



MASTER'S REPORT – Kendal Holden, VSG

By the time you read this Spring will have sprung and newness of life will soon be bursting at the seams. The calendar is filling up, in most cases, and planned events are coming thick and fast. You may have heard by now that this year's Leadership Conference is not happening. We are now looking toward next year's conference to be held in Maine. **The two GRIT Workshops are happening, April 22nd at Bomoseen Grange, and April 29th at Bridgewater Grange. These are workshops that your state session delegates viewed as necessary for the training of our Grange leadership. We hope to see you there!**

On March 5th Capitol City Grange #469 celebrated the installation of its new lift which enables physically challenged individuals to access the lower level, the main floor, and the stage. Through grants, loans, and partnerships, this Grange has made its hall an accessible building which is being sought out by individuals, groups, and the community, thereby making Capitol City Grange well known and fully utilized. I congratulate them on their endeavors and applaud their continuing work on the betterment of their building. Well done, good and faithful Servants!

Earlier this year we had a message from Brian Cain of the Capitol Plaza that room rates

were going up between \$200.00 and \$300.00 at the direction of the Hilton with which they are now affiliated. The Executive Committee and I have been scouring the state for other State Grange Session venues, but most are expensive and don't have the days available we need.

There is an American Legion Hall in Middlebury which can handle the meeting rooms we need, and a caterer out of Addison County that can feed us. Meals will be catered by Pratts. A final price has not been confirmed, but I assure you the prices will be far more reasonable than those we encountered in our quest. At this point you need to know that the Executive Committee has voted to use the Middlebury American Legion Hall. The dates of the session are Oct. 27th, 28th, and 29th. Each Granger will have to secure their own lodging, as we can use that hall for two days. The Courtyard by Marriott in Middlebury has rooms available as does the Middlebury Sweets Motel AND Middlebury Inn. Should you request reservations at the Courtyard, mention that you are with the "Vermont State Grange Room Block" group. Rooms are \$189.00 per room plus tax. As more venues become more expensive and less available, we may need to change the time of year and try new locations, and, perhaps, change the structure of our State

Grange Sessions. If we are to thrive, we need to adapt. April is Grange Month, and the Patrons Chain has information, ideas, and materials to help spread the word about Grange, its activities, programs, and benefits. Use this opportunity to make our presence known. Here's hoping you have a happy and healthy Spring!!

BIDS NEEDED for SIXTH DEGREE and AWARDS BANQUET

The VSG Executive Committee in an effort to reduce expenses and reduce time spent at the annual state session has voted to have the degree and banquet in a Grange building in Vermont. The following are the requirements for submitting a bid:

1. A Grange Hall that can accommodate (large enough) the Sixth Degree.
2. The Hall needs to have a stage with stairs up to the stage in the front. They need to be safe. The stage needs to have a curtain and a way to open/close it.
3. It must be possible to darken the Hall, as much as possible.
4. We have to know if there is a tuned piano or if Lester Gibbs, VSG Musician, needs to bring his keyboard. And if so, need a place to plug into power.
5. The Hall needs to be available several hours before start same day or the day before to give Flora time to set up her stage.

6. We want a dinner--or depending on the timing--a lunch that is served. The hosting Grange will keep the money for the meal. Reservation will be encouraged.
7. Preferred date is in September or early October.
8. Bids should include:
 - a. Date and time
 - b. Menu and Price
 - c. Piano and/or power
9. Bids being accepted until June 1st, 2023 in order for plans to be made and members notified.

RESERVATIONS FOR VERMONT STATE GRANGE ANNUAL SESSION

Since the Sixth Degree is not being held at state session, it is expected that the session will conclude before 6 pm on Saturday, October 28th so may only need a Thursday and Friday night reservation depending on where you are coming from. **Make your reservations early as there are limited rooms in the Middlebury area.**

- Courtyard Marriott in Middlebury has set aside 10 rooms (discounted rate) which can sleep 2-4 per room and cost is \$189/room before taxes. ALL reservations will be made by individual call-ins. You will be required to leave a credit card or a deposit to guarantee your reservation. Marriott

accepts all major credit cards. PLEASE PHONE THE HOTEL DIRECTLY (802) 388-7600 OR TOLL-FREE AT (800) 388-7775 WHEN MAKING RESERVATIONS. When calling to make reservations, please mention that you are with the "Vermont State Grange Room Block "group.

- Middlebury Sweets 802-388-4935 This is a little motel very close to American Legion and right on Rt 7 South. Very few rooms but each has a candy theme!
- Middlebury Inn 802-388-6819 is also on Rt 7 in downtown Middlebury less than a mile away. Call them directly or use a web booking site for better prices.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE - Jenny Nelson, VSG

With spring comes newness, fresh starts, a chance to encounter an amazing God with instructions for us, if we just listen. When God appeared in the transformation, He said, "This is my Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him." Think of the hymn, "Take Time to be Holy, the world rushes on. Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone..." Did you notice how warm that sunshine feels on your face? Did you notice how happy your heart feels when you do something for another person? Did you ever think that might be God's spirit touching you? How powerful is that! When we enter our Grange Halls, do we feel happy? Do we

feel appreciative of the members who speak to us, smile across the room to us, and listen intently as we share our thoughts? Do we openly support one another? And are we eager to do our part when the Community Service chairman asks for volunteers, and we know how important it is to give back to our communities? Many hands make light work.

I close with the Benediction from the Installation of Officers' ritual: May our Father and God, the bounteous Benefactor of all beings, Who has filled the earth with His goodness and crowned its season with continually renewed beauty, fill our souls with His love, that every good word and work may be blessed with abundant harvests of joy and peace. Amen, and Amen.

LECTURER - Alice Daley, VSG

A Zoom was held this past week where we talked about some new contests for the program book. I love some of the new ideas for the contests. Have you read your 12 books, either by yourself or a combination of several readers from the same grange. Remember you can always email your book reports to me any time. I have a special folder for them.

As always you can contact me by email at adodds0322@gmail.com. If you would rather call, my number is 802-999-7025. Leave a message as my phone doesn't recognize numbers not in my contact list. We will be meeting on April 8 to finalize the book for next year.

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - Brenda Rousselle, Secretary

The Executive Committee has met twice since January. Discussions were held on confirming a location and date for State Session in October. Several hotels/conference areas were contacted for availability and pricing. A motion was made and seconded and passed to hold the 2023 State Session at the American Legion Hall in Middlebury October 27 & 28, 2023. More information will be forthcoming.

As per our normal schedule, the Sixth Degree was to be offered during State Session. It will not be possible to present the Sixth Degree at State Session, due to the lack of sufficient space. A request will be coming out to hold the Sixth Degree prior to State Session at a Grange Hall. As is our usual practice, individual Subordinate Grange discussions were held. The process to sell the Maple Valley #318 hall is progressing. All paperwork has been completed and submitted for the sale of the Milton Grange Hall.

An update was given on the two G.R.I.T. (Grange Resource & Information Training) sessions that will be held on April 22 and April 29. The first one at Bomoseen Grange and the second one at Bridgewater Grange.

Linda Sanderson and Brenda Rousselle travelled to Niagara Falls for a site visit of the hotel and convention center that have been confirmed for the National Session in November. The hotel is right across the street from the Convention Center.

Due to the difficulty of location a hotel/convention center for the NE Leaders Conference, it has been cancelled for 2023. A report was given on the progress being made at the Grange Center for the repair of

the well/pit system, a new sink required for the kitchen area and repairs on the chimney in the Butler Building. The next meeting is scheduled for April.

**NATIONAL CONVENTION,
SHERATON AT THE
FALLS, NIAGARA FALLS,
NY, NOV. 14-18, 2023 -
Linda Sanderson, Vermont
coordinator**

The Regional Host Committee (1 or 2 Grangers from each State in our Northeast Region) which is New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island will be having zoom meetings once a month from now on. We've been told by Pete Pompper (National Grange liaison) that we are well ahead of the other Regions when planning. Vermont could still use 2 Grangers (sharing one room) to help with Vermont's hosting day which is Saturday Nov. 18th. You would assist in the Hospitality room with the Regions Co-chairs Brenda & Janice Rousselle and at the registration desk where Ann Yandow is Chair. If you would like to volunteer let me know. You would travel west on Friday, Nov 17th, volunteer on Saturday, Nov 18th and travel back east on Sunday, Nov 19th. I would need to know by May 26th so the Region can finalize the number of hotel rooms needed.

The Region is still looking for 2 male & 2 female candidates. The region would pay for your hotel room Fri. Nov. 17 & 18 and you will probably be sharing a room with same sex Granger. 5 Trumpet girls are also needed, and these rooms would be Wed-Sat. Nov 15-17 also paid by the Region. I am

sure VT would pay mileage also. We just learned that we can provide bagged homemade baked goods to serve in the Hospitality room at the Sheraton in Niagara Falls. If anyone has any questions, please call me (802-999-3510) or email me at VTLVS54@gmail.com

**AGRICULTURE/ENVIRONM
ENT – Jenny Nelson,
Director**

According to Sec. of Ag, Food, and Markets, Anson Tebbetts, "the agriculture community continues to advocate for a major initiative in the Governor's budget that would make significant investments in produce, meat, and maple. We have presented this proposal to lawmakers as they deliberate the budget. This one-time \$10 million dollar appropriation will allocate funding to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets to provide competitively awarded grants. This support will be directed toward small and mid-sized agricultural producers and value-added processors in the meat, produce, and maple sectors, which remain under-resourced or ineligible for most currently available programs. At the same time, these industries are poised for growth and add diversity to Vermont's agricultural landscape and economy. The Governor has proposed investing \$4 million dollars in the Working Lands (successful) program. We believe it is critical to continue to invest in those who make their living off the land, on the farm, or in the forest. This initiative, working in tandem with funding for the meat, produce, and maple sectors, deliver a total investment of \$14 million

dollars for growing the agriculture economy.”

I hope your Grange will take time to update yourselves. Call your legislator and find out how they feel about supporting Vermont agriculture and forestry. My Dad used to say, “it takes money to make money” and I dare say it takes farmers and foresters to feed and house us as well.

I end with this BrainyQuote:

“We don't even know how strong we are until we are forced to bring that hidden strength forward. In times of tragedy, of war, of necessity, people do amazing things. The human capacity for survival and renewal is awesome.”

It is something to think about as we look at Vermont's natural and renewable resources and our changing climate, and, as stalwart Vermonters, we choose to do the right thing for the future.

COMMUNITY SERVICE – Deborah Ploof, Director

We need socks! Big socks, little socks, all colors and sizes! The National Grange meeting is being held in Niagara Falls in November of this year and the Community Service project for this year's session is SOCKS! I will be collecting them at all state sponsored events starting after July 1. There will be points earned for your Grange as described in the new Program Book coming out in June of 2023 but you can start collecting them now. Put a pair of socks on your shopping list from now till VSG convention on October 27 & 28 and you can build up a stash to deliver to me then. I am volunteering at National Session so have a car to fill with socks!

If you have any suggestions for Community Service projects, please let me know. Phone

number is 802-989-3237 and email is

deborah.ploof@outlook.com.

Please put Grange in your subject line.

EDUCATIONAL AID - Lois Wakefield, Chairman

By the time you read this we should be working on scholarship applications. More on this next time. We still have scholarships, loans and grants available. Think spring! My phone number is wrong in the directory. If you need to call me, it is 802-728-9892.

FALL FESTIVAL – Beth Morse, Director

I am excited to announce that I have been appointed as the Director for Fall Festival. On March 6th I met with the Fall Festival committee to discuss ideas for the festival, the program book and creating a web page on the Vermont State Grange website. We plan to meet once a month to ensure that all three projects are completed successfully. We have come up with new outdoor games such as pumpkin tic tack toe, pumpkin ring toss, etc. Don't worry, the frying pan toss and rolling pin toss is still on the list of outdoor activities. You can also commemorate the day by using the selfie photo booth. For indoor activities we will be bringing back the cribbage contest and the checkers' contest.

The Fall Festival pages of the Program Book are being re-vamped and updated this year. Old content as well as some new will have a completely new look this year. Be sure to read it carefully.

The Fall Festival webpage will contain information from the Program Book, i.e. the entry form, contests and their rules,

etc. We would like to add a photo gallery of Fall Festival pictures as well (pics of projects entered, veggies and games played). You can send them to me at morbe8@live.com or mail to Beth Morse 92 Happy Valley Rd Middlebury, VT 05753. Any physical pictures will be returned once copied. If you have pics of someone other than yourself, please get permission from them to post on our website.

We are looking for more suggestions, ideas and recommendations for the festival, program book and webpage. You can send them to me at morbe8@live.com or mail to Beth Morse 92 Happy Valley Rd Middlebury, VT 05753.

As we look at all the activities that will be going on from Friday evening to Sunday we are in great need of additional people to perform certain tasks. Below is a list of areas that are in the most need:

- Checking in Entries (Friday evening and Saturday morning)
- Manning of Check in table
- Indoor games attendant
- Outdoor games attendants
- Auctioneer and runners

If you believe that you can be of support in any of these areas/activities, even for a limited time, please contact Beth Morse at 802-388-2653.

Any aid will be greatly appreciated. This is also to ensure that even the Fall Festival Committee can participate in the games. With spring in the air as you start to think about spring cleaning and what you do not need any more consider donating any nick knacks, books, craft project kits (not used), etc. for door prizes and game prizes. They can be brought to the Grange Center at

any of the Grange Sponsored activities (i.e., Rest Areas, or Family Camp).

GRANGE CENTER - Ruth Hovey-Sicely, Chair

What a winter we have been having! We have been getting our snow by the feet instead of by the steady diet of inches, alternated by very warm temperatures. I wonder what our actual Spring will be like. How deep will the mud go? Your Grange Center Board has been busy having meetings by zoom and working on revising our Standard Operating Procedures and will be looking at our By-Laws with suggested Amendments proposed by the VSG Executive Committee. We're applying for the Licenses to run the Camp and making plans to get ready to open in the Spring. Each Pomona is designing a Basket to be raffled off on Saturday, September 9th during Fall Festival. The Assistant Stewards who are in charge of organizing Family Camp activities, have asked the Grange Center Board to serve the meals during the weekend. The cost to spend the weekend will be \$40. The rising cost of food has forced us to raise our overall prices, unfortunately. As usual there will be a la carte food available to those not spending the weekend. Further information with meals and registration forms will be published in the future. We wanted to get the advance notice out so folks could start planning. Our next meeting is April 23rd at 6 pm by zoom. Hopefully the next meeting after that will be in person and at the Grange Center, fingers crossed!!

HEALTH - Alice Daley, Director.

There was a zoom meeting this past week for Health Chairs. We worked on next year's program book. If you have any ideas, please email to me. We will be meeting on April 8 to finalize the new book. As always, I can be reached at adodds0322@gmail.com or by phone at 802-999-7025. If you call, please leave a message as my phone doesn't ring if your name isn't on my contact list.

INFORMATION - Lois Allen, Director

A note to remind all that the Grange year is half over (if we are talking contests, it's MORE than half over) Are you on my contact list yet? If not and you want to know what is happening every month, please contact me. DevilsSister1308@gmail.com; Lois Allen 69 Lily Lane #229, West Lebanon, NH 03784. I am frequently sending out information that the various committee heads and State Grange officers want all to be aware of. My job is not just to send out the monthly calendar. Feel free to add yourself to my contact list. At present, I have 125 contacts and would love to be able to keep more than that number informed. I have 13 snail mail people right now but could add your name that way if you do not have access to a computer. I don't often send out last minute items via snail mail because by the time you get it, the function would be in your rear-view mirror. With the help of Sisters Debbie and Katrina Ploof, there soon will be a page for Information Committee on the State Grange website. (www.vtstategrange.org). When it is up and running, you will be

able to go there and get some contact information as well as the report pages from the program book. Also planned are links to National Grange, Green Mountain Granger, Patron's Chain (even though I send this out to all my contacts each week), and The National Grange magazine Good Day. Don't get access to the program book? You will be able to see what you need to do to complete your scrapbook report.

JUNIOR & YOUTH GRANGE CAMP – Melody Falker

Please continue to spread the word about the Junior & Youth Overnight Grange Camp for ages 5 - 17. Kids who are Grange members and non-members are welcome to attend. July 9th - 15th, 2023 at the Grange Center in Brookfield. \$100 includes all lodging, meals & activities. There is a 50% discount for low-income families. We are also looking for a few more adult volunteers to be counselors and/or lead presentations or workshops. To register for camp, or for more information, please call Jessica at 802-483-4330 or email Melody at mfalker03@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP/LEADERSHIP – Deborah Ploof, Committee

Continuing the series will be step 2 of Four Steps to Successful Recruitment of New Members. The information is taken from the National Grange Brochure, Recruiting Members by being a Grange Ambassador. We talked about setting the stage last time. The reason to set the stage is to get a person to ask, "What is the Grange?"

or some variation of this question. Once a person asks you for information, you can move on to move to Step 2 Step 2: **Listen** The second step is critical in that you will spend time learning about the person and their interests and needs. Briefly answer their initial question with a sentence or two — an “elevator speech” about the Grange — then ask leading questions of the person. Learn what is important to them. Some examples of good leading questions or things you hope to learn as they talk are:

- Do they have a family?
- What do they do for a living?
- What are they worried about in the community?
- What do they value?
- Are they looking for a way to make a difference?
- What are their hobbies and recreational interests?
- Do they need our benefits?

As you get to know the person you will have the opportunity to identify needs that they express. They may be lonely, be concerned about their children, frustrated with local government, or want to share their skills.

Give the person a brochure or business card with your name and phone number and ask for their number, then follow up!

YOUTH – Jessica Falker, Director

The 2023 Northeast Regional Youth Conference is coming to Vermont! July 15th at 8am - July 16th at 11am, at the Grange Center in Brookfield. Cost to attend for Vermont Grange Members is \$25 which includes all activities, meals, and lodging. Any Youth Members registered for Junior & Youth Camp July 9th-15th, or Youth Day Camp on July 15th, may attend through Sunday

morning at no additional cost. Preliminary schedule includes Saturday: Breakfast, Grange Olympics, Workshops, Lunch, Regional Contests (public speaking, sign-a-song, break the code, Grange trivia), Awards Dinner, Campfire. Sunday: Breakfast, Faith Service, Drill Team Competition. Youth members and leaders from six other states will be joining us for this conference and we're expecting a crowd so please register ASAP! To register please contact Jessica at 802-483-4330 or jjem1999@yahoo.com

HISTORY of MILTON GRANGE

In 1934 53 people from Milton, VT expressed an interest in forming a Grange. At that point Milton Grange #522 was formed and held meetings in what was the Kennedy Hall usually ending with refreshments furnished by various members. As time passed membership grew to between 70 and 100 members. It was voted upon to purchase land in 1945 to build a Grange Hall. Various townspeople sold standing timbers to the Grange for the construction to begin. Hayden Sawmills in Milton prepared the logs. Some grange members oversaw the construction. The Milton Grange Hall located on 135 River Street Milton, VT was completed in 1948. In April 1949 members moved their meetings to the hall. The upstairs was equipped with a stage with storage areas, an entryway with coat racks and restrooms, as well as the very large hall. Downstairs was a kitchen and a large dining area. During 1950s and 60s the Grange was a very active organization in Milton. Several

town events were held there such as town meetings, community dances, school and community events, and "Bingo" nights. In the 1970s, 80s, and 90s membership started declining because of fewer farms and television becoming more popular. The hall was rented year-round for wedding and funeral receptions, birthday and anniversary parties, Milton Artist Guild's Art Shows, Milton Historical Society's Annual Sugar-on-snow Party, Food Truck spaces, and tap/ballet classes. (I remember having tap dance recitals from age 3-8 on the stage at the hall in the early 1960s!!) One event that we are most proud of is the formation of the Milton Grange Farmers Market in 2004 held at the hall location, starting with just 3 vendors and in our prime, as many as 24 vendors. In 2014 the market was taken over by the town and was relocated.

In 2018 the town of Milton leased the Grange Hall taking over all events being held there. In December 2022 the town of Milton purchased the Grange Hall. It will be undergoing many needed renovations and will remain being called the "Milton Grange Hall." We will resume being able to hold our monthly meetings there when the renovations are completed. We are glad that the hall will still be used for town activities for many years to come. Linda Ballard, Publicity

REPORTS OF POMONA & SUBORDINATE GRANGES

HEART OF VERMONT POMONA will be done with their April meeting at the time of your reading this, so I will venture into the future. **In May, Heart of Vermont Pomona will having a special meeting at**

Middle Branch Grange in East Bethel on May 6. This will be our Fun Day (Murder Under the Big Top) with a meal connected with that role playing event. This will be at 10AM. Then at 2 pm, we will be conferring the Fifth Degree. If you have any probable candidates, bring 'em on!

Next regular meeting of Heart of Vermont Pomona will be on June 3rd. The program will be Youth and Junior. Meeting is scheduled to be at Moss Glen Grange in Granville. This may change. Please contact Master Lois Wakefield or Lecturer Lois Allen to make sure the place does not change. It is a beautiful ride to Granville. We welcome company! Lois Allen reporting

NEW HORIZON POMONA will be doing the Fifth Degree on May 25th at Bomoseen Grange Hall with a potluck at 6 pm and meeting at 7 pm.

Anyone that would like to take the Fifth Degree are welcome to join us.

Martha Kirchner, Pomona Master

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY

POMONA will be meeting via Zoom on April 11 at 7 pm. Join us! Email me and I will send Zoom link. We will be working with New Horizon Pomona for conferring the Fifth Degree on May 25th. Deborah Ploof, Master

BLUE SPRUCE GRANGE:

we will be exemplifying the Second Degree on April 14 at our regularly scheduled meeting starting at 4:30. We hope many of you will visit. On March 10, we hosted our annual State Representative night leading off with a potluck dinner. There were many questions asked. It is so nice

for our State Senators to meet us in person and vice versa. By the time you read this, we will have brought in 2 new members for a total of 6 new members this year. Yeah!!!!
Alice Daley, Master

CAPITAL CITY GRANGE I'm writing this description of our festivities 2 weeks after the event on March 5. The time since has been crammed full with working on the rest of the project--more on what is still left (and an appeal for help) below. Everyone who came really had fun! We had lots of interesting exhibitors, games to play downstairs, dancing and music upstairs, *many* cookies made and eaten, rides taken on the lift, and much more than I can summarize. I will write up more of a report and post it later, after I can really get away from helping Stan to finish up the project.

Below, you'll see some pictures, each of which should be worth at least a thousand words, right? Right below, Lt.

Gov. **David**

Zuckerman, Michelle Bailey of the **VT Arts Council**, **Kendal Holden**, Master of the **VT State Grange**, **Patty Giavara** of the **FCCGH**, **Joe Staab** of the **Berlin**

Selectboard and I are ready to cut the ribbon. More photos are on the Vermont State Grange website.



Current project: new doors and foyer wall Even with the lift done, the project continues. Stan Carlson and I have been working hard to complete the other major part: meeting the Fire Marshal's requirement that we replace the wall between the Old Entrance and the Main Hall with a "fire-rated" wall (5/8" sheetrock both faces), fire-rated double doors (the old ones were plywood and pine), and even a fire-rated bathroom door. We also have to remove *all* loose items from the foyer--including the folded tables that used to be stored on a small cart, trash & recycling containers, brooms and parking cones. So, we've designed in a storage closet. It still needs doors, homasote "bulletin board" panels, trim and paint.

This is where you can help! So far, I have done virtually all the painting of the lift walls, sheetrock, etc. Stan needs to concentrate on the carpentry that remains. If you like to paint, anytime we can arrange in the next couple of weeks, we'd love to have you! We'll provide brushes, paint, rollers, brush spinner, drop clothes, etc. You provide: old clothes to paint in, and your excitement about being part of this project! Contact me, Tim at: 802-225-8921, or email me: swartztim15@gmail.com to learn more and set up a time.

Please send a Card to Charles Martin

I'm sorry to have to report that last week Charles suffered a heart attack and was taken to CVH for treatment. He's recovering--but it will take a while. Charles' partner Richard told me he should be transferred to home care soon and will have a regular visiting

nurse to help him with rehab. Richard also told me that Charles will be happy to get cards sending him good wishes--please mail them to: Charles Martin, 639 Minister Brook Rd., Worcester, VT 05682

Charles was the Secretary of our Grange since the early 1990s until last fall. He has always been one of the Grange members from that era that really welcomed the "new Grangers" from the groups that rent space in the Hall, when I joined in 1999 and many more in 2005. He's also been Master of the North Branch Grange in Worcester, was the VT State Grange Trustee for the Grange building at the Big E and was head of the Home Ec department for the VT State Grange for decades as well. We're lucky to have him as a friend, a Grange mentor, and a constant, cheerful presence. Hope you can help us keep up his spirits as he recovers!

GASSETTS GRANGE #327

As everyone knows we had to shut down for the winter!!! We are going to open Sat., April 1st for our Dance, we will ask for the \$5.00 door cost. There are going to be a couple small changes that we are going to try. #1 Our Dance will be 1-4 PM. Reason being it will be still light enough so the people will not have to drive home in the dark, (It is difficult for a lot of people to drive after dark.) #2 There will be finger foods, RATHER than hot dogs and fries. We will ask for Donations, for them, Please!! PASS the word on to everyone you talk with. Hope to see you all there!!! Gassetts Grange #327 is located 5 miles up Rt 103 above Chester, VT, 200 feet above jct. 103 and 10. Large

white building on left. Any questions call Donna or Doug at 802-591-4290 or David at 802-875-2637. Donna King, reporting

LAKE VIEW GRANGE has been meeting via Zoom during the dark winter months. Unfortunately, the old and decrepit Secretary lives an hour away and doesn't like to drive after dark. Darned bright headlights. In April we will go back to live meetings at the Grange Hall in West Barnet. These meetings will be at 4 PM for a while until daylight extends farther into the evening. At our meeting this past week, the main topic was what to do about the 50+ year old stoves in the kitchen. They have been deemed to be obsolete and the ovens are no longer working. How does one cook large amounts of bacon without an oven?? The committee looking at options has not come up with any good ideas as of yet. Therefore, we will not start our breakfasts until May with hopes that replacements will be found and installed. There was a discussion about getting electric, but that would require the costly installation of two 220 outlets to plug them in. Our Grange Hall will be reopened in time for cribbage to commence with the April 4th date. We will also be ready to host the April Pomona meeting at that time.

Programs planned for the near future are April 4th-Family Activities and "cooking contest". May 8th will be the Youth program. Lois Allen, Reporting

RIVERSIDE GRANGE is focused on the community, we are doing potluck dinners on the third Friday of the month, with all community members

invited and we routinely have over 25 people in attendance. At the town meeting this year, it was voted unanimously to exempt the Riverside Grange in whole from taxes for another 5 years.

The Riverside Grange is receiving a \$62,000 grant for the sole purpose of making the basement handicap accessible, as we provide the New Hope Food Shelf the space to operate.

In February we resumed our bake sale fundraiser at the State of VT rest area for a fundraiser (this needed fundraiser has not been happening since COVID) and we have another one scheduled for April.

Our regular business meetings on the first Friday of the month are attended by about 20 members. Greg Tilton Master of Riverside Grange

TACONIC GRANGE on April 11, will honor John Ulrich the 2nd Grade Teacher of the Village School of N. Bennington, Vt. At 6PM The program will be held at the Methodist Church in Shaftsbury. All are invited to the Community Citizen program. In May we will have our Memorial Program. We lost Marylou Cross and Charles Becker so far in 2023. Ann White, reporting

TUNBRIDGE GRANGE #384 will be reopening the Grange hall for our meeting on Wednesday, April 5th at 6:30. We've held Bingo each Friday evening at 6:30 pm at the Tunbridge Town Hall and will continue until Friday, April 28th at which time we will stop Bingo until later in the year. On Saturday, April 8th from 10:30 - 12:30, The Grange will host an Easter event for the

children. Everyone is welcome to meet the Easter bunny and join in games and crafts. Juice and snacks as well as prizes will be given. On this same day, the Grange will be hosting another Safety Break from 8:30 until 4:30 at the Sharon Welcome Center located in the northbound lane of I-89 just before exit 2. Linda Lazaroff, reporting

FUNDRAISER T-SHIRTS are still available! They are red and are available in limited amounts in sizes Medium through XXX Large, long and short sleeves. Contact Brenda Rousselle at 11 Abnaki Avenue Essex Junction, VT 05452, brousselle@myfairpoint.net, or 802-878-5877. You NEED ONE for summer activities!

Proclamation GRANGE MONTH 2023

WHEREAS, The Grange strengthens individuals, families and communities through grassroots action, service, education, advocacy, and agriculture awareness; and WHEREAS, for 155 years The Grange has played an essential and lasting role in building rural and small-town America and ensuring its resiliency through advocacy and direct service; and

WHEREAS, The Grange continues today to be an active, empowering, and effective organization in thousands of communities around the country; and

WHEREAS, The Grange has a unique position in connecting rural America to urban America through agricultural appreciation and education and

by creating strong community leaders; and

WHEREAS, The Grange emphasizes civic responsibility and the involvement of people in the legislative process, cultivating connections between citizens and their government; and WHEREAS, The Grange offers opportunities for civil discussions among people of all viewpoints and opinions, serving as a safe haven for exploring important social and legislative issues of the day; and

WHEREAS, even through a worldwide pandemic, The Grange continued to promote service to the local community and volunteerism to improve the quality of life and economic well-being of its members and residents across rural America; and WHEREAS, The Grange is proud to be “Raised Right Here,” and encourages Grange and community members to come together in celebrating hometown pride and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, Grange members everywhere desire and deserve to celebrate and express their pride in the legacy of their highly-respected organization; THEREFORE, I Betsy E. Huber, President of the National Grange, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as Grange Month, and further, I encourage the participation of every Junior, Community, Pomona, and State Grange in this celebration of Grange past and future by planning and executing programs and activities that will highlight the Grange in every American community. Betsy Huber President National Grange