



MASTER'S MESSAGE

A good Winter season to you. As I start to write this article two or three impending snowstorms are on the horizon and we're wondering how accurate the weather people are this time. At least we haven't had to face nature's wrath as the western, southern, and midwest states have and are enduring. Count your many blessings.

There are calls for directors' and officers' meetings, and G.R.I.T. meetings are being planned for later this Spring. There will be G.R.I.T. presentations held this Spring, April 22nd at Bomoseen Grange, and April 29th at Bridgewater Grange. Coffee will be available at 9:30 a.m. and the session starts at 10:00 a.m. It will likely be a bag lunch. Topics likely to be covered include but are not limited to Membership, Legislative, Lecturer, Community Service, Grange Structure, Secretary, IRS Corporation, parliamentary Procedures, and Grange Ritual. Stay tuned for further information. I am pulling together subject matter for the directors and seeking advice from the Executive Committee for words of wisdom for the officers. Here's a reminder: At the end of this year's program book is a two-page Grange Checklist to keep your Grange on track. By the time you receive this GMG all of 2022 has gone by and, and a 2-15-23 deadline for 990-N is looming. Please use this checklist to stay on track and help our program run smoothly. To quote an oft heard phrase, "Behold how

good and pleasant is for brethren to dwell together in unity".

There is a Special Committee coming out of National on the Future of Pomona Granges. Its purpose is to analyze current membership numbers and participation by members, review the traditional procedures and ritual language, and examine the rules and regulations for Pomona Grange in the Digest of Laws regarding meeting frequency, dues, and jurisdiction. The committee will also brainstorm about the purpose and relevance of the Pomona Grange in today's world and how its purpose differs from the Community Grange. I mentioned in an earlier message we would be looking at possibilities in reorganizing and reducing the number of Pomonas. We'll wait for the report to come out at this year's National Grange. By the way, to be a member of any of Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh degrees one MUST be a Fourth degree member in good standing. We have some members who are standing on a slippery slope and need to join a Subordinate Grange. We would hate to lose them!

As I finish this piece a new snowstorm has arrived. Wondering if it will be worth all the excitement the weather people have shown. Stay well. Stay safe. Kendal Holden, Master Vermont State Grange

FROM THE LECTURER'S DESK

A tentative date has been set for the Northeast Lecturers

Conference. The date is April 14-16. Location is not decided yet but look. This will be in conjunction with Leaders. Director's meeting is coming up in March. Any ideas for the program book for next year? Just a reminder that I am available to attend your meetings either in person or by zoom. Alice Daley, VT State Lecturer

2023 National Grange Quilt Block Contest

National Grange Statement of Intent---The Quilt Block Contest provides an opportunity for Grange members and friends to collaborate in creating quilted items that can be donated or auctioned for funds to provide additional services to community members in a nationwide effort. The Quilt Block Contest is open to everyone. All entries must be received by the National Lecturer by September 1, 2023. More information can be found on: nationalgrange.org/lecturer-contests/ or by contacting VSG Lecturer Alice Daley, 802-999-2514 or e-mail: Adodds0322@gmail.com It's a relatively easy pattern---but keep in mind a "scant" ¼ inch seam allowance.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Part of the Chaplain's charge in the Third Degree of our Order states: "Say not, therefore, 'Soul, thou has much goods laid up for many years- take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry; for our Heavenly Father placed us here to be laborers together with Him', and raises up the ever-ripening harvest, that we may be stewards of His bounty, and so partake in His blessedness in being beneficent. Therefore, be ye helpers one of another, for we are all brethren."

In Matthew 5:7, we read "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." Paraphrased:

Blessed are those who show mercy through forgiveness, kindness, and compassion, for they will receive mercy."

The lesson I learned was "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." And in each instance, I've noted, we are asked to consider others first. Their needs, their feelings, all the time, everywhere we see someone in our communities, schools, Churches, and even our Grange Halls. We need to keep our eyes open, and our ears tuned in around us. And when we work together as a Grange, there is nothing we can't accomplish to make our communities a better, peaceful, and hopeful place to live.

Spread that love this Valentine's Day- the God-given spirit of Love that you find deep in your heart. Share it with family, friends, strangers who need a hand up, and the community looking to find stability in our restless world. And as always, count your blessings. May God bless us all. Jenny Nelson, Vermont State Chaplain

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met on January 22, after a brief recess. We are still meeting on ZOOM. It was reported that as of the 22nd of January less than half of the Subordinate/Pomona Granges had submitted their Officers and Directors lists. However, several have come in since the 22nd. Thanks to those who have been able to supply the lists. Information was given on the progress of selling the Maple Valley 318 hall. The lawyer is working with several perspective buyers. Milton Grange #522 has completed the sale of their hall to the Town of Milton. Randolph Community Grange and Chelsea Grange are in discussions about a possible consolidation. Beacon

Light Grange is completing work on closing their Grange. Worthy Master, Kendal, is preparing two GRIT workshops. He was able to confirm the dates and locations after the meeting and has included the information in his article. Be sure to read it. The GRIT workshops are structured for Officers and Directors—and anyone else who would like to attend. Now is a good time to put the dates on your calendar and begin making plans to attend the workshop closest to you.

A discussion has begun on the conditions of the Pomona Granges. This was also a topic at National Convention. Again, more information about this can be found in the Master's Message. Discussion has also begun to confirm a location for the 2023 State Session. It's never too early to start making plans.

VSG WEB page—It was noted that the area on the WEB page where the various forms are kept is out of date. Work needs to be done to update the information. It was also noted that for those Granges that have a WEB page on the VSG WEB page are also out of date with incorrect information. Work will begin on having Granges revise their pages.

Martha Kirchner submitted the latest budget figures. So far, things look good. Brenda Rousselle, Secretary

CENTER BOARD

The Center Board has its first meeting under its belt and we have two more meetings scheduled by Zoom, for February and March. We have a long list of projects that need to be organized and completed before the Center can be opened.

Right now, we are hoping to be able to have Clean Up Weekends June 2-4 and June 9-11. Before the Center can open, we need to

have the Well Drilling Company come in and replace the casing and get the State's approval on the well and the pit updates on the water system. We have to install a hand washing sink in the kitchen and work needs to be done on the dishwasher, and there's a list of other things that need to be done. As we get closer to spring and possible opening, more details and specific requests for help will be published.

We have a Food Break Rest Area scheduled for Sharon on June 18th -19th. Respectfully submitted, Ruth Hovey-Sicely, Chair

EDUCATIONAL AID FUND

This is a quiet time of year for us. Scholarships will be coming in March or April for scoring. We still have grants up to \$100.00 for an educational, agriculture or learning (hobby) class for members in good standing. Check the State Grange website or contact Janice Rousselle for an application. Lois Wakefield, Chairman

NATIONAL 2023

Things are ramping up with the planning for the National Convention in November. I now have a date for the walk through for Friday March 17th. Sister Brenda and I will be traveling west on March 16th for a Hotel and Event Ctr walk through on the 17th. The Regions Coordinators will start our monthly zoom meetings in February and we are still looking for Trumpet Girls (7), someone to coordinate the showcase area and help in the Grange store. There might be several other areas that need help as we get closer. Linda Sanderson

GRANGE LEGACY FAMILY

Beginning with the celebration of the National Grange's 150th birthday, the National Grange has

celebrated Grange Legacy Families. This program is to honor those families with five or more generations that have been involved as Grange members. Are you or is there someone in your Grange that can claim five generations or more of Grangers? If so, complete the application and submit it to the National Grange. Deadline: first Monday in AUGUST.

Guidelines:

1. Deadline: first Monday in August
2. Must have at least 5 generations of Grange members, including Junior members
3. Anyone can nominate a Legacy Family
4. Families will be recognized at the National Convention in November.
5. Applications are available on the National Grange WEB page at: nationalgrange.org/grange-legacy-family/ They can be submitted with a printed application or done online. Printed applications are to be mailed to:
Sales, Benefits, Programs and Membership Recognition Director, National Grange, 1616 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006. If you cannot access the application form, contact: Brenda Rousselle 802-878-5877 or brousselle@myfairpoint.net. Brenda has a paper copy of the form and would be delighted to send it along to you.

GRANGE IN ACTION

This is a reminder of a program sponsored by the National Grange. It was designed to encourage all Granges to be active in their communities and to complete projects—no matter how small. Here's what you need to do:

1. Submit a 1-page letter size with color pictures and brief caption of at least 3 various events/activities that your Grange either sponsored

or assisted with from September, 2022 to September 1, 2023.

2. The Grange name, number and state must be on the front of the page.

3. On a separate page please include the name, address, phone and/or cell number.

and e-mail address of the person submitting the Grange in Action report.

4. Granges that qualify for the 2023 Distinguished Grange award are not eligible.

5. If one of your events/activities/meetings is on Mental Health, you will qualify as a "Golden Grange in Action".

6. Deadline to submit the 1 page to National Grange is September 1, 2023, postmarked or electronic by midnight on September 25, 2022

Mail to: National Grange, Attn: Loretta Washington, 1616 H Street, NW, 11th, Washington, DC 20006 E-mail for Loretta: lwashington@nationalgrange.org. Put in the subject line: Grange in Action report

It is possible for Vermont to be named a "State Grange in Action". To receive this award, at least 6 Granges from Vermont must be recognized as "Grange in Action". In 2022, there were 2 Grange in Action Granges in Vermont: Blue Spruce #574 and Marble Valley #567. We can do MUCH better than this. There is so much good happening in Vermont! Granges that submit the 1-page entry will receive a Certificate with the National Grange President's signature.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Happy New Year! It will be February when you receive this! I have a quote from a very recent press release (1/23/2023) from our Sec. of Ag, Food and Markets, Anson Tebbetts. He gives us an idea of the priorities being set in

place by Governor Phil Scott and his administration.

" 'All Vermonters benefit from healthy, nutritious foods and a robust local food system.' To help address this finding, the Governor has proposed investing \$10 million in "grant funding for small and mid-sized agricultural producers and value-added processors in the meat, vegetable and maple sectors." These areas of our food system have been under resourced, or ineligible, for available funding. This support will help them grow and become more efficient, while producing more food for Vermont and the region. The Governor also proposes investing in the work of people who make their living off the land. Under the Governor's proposed budget \$4 million would be dedicated to the Working Lands Enterprise Fund. This proven program allows food and forestry businesses to expand. This investment was also recommended by the Governor's Commission of Agriculture. (Comment: For a while there was no Commission. I was asked to serve when Governor Kunin was in office and there was a newly-founded WIFE – Women Involved in Farm Economics-chapter in Vermont! - many years ago! It was during my time in the Legislature ('97-'98) that Forestry was added, by the way, and that is also an important sector of our economy.) These proposed investments will now be presented to the Legislature. The Agency of Agriculture advocates for these investments because they support our farmers and producers, who are feeding us and farming the land."

I ask that the local Ag Chairs find time to discuss these items, perhaps over the course of two or three meetings. Look at your own communities and see which farmers and ag businesses might be able to benefit from these

investments being considered by Vermont, often in tandem with the federal funds being offered. Then do your part. Call or write your local legislators and tell them you support the effort and want them to vote in favor of these proposed funds for farmers and the farming and logging businesses across our state.

Thank you. Best to you all, Jenny Nelson, Director

COMMUNITY SERVICE

As I am pulling together this GMG I am reading the articles from all the Granges in Vermont and reading about all the great community service projects the various Granges are doing! Great work! Don't forget to record your projects on your Grange's Community Service report so it will be recorded when time to submit report.

A project that has been successful for Blue Spruce, Milton, and Champlain Valley Pomona Granges is Comfort Pillows. They have been doing this project for several years and at the 2021 Champlain Valley Fair, we had fair visitors who visited the Grange displays select four pieces from piles of precut pillow sections to form one pillow. They were sewed together and stuff when an order received from a hospice patient, nursing home, rehab center or hospital. Thirty pillows were delivered in December to UVMHN – Porter Medical Center and they want another 30 already! They report that the patients love them. They have been receiving pillows for several years from Bridport, Ferrisburg, Blue Spruce, Milton Granges and have received over 100 pillows so far! Several medical facilities in Chittenden County and the Bennington Veterans Home has received pillows. You can find and download the pattern at [Breast Cancer Pillows – Gwinnett Quilters' Guild](#)

gwinnettquiltersguild.org) or you can contact me at 802-989-3237 and I can mail you a copy. Attach a tag to each pillow with a ribbon explaining the many uses of the pillow and the name of your organization so the Grange gets recognition. A list of Vermont hospitals can be found at [Vermont Hospitals - USA \(officialusa.com\)](http://VermontHospitals-USA(officialusa.com)). Each listing has a link to the specific hospital so you can get contact information. I encourage you to try this project in your area. Deborah Ploof, Director

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Just a reminder that there are only 5 months for you to complete your contest by the end of June, how time is flying. If you are entering anything in the Northeast Needlework contest, make sure you attach the blue entry tag, or I will not accept them. Make sure you make the articles as specified in the brochures...I will not send them on to be judged (as they will be disqualified in Massachusetts). Each Grange should have received a mailing in mid-January with a blue brochure about the contest. These contest entries (along with the Vermont contest...if you need more tags just ask me) are due at Family camp July 15, 2023 by noon. Also, in that mailing I had a couple of pages of notes that you can use when reporting at your Grange meetings, a letter from the New England Grange Building Craft manager on what she would like to see for crafts going to the Big E. I will plan to take crafts and entries down on Labor Day in September. Let me know if you have any questions about the crafts and I can get an answer from Dawn.

If you have any ideas for a contest for 23-24 let me know by February 20th as the Directors will be meeting to plan the new program book soon. I will be cutting back

on the number of contests for VT as some categories are not being used, so this is why I need input! Have a lovely Spring! Linda Sanderson, Director

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The directors are meeting in March to plan the next year's Program Book. Ideas? As always I'd love to attend any of your meetings. I can attend in person, weather permitting, or via Zoom. Alice Daley, Director

JUNIOR & YOUTH GRANGE CAMP

We have already received 5 registration forms back and it's only January! Woo-Hoo! If you need a registration form or more information, please call Jessica at 802-483-4330 or email Melody at mfalker03@gmail.com. Camp will take place at the Grange Center in Brookfield. Overnight camp for ages 5 - 17 is July 9th - 15th. Youth members up to age 35 are invited to join us on July 15th. That day we will be holding a "Grange Olympics" which will incorporate entry into some of the state, regional, and national Junior & Youth contests. We are also starting to compile a list of volunteers. Please contact us if you are interested in presenting a topic or activity during camp, helping in the kitchen, or being a counselor for the full week, or even just part of the week.

JUNIOR GRANGE INFORMATION NATIONAL
[2023 Junior Program Guide](#) is now available. Visit <https://www.nationaljuniorgrange.org/> for more information on the current Junior Grange program. This year the program has four focus areas - Advocacy, Agriculture, Deaf Awareness, and Community Service. This first quarter of the year (January-March), we want to focus on **Advocacy**. It is our goal

to get Junior Grangers excited to make a difference.

LEGISLATIVE

Greetings, plans for Legislative Day are underway for March 22, 2023 stay tuned.

In Montpelier our representatives are back at work, there are some new faces, familiar faces and new to the area faces as a result of last year's redistricting. The revenue update was presented and adopted by the Legislature in mid-January. The \$10 billion federal dollars received over the last few years has helped the State's coffers. The updated General Fund forecast for the next year is down 7.2% from this year, though still better than pre-pandemic. Governor Scott addressed the Joint Assembly with his budget address. The total budget proposal for the fiscal year beginning July 1 was \$8.4 billion. The Governor pointed out included in this is a number of one-time investments. The budget proposal includes:

- Expanded childcare support
 - Housing development, rehabilitation and emergency housing
 - Reduce taxes by exempting military pensions and retiree's social security benefits from Vermont income taxes
 - Fully finding all State retirement and debt service obligations
 - \$9.2 million to fund a 2- year pilot program to help primary care doctors better address substance abuse and mental health
 - \$5 million for the Clean Heat Homes program
 - \$9 million in bridge funding for Vermont State University
 - \$10 million for a 2-year pilot program to cut Community College of Vermont tuition by 50%
- Missing was funding for continued universal school meals, which has been present through the pandemic.

The Governor also made it clear that he doesn't feel this is the time

to increase any taxes in light of the current budget surplus.

For those of you who don't receive the National Grange View from the Hill here are a few highlights from Washington:

- The USDA approved a conditional license for a vaccine to protect honeybees from the American foulbrood disease. This is a very contagious spore-forming bacterium that is fatal to homey bee colonies.

- Egg smuggling, yes, your eyes aren't playing tricks on you. As prices of eggs soar as a result of decreased production resulting from last year's Avian Flu U.S. Customs and Boarder Protection are reporting a rise in attempted egg smuggling at the Mexican border.

- Work on the new Farm Bill is underway. Chairman Thompson has said the Ag committee will focus on crop insurance, cost inflation, nutritional assistance, rural broadband and agricultural research, in addition to the commodity titles.

- WOTUS- The Biden administration has issued a new "Waters of the U.S." rule. The Supreme Court is reviewing the EPA's jurisdiction under the Clean Waters Act and that ruling on the definition of WOTUS will take precedence.

- The FDA proposes Annual COVID booster, this will follow the same process as Flu shots. Stains of the virus are evaluated in the summer and recommendation is made for target strains to be included in the current year's vaccine.

- Rural Broadband- There are as yet unmitigated barriers to the deployment of Broadband projects including: right-of-way, pole attachment fees, permitting processes, etc. The National Grange has urged Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel to urge the FCC to issue a guidance

document addressing these barriers.

Senator Peter Welch has been named to the Congressional Agriculture Committee. Federal relief has been promised to Organic Dairy Farms, the specifics of how this money will be dispersed are yet unknown. The National Grange Legislative Fly in will be in April. I expect details will be forth coming. Kathleen Paglia, Director

MEMBERSHIP/LEADERSHIP

The subject of the next series of Membership Reports will be *Recruiting Members by Being a Grange Ambassador.* The information is taken from the National Grange Brochure by the same name.

Step 1: Set the Stage Successful recruitment of new Grange members requires that you set the stage for conversation about the Grange. Step 1 is about being an ambassador promoting the Grange rather than just a salesman with an organization to sell. You are only recruiting one person!

To set the stage, you can:

- Wear a Grange pin, button, jewelry or clothing item with a Grange Emblem on it.
- Place a Grange bumper sticker or decal on your car.
- Prominently display a Grange Emblem at work or at home
- Mention upcoming Grange events/meetings to people every day.
- Talk about Grange projects and activities to people every day.
- Talk to people during fundraisers and community service activities.
- Use the Grange as a positive example when discussing current events with people.

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, move to Step 2. Step 2 will appear in the next GMG or you can see it on the National Grange website.

VERMONT STATE FAIR

Fair season will be here before you know it! For many Grangers it's already here as they work on their craft projects to enter and start planning their gardens. The Grange booth theme for the Vermont State Fair this year will be "Grange: The Foundation of Our Rural Communities". Individual entries of anything hand-made or home-grown will also be accepted. Cash prizes for all entries! Talk to your Grange about sending 1 person down with everyone's entries. That has worked really well for some Granges in the past. We will also have a Grange Day on Saturday August 19th with fun activities and free fair admission for Junior and Youth Grange members up to age 17. Contact me by August 1st to get their fair admission tickets, or to reserve a booth space. This year's fair will be August 15th - 19th. Set up is on August 14th and pick up is on August 20th, unless other arrangements are made with me. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 802-483-4330 or JJEM1999@yahoo.com - Submitted by Jessica Falker, Vermont State Fair Grange Department Superintendent

POMONA REPORTS

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY

POMONA at their December meeting finished electing officers, installed new officers, and setup Grange Calendar for 2023. Schedule is February 14 via Zoom Health and Family Act; March 27 State Legislative Day in Montpelier; April 11 via Zoom Leg and Youth; June 13 Ag/Env and Juniors; Aug. 8 Membership; Sept. 12 Community Service; Oct

10 Resolutions; Dec 12 Christmas party.

HEART OF VERMONT

POMONA - As usual, by the time you read this, our February 4th meeting will be over. So... let us ZOOM ahead to say that the April 1st meeting will be at Riverside Grange in Topsham. It will be the Agricultural program as well as the Family Activities program. Cooking/baking contest will be held, so be sure your local Granges have had their contest so the winners can bring their prize winners to Pomona for judging. To quote the State Family Activities Chair, we can have our local contests if we desire, but ANYONE can bring their entries (winners and loser alike) to Family Camp for state judging. The refreshments will be the consuming of the maple treats! We will also be having an Easter Bonnet contest. Be sure and bring your best creations (Maple and bonnets). Meeting to commence at 10AM. Lois Allen, Lecturer

SUBORDINATE REPORTS

BLUE MOUNTAIN GRANGE

#263 has been busy and sponsored a Food Drop at the Hall on Saturday, Jan. 28th. Last year we collected over 700 pounds of food for the Groton-Ryegate Food Shelf. Many of our Grangers are involved with the 8th Annual Ryegate Winter Carnival scheduled for Feb. 11th. From the new Chair Matt Troiano to Tyler Pokines pulling kids back up the hill for sliding, from Betty Beauvais, Gail Brown, and Jenny Nelson working on the advertising to many Grangers submitting chili for the Cook Off, we Grangers are looking forward to this annual event at Ticklenaked Pond and our part in making it a success once again.

Community Service Chair Darryl Perkins has set us up to perform activities to benefit the community practically every month and BINGO continues to be a favorite and it also brings funds into our treasury. It also provides a multi-generational experience to folks in our town. Of course, it means heating the Hall with our wood supply and we had our January meeting at Bill and Jenny's home. Jennifer Nelson, reporting

BLUE SPRUCE recently exemplified the First degree as new members had not seen it. We will be doing Second Degree in next quarter. We are busy assembling all the lap robes put together by the attendees at the Champlain Valley Fair. Our meetings on February 10 and March 10 will be our annual legislative nights. Feb. 10 is for local reps. Call or email at adodds0322@gmail with questions. Alice Daley, Master

CAPITAL CITY GRANGE:

building improvements, a celebration, a program, and keeping our property tax exemption. Grange Hall improvements: We are well started on getting the wheelchair lift installed in our Hall. As I write this on 1/22, the new "hoist way" is framed, ready for the Fire Marshal to inspect, and the electrician to do the wiring. It's located at the back corner of the stage, with an entrance from the foyer for our ADA building entrance. It will take people up to the Stage level, and down to the Lower Level, so our whole Hall will be accessible to people with mobility limitations! We're very excited about getting to this point. We really appreciate the grants we have gotten from the VT Arts Council's "Facilities Improvement" grant program.

We will also be having a new, fire-rated wall and fire-rated doors put in between the Main Hall and the Old Entrance foyer. This is a requirement by the Fire Marshal that we get this done along with the wheelchair lift project. We will also be having a closet built to store the folding tables which we currently have taking up space in the foyer. Fire Marshals are always thinking of “worst-case scenarios” to prepare for disasters, and they really don’t like any “clutter” in areas like the foyer.

We are planning a “Celebration” to mark the completion of the project, on Sunday, March 5th from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. We will have some ceremonial “first rides” on the lift, cookies and beverage treats, table displays by the various organizations that make their “homes” at our Hall, and a “community dance” with live music by the VT Fiddle Orchestra, from 3:00 to 4:30. Everyone is invited, including all Grangers of course! Feb. 4th: our monthly meeting features a program from 5:00 to 6:00 PM, with the new Executive Director of the Public Assets Institute: Stephanie Yu will describe the opportunities to use the legislative budgeting process to advance social, racial, and economic equity. The talk will be based on PAI’s “State of Working Vermont 2022” report, issued in December 2022. The report also describes how to build on the spirit of solidarity awakened by the pandemic, when many people came to understand that economic and social needs are shared—and deserving of collective attention and action, both by communities and government. The PAI was formed in 2003 to conduct research, perform fiscal analysis, disseminate information and to develop policies that apply the powers of government to improve the well-being of ordinary citizens,

especially the most vulnerable. More information is available on their website: www.publicassets.org. Everyone is welcome to our program, of course, and it will be followed by a Community Potluck from 6 to 7:00 PM. Timothy Swartz reporting

CHARLOTTE GRANGE #398 - 21 February Charlotte Grange Meeting. 6:30-7:00pm Refreshments and Conversation, 7:00-8:30 Business Meeting. Charlotte Library Program Room.

LAKE VIEW GRANGE has decided to meet via Zoom for the winter months and close down our hall. Gas is wicked expensive, and cribbage has done it's usual "dwindle" for the winter. (After all the Lake People go home for the winter). We are currently looking for one or two gas stoves as our 50+ year old ovens have gone to The Great Grange Above and can no longer cook the bacon. Poor Ann has been cooking the bacon at home on a griddle - not a fun job. Programs for the upcoming months are February 15 Local legislators will speak about upcoming town meeting. March is Lecturer's Choice. Be sure and attend to see what Roseann has in store for us. Maybe she will put in the Health program that was originally scheduled for January. Lois Allen reporting

MAPLE VALLEY GRANGE #450 plans to meet February 25th at 1:00 p.m. at Marion Cubit's home at 1582 Vt. Rte. 14 N, Albany, Vt. Please call 802 755-6173 to confirm meeting. I want to thank all of my Grange friends who sent me Happy Birthday wishes on my 85th birthday. Marion Cubit

MARBLE VALLEY GRANGE had our Christmas party in December and set a new record

with our annual collection of holiday gifts for the Brandon Area Toy Project. We collected 202 gifts! Also in December, our Ag Committee Chair treated us to a tour of the New England Maple Museum, complete with syrup tastings and souvenirs! She was able to arrange for this using prize money she won from the State Ag Committee Director as a reward for her section in the Lecturer's scrapbook. We continue to meet the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at the Maclure Library in Pittsford. Jessica Falker

MIDDLE BRANCH has been meeting regularly. In November we donated over 30 pounds of food to the Bethel Food Shelf as well as a check for \$200. Donations were also made to Wreaths Across America, Heart Association, American Cancer Society and Community Action. Our Christmas party was delayed due to weather until January 6. We are happy to announce that we are back to having card parties. We all missed them during COVID and it sure helps to break up the winter. Someday, when I have time, I'm going to try to find out how long Middle Branch has been having card parties. We will be conferring the First and Second Degrees on February 3 and the Third and Fourth Degrees on March 3, all are welcome. The Junior Grangers have been busy too. They had their annual Thanksgiving Basket raffle and they put on the Christmas program. A graduation ceremony was held for Leah Rogers and she will be taking the degrees in February and March. Judy Powell, Lecturer

RIVERSIDE GRANGE # 445 has taken in over 10 new members in the last year. We held our annual Pound Auction in October with around 40 people

enjoying delicious potluck food and lots of laughter. Members donated paper items such as toilet paper and tissues to the food shelf. In September, we worked with the Scouts to provide lunch to around 200 riders at the Montshire Trial Riders dirt bike club's annual rally which raised money to help make up for the lack of fundraising during Covid. Officers were installed in October, and we welcomed Greg Tilton as the new Master. A hunter's breakfast was held on November 12th with over 30 people enjoying a delicious breakfast. We spent the weekend of Thanksgiving at the Bradford Rest Area with goodies for a safety break. Members voted to make the Grange Hall available as an emergency shelter for the town. The local selectboard voted to allocate a large sum of grant money to make the food shelf, which is located in the downstairs of the Grange Hall, handicap accessible. Weekly cribbage games are held at our hall in West Topsham every Sunday at 6:00pm. We meet for business meetings on the first Friday of each month at 7:00pm and have a potluck dinner, open to the public, every third Friday of each month at 6:30pm. Submitted by Emily Hart

TUNBRIDGE GRANGE NO.

384 has been quite busy. At our November meeting, it was agreed to not hold our winter meetings so we could shut the building down for the winter months in an effort to conserve our heating oil fuel consumption. We recently had some much-needed repairs done to the building so in an effort to cut down on our costs, meetings will resume at the Grange Hall on Wednesday, April 5th at 6:30 PM. Bingo commenced on Friday, January 6th with a new starting time of 6:30 and is being held downstairs of the Tunbridge Town

Hall. Bingo will continue there until Friday, April 28th. 16 three-dimensional Thanksgiving cards were made by Linda Lazaroff to send to The Veterans' Place in Northfield, VT. Members signed each card and were given to the 16 residents at the facility. 20 Christmas cards were given to the 20 residents at Riverbend Residential Care in Chelsea, VT. On December 10th, Tunbridge Grange entered a Christmas float in the South Royalton Light Parade. Dan Roberts drove his truck which pulled his trailer that he so graciously loaned. Paul Amell and Tracy Amell along with Chancity Young brainstormed on decorating the float. Also in December, Tunbridge Grange supported a family of five providing boots, clothing and toys for each of the three children as well as Christmas stockings filled with goodies along with an entire Christmas meal consisting of ham, potatoes, squash, corn, applesauce, rolls, butter, milk, chocolate syrup for the milk, apple pie, sugar cookies with icing and sprinkles for decorating, pancake mix, two-dozen eggs, bacon and syrup and a \$50 gift card to McDonald's. On December 23rd, Tunbridge Grange hosted the Safety Break at the Sharon Welcome Center located on I-89 North just before exit 2.

Unfortunately, time was cut short when the rest area was closed at 1:00 PM due to the heavy rains and winds. We have been pleased with the amount of baked goods that is donated to the Grange for these events. Because of the early shut down, Grange members Paul Amell and Linda Lazaroff who were volunteering that day, decided to divide the remaining baked goods (which was substantial) and donate a box of goodies to the Royalton Town Garage and another box to the Tunbridge Town Garage. A third box was donated to the Orange

County Sheriff's Department. Three scarves were knitted and donated by Chelsea Grange member, Barb Chambers to be donated to Scarves for Veterans with more scarves being knitted by Linda. Linda Lazaroff, reporting