprinkler system needs to be installed over the stoves. The Insurance Company graciously gave us 30 days to have said hood installed.

I was able to contact someone in Newport who manufactures these hoods. He is not able to meet with me until the end of March/beginning of April. But he also tells me that it takes 14 weeks to create the hood. A notice to that effect has been forwarded to an agent with the Insurance Company and I'm awaiting notice of an extension of our policy. This particular hood costs \$2,000 a foot and I'm looking to see if I can find someone who makes them for a lesser cost. The hood construction is the first step. Then you have to have a contractor build a specific frame, where the hood is installed into. The Fire Extinguisher folks then install their piece and finally an electrician comes to wire it. Once the snow has subsided enough, we must get Rural Vermont up to the Center to conduct another down well Camera Inspection to see if a cause can be determined for why our water tests keep failing. We'll see if my personal guess that the well casing wasn't replaced to a deep enough length is true. I think they only replaced 18" or something like that. Hopefully we get everything together for a start-up that complies with all the State requirements.

Clean Up Weekends are happening on May 10-12 and May 17-19. Bring your cleaning supplies and rakes, weed whackers, chain saws, whatever kinds of tools you can think of. There are buildings to clean, gardens to clean up, trees to clean up, all kinds of things to clean and spruce up. If you come

to work, we will feed you. You can spend the weekend if you like. You might want to bring an electric heater with you to keep you warm though.

Is there anyone who can do Electrical (licensed), Plumbing, Carpentry work? If you can and these times don't work, feel free to contact Ruth to make other arrangements.

June 7-9 is our first Food Break at the Sharon Rest Area. If anyone is available to work during those times, please call or contact Ruth to let her know.

Family Camp is happening July 12-14 and the Registration Form is included with this issue of GMG. The weekend price is \$45. The 1st Annual Northeast Regional Grange Service & Family Fun Weekend will be held on July 26-28. The main event will be held on Saturday, July 27th. The Registration Form is included with this issue of GMG. The weekend price is \$55.

I hope I haven't left anything out. Oh yes, Mark Belisle is our new Property Manager. Ruth's contact information is 802-223-7961 or ruthslicely@aol.com. If you have any wonderful fund-raising ideas, I would love to hear them!

THE IMPORTANCE OF RITUAL - SUBMITTED BY ERROL BRIGGS, NATIONAL DELEGATE

As a delegate at last year's National Grange convention in New York, I served on the Grange Law and Good of the Order Committee. This committee issued a Policy Statement that was adopted by the voting delegates, and among other matters, the statement contains the following:

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used. Granges at all levels enjoy the fraternal and lodge classification under the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax code. It is vital that these ceremonies be used so no Grange jeopardizes their IRS status if they are ever audited."

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In short, a Grange must act like a Grange if it is to remain in good standing in the Order. Otherwise, regardless of the good it may do in the community, it becomes just another service club and cannot be considered part of our fraternity. Errol Briggs, Past State Master and delegate to the 156th National Convention

NORTHEAST CONNECTION – Linda Sanderson

The NE Connection met twice to finish business from National 2023. The Regional final bills have been gathered in order to be reimbursed from National. Each state talked about projects that they are working on. From getting National info to members, working on the Agriculture & Action Expo in their State, having a State House Ag Day, working with Subordinates with low membership, working on getting new members and a Statewide info day coming up. Many members have not been installed or obligated in some states. A resolution at National was passed to increase Junior dues to \$2 a year.

Our Northeast region is the only region that has 2 delegates per state, all the other regions have at least one state that has only one delegate. At the end of March, the National TEAMS will be taking over most of the Departments. This is being done in all departments coming from National. There was a lively discussion on the National Grange and states choosing places and dates for their State Session.

Northeast Connection elections are as follows: President-Corey Spence-MA, VP-Ted Powell-CT, (these 2 officers are for one year) Sec.-Chris Szkutak-MA and Treasurer-Jody Cameron-CT. (5-year term) For the next 3 years fundraising will be the major focus for the committee.

Noel Miller gave a lengthy report of what happened in the building last year. Most days were covered by volunteers and about \$32,000 was brought in but after bills only \$11,000 was profit. The building hosted the National Grange Covid/flu tent right outside of the building. Around 3,000 vaccinations were given during the 17-day fair. There were problems with the National partnering with the broadband company. If you have any questions about the building contact Kendal Holden, Eunice Crowell or Linda Sanderson or if you would like to volunteer contact Noel at millernoel434@gmail.com 860-742-8839, most weekdays are still open for volunteering.

AG AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT- JENNY NELSON, DIRECTOR

Bill and I just sent in our Hoard's Dairymen magazine Cattle Judging Contest entries. The covers of the last several issues had photos of the five breeds - Jersey, Guernsey, Holstein, Brown Swiss, and Ayrshire. Believe it or

not, we both picked the same cow for the superior one of all breeds, but after that we didn't match up on very many with 4 cows in each category!

Now that we no longer milk cows, I really look forward to the heifers coming up around our house to pasture each summer. It's quiet up here though we are only a tenth of a mile away. We still read several farm magazines and I actually wrote for Hoards in the 90's as their food editor. It was like visiting farm families all over the country and there were actually subscribers around the world. I remember serving Maple Sticky Buns to the Editor- Steve Larson- when he came out to interview me! My pages always highlighted the use of dairy products- real dairy products- with simple and more complex recipes and ingredients that you have in your cupboard or frig. I was dependent on cookbook promotions or the Dairy Council for pictures! Back in those days, I used my typewriter and faxed everything to Wisconsin.

I attended a legislative breakfast in St. Johnsbury, and it sounds like there will be lots to listen for at the Grange Legislative Day. Crossover is done, the opposite body now has to act on each bill before adjournment. Bills from the House Ag included funding for the "tree group"- apples, grapes, etc. that were hurt by the late frost last spring, H.663 Outdoor Recreation accessibility, H. 550 increasing school food and local veggies, etc. and an Ag Misc. bill that included no fee for in-person chemical spraying licenses were mentioned. Paying for new programs or no longer financed by federal monies comes at the end of the line in Senate Finance, while first the House Ways and Means has to figure out how to pay and Senate Appropriations decides what to spend. My '97-'98 term in the Legislature gave me

real experience learning that nothing is black and white. I also can appreciate that there are many decisions that can have unintended consequences, if testimony is limited or Vermont citizens aren't testifying at the table along with the lobbyists. Do your part; you can call or write your legislators.

COMMUNITY SERVICE – DEBORAH PLOOF, DIRECTOR

I just drove 1500 miles from Florida to Vermont and enjoyed seeing the trees and flowers in bloom in the southern USA, but really felt blessed when I saw our soft rolling green mountains as I traveled north in Vermont. In Florida, you are lucky if you can find a hill that isn't man-made! The fresh fruit we normally enjoy in Florida was not great this year due to colder than usual weather. Land once covered by orange groves is now covered with housing projects and traffic reflects the rise in numbers of people living in Florida. I am happy to be back in Vermont and have a traffic jam caused by a farm implement traveling on the roadway because I am glad, we can support the local farmer. Please review the suggestions in the program book for Community Service projects and see if any projects can be done by your Grange in your area. Start writing up your program reports so you won't have so much to complete in late June to submit your reports. I need all the Granges to submit a book for National to receive the award money for the winners so please plan on submitting a separate book for Community Service judging due at Family Camp in July/

FAMILY ACTIVITIES - LINDA SANDERSON, DIRECTOR

Last fall and this first quarter of 2024 my family had health

concerns, so I have not produced my FA quarterly notes. I am trying to get the second quarter out. Try to finish up any projects you have started so they can be handed in at Family Camp in July. I am hoping for more entries this year but it seems like the younger generation (in all of New England) have not taken up the crafts that the older population was doing (needle crafts mostly), and National Grange has dropped all contest, and they want each State to judge their own.

HEALTH CORNER - ALICE DALEY, DIRECTOR

I went to the GRIT session this past weekend. There was a good turnout and heard from lots of Grangers.

The Program Directors are meeting next week to plan the new calendar. Do you have any ideas? I might not get them in the book this year but can include it for the following year.

Are you working on your report for the Community Service book? Remember you need to report on 6 different topics.

INFORMATION – LOIS ALLEN, DIRECTOR

It is almost time for the various chairmen to get together and make up the new program book. Any ideas? Let me know. I am still keeping track of what Granges send in information for the Monthly Calendar. This should be items that you are having at your Grange like dances, craft shows, bingo, cribbage, Grange meeting dates, celebrations, parties, etc. Things you want other Grange members to attend (and maybe spend money at) Remember that the deadline is the 27th of each month. Reason? I have 15 snail mail people and need to get that information out to them as soon as I can. You all know how fast the mail is these days... I have decided to start a new category.

The speediest in sending in their information each month. So, there will be three categories now. Most consistent, the most items and the speediest.

LEGISLATIVE – KATHLEEN PAGLIA, DIRECTOR

Happy Spring! March in Vermont is always an experience. My Grandparents' always said March was either "in like a lion, out like a lamb or, in like a lamb out like a lion", clearly this year was the later and here we are awaiting the April showers.

We are fully in crossover week, March 29th is the deadline for House committee's final approval of legislation to have hopes of seeing movement this session. H. 706 was read for a third time in the House on March 22nd and passed. This is a bill banning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides. Treated seed under this legislation will be banned effective 2029. The House has also passed S. 18 which bans the sale of flavored tobacco products.

The National Grange Legislative Fly-in was informative as usual. If you didn't get to see it at the time the recording is available on the National Grange You-Tube channel. You can access this on the National Grange website under the Events tab at the top of the page, scroll down to Legislative Fly-In 2024 and click on the video, this part of the website isn't password protected so feel free to direct friends and neighbors who are non-Grangers to have a look. In her welcoming statement, National Grange President Chris Hamp spoke of her 30,000-foot view for the Grange moving forward which includes "making our Grange stronger tomorrow than we are today". She also pointed out that "our communities, neighbors and America needs the Grange". We are relevant, our grassroots advocacy continues to be needed

and we make a difference through our actions and partnerships. The vaccination grant and access provided 3,500 vaccinations at the Big E over a 2-week period. The Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors has been presented to 15,000 people. We have been committed to increasing rural broadband access for the last 2 decades and will continue until there is access to the last mile. As we move into Grange month, we can use this time to share this and other information with our neighbors and communities, illustrating that we are more than a group that meets down the road and has suppers now and again. Both Representative Thompson and Senator Stabenow spoke of the work on the Farm Bill. Both spoke of the need for a strong, bipartisan Farm Bill, also that over 100 current members of Congress have never worked on a Farm Bill so there has been and continues to be a lot of education needed and given regarding the Bill and its huge implications and need. OF the 12 Titles in the Farm Bill, 4 Titles account for 99% of the mandatory outlays: Nutrition accounts for 76% of these, crop insurance, commodity programs and conservation account for the remaining 23%.

Legislative Day is being scheduled for April 9th, despite it being the day after the eclipse I hope hear back positively from the offices that don't seem to respond to requests until the last minute.

FALL FESTIVAL - BETH MORSE. DIRECTOR

A fall festival, also known as a harvest festival, is a community event that commemorates the harvest season and the abundance of crops. Its purpose is to bring people together to enjoy the beauty of the season and to appreciate the bountiful harvest that nature provides.

This year we would like to celebrate your accomplishments. So, we are looking for ideas and suggestions for activities at Fall Festival. Please consider sending in this short survey to Beth Morse (morbe8@live.com or 92 Happy Valley Rd, Middlebury, VT 05753).

- 1.) What evening activities would you like to see?
- 2.) Is there a game or activity that you would like to try but have never had enough people to do it with? If so which one?
- 3.) Would you like to see a presentation on a particular topic (What topic)?
- 4.) Are crafts your thing? Would you like to learn or re-learn a quick, fun craft?
- 5.) Are you looking for more physical type activities? If so, what are they?
- 6.) Is there anything that you would like to see or do at Fall Festival?
- 7.) Is cooking your thing? Should we change the baking contest to a cooking contest?

All answers will be considered by the Fall Festival Committee and would be greatly appreciated.

FAMILY CAMP JULY 12-14, 2024

Come and have a fun time at Family Camp at the VT State Grange Center at 308 West Street in Brookfield, VT on July 12-14. Activities outside – Frying Pan Toss, Rolling Pin Toss. You do NOT have to be a Granger to attend. By Noon on Saturday all Lecturer's Contest entries and Family Activities Needlework Entries as well as entries in Cooking/Baking Contest using Cabot Cheese. National Community Service Books and State Notebooks are also due. Details in 2023-2024 Program Book on these contests. Your Master/President has a copy of program book and it is also at <https://www.vtstategrange.org/>.

YOUTH AN YOUNG ADULTS - JESSICA FALKER, DIRECTOR

There are several things in the works that are not quite finalized by the deadline for this article but mark your calendars! There will be a Regional Youth Conference in New York on July 19th-21st, and a Vermont State Youth Conference on September 8th. More details will be published as they become available on the "Vermont State Grange Youth" Facebook page and the "Vermont_Gränge_Youth" Instagram. Thank you to the Granges who have already sent me their lists of Youth members. If you haven't done so already, please send names and dates of birth for members age 14-30 to JJEM1999@yahoo.com or mail to 72 Alfred Buck Ln, Pittsford, VT 05763. If you have no members age 14-30 please just let me know.

HEART OF VERMONT

POMONA - On February 3rd, Heart of Vermont Pomona met with Upper Valley Grange. Due to the takeover and renovation of the Upper Valley Grange Hall, we met at the Saint Barnabas Church Parish Hall. Impromptu stations were used, but all worked well. The program was the Youth Program. The State youth chairman was invited to attend, but she was out of the country and could not come. Lois Wakefield, Youth Chairman of the Pomona read "Comments made in 1957". It was funny. Then she had a roll call asking members to say where they would most like to go and why. The rest of the program was a trip to Montshire Museum where we interacted with all sorts of young people and science things. We played with the machine I call the Rube Goldberg machine, we made tornadoes, made bubbles of all

sizes, played with wind currents with a ball and later wind currents with pieces of fabric. Ae also got to solve hand puzzles and Rubik cubes and made sandstorms. We all had a wonderful time. Lois Allen has lots of pictures if anyone is interested. Next meeting will be at Riverside Grange in West Topsham on April 6. Program will be Legislative & Family Activities. At this meeting all are urged to bring food for the New Hope Food Pantry which is housed at the Riverside Grange Hall. Also... There will be a special meeting in May for our 5th degree and fun day. Fun day starts at 10AM and will be another role-playing murder mystery (A Knight of Murder), the Medieval Feast at noonish and the 5th degree at 2PM. This will be held at Tunbridge Grange Hall.

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY

POMONA GRANGE is working on updating their by-laws and Mission Statement. Their next meeting is April 8th via Zoom. Contact me if you are interested in joining us and I will send you the link. Deborah Ploof, Master Deborah.ploof@outlook.com

BLUE SPRUCE GRANGE

#574 - As I write this, it is snowing and sticking. It is pretty on the tree branches, I'm ready for a real spring. I want the doors and windows wide open. We are taking it a little easy this winter. We met recently to make 60 kits for walker bags. We are taking them to Bridgewater to help them sew them up. Meanwhile, we will be exemplifying the First degree again in April. We had our state reps come in and answer our questions. Then the local select board came in and it was an interesting evening. Our first meeting in April will be on the 12th. As always, everyone is always invited. If you have any questions, email me

at ADodds0322@gmail.com.
Fraternally, Alice Daley, Master
Blue Spruce



Blue Spruce held an Easter
Parade with homemade Easter
Bonnets

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE -

We have been very busy this month getting ready for the Chili Taste Off next month. Teresa is making t-shirts to sell for Taste Off. That in itself is quite a talent. We have had two families use our hall for Birthdays this month. We had Bingo on the 9th and one of our members made pulled pork sliders for the concession. We are having Bingo on the 23rd, not sure what to make for it. We had a GRIT SESSION at our hall on Saturday the 16th. I am so glad I went. I learned so much that I wasn't aware of.

We will be having Bingo two times in April, the 6th and the 20. On the 14th will be our CHILI TASTE OFF. Anyone can bring their favorite Chili and have it judged. We will be having games and live music, but not sure who yet. On the 28th of April we will have our "Sew and Chat" session and sew 60 wheelchair and walker bags, starting at 10:00. Anyone that has a sewing machine or just wants to help is welcome. Bridgewater Grange meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7:30 P.M. I also forgot to mention that we got our handwashing station set up and working. That is a Plus. Laura Robinson, reporting

CAPITAL CITY GRANGE: We have interesting meetings coming up!

April 6: We'll have a 30-minute informal meeting starting at 4:30, then from 5:00 to 6:00 we'll present a **Community Program**, as we do in even-numbered months. This month, Lecturer Carl Etnier will introduce **David Van Deusen**, former AFL-CIO of VT President, to talk about his upcoming book, *Insurgent Labor*. This book chronicles the changes that he and a slate of progressive candidates made in the VT AFL-CIO

organization. This includes expanding union democracy into the rank and file, away from single individuals. We'll have time for questions and discussion. And it will be followed by our monthly potluck!

May 4: In addition to a full Grange meeting from 4:30 to 6:00, we'll have the **Cooking Contest**, with local "celebrity judges"! For our Grange judging, we're happy to accept entries made with Cabot cheese, and also non-dairy cheeses or goat/sheep milk cheeses, as a way of including folks who can't digest cow's milk cheese! Once again, it will be followed by our monthly potluck.

June 1: We'll have a 30-minute informal meeting, starting at 4:30, and at 5:00 we'll do our annual **Grange Sing-Along!** Musician Matt Nunnally will lead songs--and as always, you don't have to sing well, but you do need to sing LOUD! Folk songs, musical songs, show tunes--bring the music if it's not in our song-sheets already. And guess what--a potluck afterward.

April 14: We'll also have one more **Dance, Sing & Jump Around** event on April 14 from 3 to 4:30, the last of our season. Bring a kid, and join us for play-party games, songs and dances for all ages, all taught by

Liz Benjamin (and Stan Carlson's famous Snake Dance too). Free for kids! \$5 donation requested from adults, no one turned away. Our **Kids Trade & Play** clothing exchange continues on 2nd Saturdays, every month: April 13, May 11 and June 8 from 9:30 to 11:30 AM in these upcoming months. Join 100+ kids, parents, grandparents to look for clean, inspected, high quality clothes, and take all you can use. We ask a \$5 donation *per family* if you've got it--no one ever turned away. Mark your calendars for our annual outdoor *barbecue potluck dinner*, on August 3rd! Tim Swartz, President

MARBLE VALLEY GRANGE

has formed a team called the Grange Gallopers to participate at the Relay for Life on June 1st at the Vermont State Fairgrounds in Rutland. Relay for Life raises funds and awareness for the American Cancer Society and honors all survivors as well as those we have lost to cancer. All Grange members are invited to join our team and anyone who joins by May 1st will receive a free Grange Gallopers t-shirt. You don't have to gallop to participate. We also need help with our booth at the event and with fundraising. Email JJEM1999@yahoo.com to join our team. Jessica Falker, reporting.

MIDDLE BRANCH GRANGE

met officially for the first time since the fire on March 15 at the American Legion in Randolph. This is where we plan to meet for the foreseeable future. We also voted on a temporary schedule of one meeting per month rotating between the third Friday and the third Sunday. Our next meeting will be April 21. It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our sister Dale Williams. Dale was a 50+ year member of Middle Branch. During

that time, she held several offices including Jr. Leader and served on many committees. We could always count on Dale for dessert pies or chicken pies or whatever was needed. She will be missed by her family, her Grange family, and her community.

We received a grant from the VT Historic Preservation Trust that will cover the majority of the cost for a structural engineer and architect to examine the hall. We also applied for the VT AARP Community Challenge grant and the Philip Levesque Memorial Community Award, announcements are expected in May. Fundraising efforts are in full swing: Easter bake sale on March 30 in the Grange parking lot, Annual Dues Paid supper at the White Church in Bethel on April 27, lunch for 4-H Dairy Show on July 20 and tentative plans for a chicken BBQ and outdoor concert this summer. Donations can be made in the following ways:

- Mail donations to: Middle Branch Grange, PO Box 296, Bethel, VT 05032
- Visit any Mascoma Bank location and ask to donate to the Middle Branch Grange fire donation account.
- Zeffy online donations which gives us 100% of everything donated.

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/0214772c-44d9-4f5f-9d15-6ebcf6077957>

If anyone knows how to get this information to the National Grange, please let us know. Rebuilding or building a new hall will be a huge undertaking and we will need the support from Granges nationwide. Several members have been going through the kitchen at the hall to see what can be salvaged. Master Jillian Dean is having our charter professionally restored, even the frame can be saved. Secretary Abbie Williams would like to remind everyone that your dues

are due. Feel free to mail them to our new post office box! Judy Powell
Lecturer

RIVERSIDE GRANGE has been very busy! Every third Friday of the month, Riverside Grange hosts a community potluck dinner. There are usually 28-40 people in attendance. After the Annual Pound Auction in December, we keep our meetings lively. In the winter months, the lecturer has a visitor do an educational meeting during/after dinner. We have had someone speak on vehicle maintenance for the winter, had a lovely guest speaker about timber harvesting and forestry. In March we had a 3-part Spring Garden series on Potluck night with various speakers talking about spring gardening with lots of ideas and tips. We are lucky enough to be involved with the local Boy Scout troop and several of the boys have chosen the Riverside Grange as the recipient of their Eagle Scout projects. We are hoping to have an outdoor pavilion with picnic tables in place by summer to host outdoor events. The Grange hosts the local foodbank in the basement and has used funds to install a downstairs handicap accessible door. We are also gearing up to hold a Veterans Motorcycle Ride in the area and providing lunch for them. The Grange will also be partnering up with Boy Scout Troop 727 again to provide a large luncheon for a group of dirt bikers for their annual ride, which is our biggest fundraiser. With the help of all the Grange members, the Riverside Grange is committed to keeping an open community based Grange and we welcome all new members. Our meetings are packed with smiles, jokes, and goodwill. Come visit anytime at 4 Batten Road West Topsham VT (That 3rd Friday @ 6:30pm potluck is usually the

tastiest time to visit!) Naomi Tilton,
Lecturer

FAMILY CAMP MEAL & LODGING REGISTRATION FORM JULY 12-14, 2024

Friday night – Potluck (Bring something good to share with everyone)

Saturday

- Breakfast 7-8 am (\$7) Pancakes, Sausage, Syrup, Fruit, Coffee & Juice
- Lunch 12-1 pm (\$12) Choose 2 Meats, 2 Sides, Chips, Dessert & Drink (Hamburger, Cheeseburger, Hotdog, Macaroni Salad, Potato Salad, Chips, Watermelon & Drink)
- Dinner – 5:30 pm (\$15) Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Peas & Carrots, Coleslaw, Garlic Bread, Brownies & Ice Cream

Sunday – 7 am (\$7) Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Toast, Coffee & Juice

Allergic to Any Foods? _____ Are you Vegetarian? _____ # people? _____

Meals

_____ # people Friday Potluck (bring a dish)

_____ # people Sat Breakfast (\$7 each)

_____ # people Sat Lunch (\$12 each)

_____ # people Sat Supper (\$15 each)

_____ # people Sun Breakfast (\$7 each)

Lodging

_____ # nights for Camper Hook-Up (\$10 each night)

_____ # people Friday night (\$5 each)

_____ # people Sat night (\$5 each)

_____ # people Package (\$45 each)

Name(s) _____

Address & Phone # of Contact Person: _____

Come spend the day or weekend with friends and have fun. Mail form back to Ruth Hovey-Sicely at 270 Eagle Ledge Road, Worcester, VT 05682 for reservations by June 21st, or call 802-223-7961. Make checks payable to VT State Grange, Inc and put Family Camp on the memo line.

1ST ANNUAL NORTHEAST REGIONAL GRANGE SERVICE & FAMILY FUN WEEKEND

July 26-28, 2024

Come and have a fun time at the 1st Annual Northeast Regional Grange Service & Family Fun Weekend, being held at the VT State Grange Center at 308 West Street in Brookfield, VT on July 26-28. The main events will be held on Saturday, July 27, but overnight lodging and meals are available if you choose to stay over.

MEAL & LODGING REGISTRATION FORM

JULY 26-28, 2024

Friday night – 6 pm Shepherd's Pie (\$15), Tossed Salad, Cottage Cheese, Rolls, Cake

Saturday

- Breakfast 7-8 am (\$7) Pancakes, Sausage, Syrup, Fruit, Coffee & Juice
- Lunch 12-1 pm (\$12) Choose 2 Meats, 2 Sides, Chips, Dessert & Drink (Hamburger, Cheeseburger, Hotdog, Macaroni Salad, Potato Salad, Chips, Watermelon & Drink)
- Dinner – 5:30 pm (\$15) Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Cake

Sunday – 7 am (\$7) Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Toast, Coffee & Juice

Allergic to Any Foods? _____ Are you Vegetarian? _____ How many people? _____

Meals

_____ # people Friday Supper (\$15)

_____ # people Sat Breakfast (\$7 each)

_____ # people Sat Lunch (\$12 each)

_____ # people Sat Supper (\$15 each)

_____ # people Sun Breakfast (\$7 each)

Lodging

_____ # nights for Camper Hook-Up (\$10 each night)

_____ # people Friday night (\$5 each)

_____ # people Sat night (\$5 each)

_____ # people Package (\$55 each)

Name(s) _____

Address & Phone # of Contact Person: _____

Come spend the day or weekend with friends and have fun. Mail form back to Ruth Hovey-Sicely at 270 Eagle Ledge Road, Worcester, VT 05682 for reservations by July 8th, or call 802-223-7961. Make checks payable to VT State Grange, Inc and put Go To Church on the memo line.

ADS

Blue Spruce Grange is looking for a picture of each Vermont Grange's favorite Community Activity (i.e. parades, bingo, dinners, etc.) with a short caption. A montage of these pics will be presented at the Champlain Valley Fair this fall. Help us show how the Grange is United in our Communities! Send pictures with captions to: Jerome Mendicino, 141 Barber Farm Road, Jericho, VT 05465 E-mail: applecart2010@gmail.com
Phone: 802-878-6442

June 7-9 is the Sharon Rest Area dates. This is a correction of dates from the Program Book

Is anyone in the Grange a Carpenter, Plumber or Licensed Electrician? If so please contact Ruth Hovey-Sicely at ruthsicely@aol.com or 802-223-7961

Beginning with the June, 2024 GMG edition, the VSG Chaplain, Jenny Nelson, would like to list those members that have passed to the Great Grange above. Please send her the names of your members who have passed, along with your Grange's name and number. Sample:

Martha DiMaggio

Blue Spruce Grange #574

Send the information to: Jenny Nelson E-mail: jnelson@fairpoint.net

Mail to: Jenny Nelson,

PO Box 346

East Ryegate, VT 05042

Blue Spruce Grange in Essex Junction will be setting up a table at the Champlain Valley Expo in August. The table is going to be used to highlight some of the many Community Service Projects Grangers have worked on (past and present). For example: lap robes, knitted items for the homeless, preparing and serving meals. Please send a picture or two (with a project description) to me at my address or you can e-mail it to me. We will be acknowledging where each project came from.

Thanks. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Janice M Rousselle

394 River Road

Colchester, VT 05446

Bubbahide1@yahoo.com

JUNIOR AND YOUTH GRANGE CAMP 2024

308 WEST ST, BROOKFIELD, VT 05036
VERMONT GRANGE CENTER

AMERICA DAY - SPORTS DAY - COMMUNITY DAY
CARNIVAL DAY - MUSIC DAY

JULY 14 - 19TH SLEEPAWAY CAMP, AGES 5-17
\$100 INCLUDES CABIN LODGING, MEALS, AND
ACTIVITIES



FOR QUESTIONS: 802-483-4330 OR MFALKER03@GMAIL.COM