

Green Mountain Granger

OCTOBER 2022



VERMONT STATE GRANGE CONFERENCE EDITION OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN GRANGER

First Message from Kendal Holden of Underhill, VT Elected Master at the 151st Vermont State Grange Session

The earth has made another journey around the sun, it's mid-October, and the 151st Vermont State Grange Session is in the rearview mirror. A few officer changes took place, including me as Master, Linda Sanderson as Overseer, Gordon Gibbs III as Steward, Martha Kirchner as Treasurer, Marsha Johnson as Pomona. As we look toward the future there will be a few changes in leadership. The positions of Family Activity and Junior Director need filling, as well as Membership. Jessica Falker continues as Youth Director.

Having mentioned membership, that is one of our greatest challenges. We cannot continue as an organization if we allow our membership to drop. To be successful, we need to make our Grange presence known, and to show that we are a relevant contributor to the quality of life of our neighbors. We must access a multitude of media to get our message out, be they local newspapers or online platforms. By the way, it was pleasing to see the number of Youth in attendance at our State Grange Session. Do all that you can to keep them engaged for they are our future!

I have not been known to be out and about to all the Granges. That will change. I look forward to meeting each one of you. The Executive Committee and I stand ready to help with any questions or concerns you may have. Here's wishing you all successful years to come!

Convention Report by Deborah Ploof, GMG Co-editor

Friday Session: The VT State Grange Session started at 9 AM October 14th with the various committees meeting to discuss resolutions presented by August 1st to State Secretary. They also had to discuss any policies dated on or before 2015 and determine if the policy should be reaffirmed (kept as policy) or sunsetted (removed from policy). At 11 AM after the Officer's Entrance March, the session opened in the Sixth Degree and later lowered to Fourth degree to begin the work for the day. Roll call of Officers, Deputies, and Committees. Resolutions were introduced and reports from 3 auditor committees were presented as well as Secretary, Trust Officer, and Executive Committee. All were accepted as presented. The 2022-2023 budget was presented and then distributed to members present. It is required that the budget have a 24-hour layover, so it was again presented and approved on Saturday afternoon with a final budget of \$84,279.00. The session continued with reports from various committees including the Grange Center Board, New England Grange Building Trustee, and the various committees considering the resolutions in the delegate packet.

At 3 PM the Master's Address was presented by Worthy Master Joseph Goodrich. One section was assigned to the Good of the Order committee to write a resolution to increase gas reimbursement to \$0.40 due to high fuel costs. Grange Memorial service was presented by Worthy Chaplain Jennifer Nelson with the aid of the Graces, Secretary, Master, and Musician Barbara Thompson. 27 members have pasted to the Great Grange Above. Meeting was closed in the Fourth Degree.

Saturday Session: After the usual opening of the Grange, credentials report, minutes reading and approval, the election of officers began. It was interspersed with reports from standing committees and resolution consideration. You can find the list of officers in this edition of the GMG. Educational elections are reported under the EAF article by Lois Wakefield. The results of the deliberations on the resolutions are also reported in this GMG.

As mentioned before, the budget was approved after the 24 hour waiting period.

Members of the Assembly of Demeter were presented. Those present were Linda Sanderson, Kendal Holden, Errol Briggs, Lisa and Joseph Goodrich. Corporation meeting was held. **(Editor's note: Have you remembered to have your corporation meeting this year??)** Meeting was closed in the Fourth Degree. Silent Auction was closed and raised \$577.50 which, as voted by the session delegates, will be divided equally, and donated to Ronald McDonald House in Burlington and David's House in Lebanon. Grange Center 50/50 raffle was announced netting the Grange Center \$364.00.



Rick DeAngelis from Good Samaritan Haven in Barre

Annual Session Banquet: Following the meal Rick DeAngelis from Good Samaritan Haven in Barre was the guest speaker. He shared information on the ways the homeless are being helped in Barre, as well as in other parts of the State. The need is great. Ruth Hovey-Sicely thanked him and sent him home with many pairs of new socks, as

well as toiletry items for those at Good Samaritan Haven. Awards from Lecturer for various contests including book reports and Community Service were presented. Winners for Community Service were first place winner Marble Valley: second place, Lake View: third place, Blue Spruce: and fourth place Milton Grange. Certificates with seals and stars for completing reports and submitting were handed out by Joe Goodrich.

Installation of officers was conducted by the installation team of Susan Hanlon, Joe Goodrich, Alice Daley, Janice Rousselle, and Deborah Ploof.

Sunday Church Service: See Chaplain's Message for this report.

VT State Grange Officers List

VSG Officers

Master	Kendal Holden
Overseer	Linda Sanderson
Lecturer	Alice Daley
Steward	Gordon Gibbs III
Assistant Steward	Mark Belisle
Lady Assistant Steward	Debby Perry
Chaplain	Jennifer Nelson
Treasurer	Martha Kirchner
Secretary	Nancy Perkins
Gatekeeper	Dwayne Gibbs
Ceres	Lisa Goodrich
Pomona	Marsha Johnson
Flora	Kathleen Paglia
Executive Committee	
Term 2022-2024	Errol Briggs
Term 2022-2024	Brenda Rousselle
Term 2021-2023	Stewart White
Term 2021-2023	Deborah Ploof

VT State Grange Resolution Results 2022

Rejected

- #2 Vermont State Grange Directory

- #5 Vermont State Grange Center Study
- #6 Pharmaceutical Advertising on Television
- #9 Term Limits for the Supreme Court
- #10 Volume of Commercials

Out-of-Order so not considered:

- #7 Opposing Article 22/Proposal 5
- #8 Women's Right to Reproductive Autonomy

Approved

- #1 Promoting Sustainable Agriculture
- #3 Mandatory Meetings
- #4 Annual Program Book Seals and Certificates
- #11 H. R. 1454 Ghost Guns Are Guns Act (Renamed and Amended)
- #12 - Increase Mileage Rate Reimbursement (From Master's Address)
- Summary: Mileage rate increased to \$0.40/mile
- #13 – Amendments and By-Laws - Article IV, Sec. 9 of Vermont State Grange Constitution – Voted to delete Agriculture/Environment, Health/Education/Welfare and Legislative as appointed committee committees at State Grange Session since these are current standing committees.
- Resolution 14 – Resolution of Thanks
Be it resolved: That the Vermont State Grange thanks:
 1. The Convention Committee of Ruth Hovey-Sicely, Charles Martin, Richard DeCosta, and K Dunbar for their dedicated work to make a successful convention
 2. Capital City Grange for the use of their stations
 3. The staff and management of the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Brian Cane, Anna Bruce, Robin Graves, and Steve Cody, who welcomed us for the 22nd time to the Hotel.
 4. Worthy Chaplain Jenny Nelson for the Memorial Service, including the Graces and Master, remembering the 27 departed Grangers.
 5. Thank you to Barbara Thompson for being our Pianist for the 151st Session.

6. Joseph Goodrich, Linda Sanderson, Deborah Ploof, Janice Rousselle, Alice Daley, and Susan Hanlon for installation of officers
7. All the members who donated items for the silent auction and door prizes, to Dakota Marchinkowski and Gordon Gibbs Jr., for distributing the items, also Linda Sanderson and Janice Rousselle for taking the money
8. Rick DeAngelis from the Good Samaritan Haven in Barre, Barre Town, and Berlin, who was the guest speaker following dinner on Saturday evening
9. George Goldsworthy of St. Michael's College for his continued support of our organization with printing various documents.
10. Assembly of Demeter attendees: Linda Sanderson, Kendal Holden, Errol Briggs, and Lisa and Joe Goodrich, and those not attending: Lester Gibbs, Brenda Rousselle, Charles and Phyllis Mason, Marie Brouillette, and Dorothy Willard
11. Susan Hanlon for attending the Secretary's table
12. And to everyone who helped in any way to make the 151st VT State Grange Session a success. This includes all who attended either Friday or Saturday, or both.

Reports from 151st State Session on vtstategrange.org

The reports have been uploaded to the Vermont Grange website. You will find them under the header called DOWNLOADS and then select State Session Notes 2022. The password is the annual Fourth Degree word starting with a capital letter. To view them you need to download them BUT you don't have to save them to your device unless you want to (at least that is how it worked for me!) The revised Internal Policy Book and revised Constitution are also present with copies of Secretary's minutes.

Chaplain's Message by Jenny Nelson

State Grange Session ended on Sunday morning with a short service. The theme was peace.

After singing "Come Ye Thankful People, Come", I shared two Bible verses: Matt:5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God". Also, 1Tim:2 "I exhort, therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving thanks, be made for all men. For Kings and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

Consider the thought that we must pray first and foremost for our leaders both in the Grange and our government. We need to show goodness and love to all if we are to heal our Granges for further growth in years to come and mend our democracy. We must give thanks for all we have and be generous in giving hope to others by our actions and deeds. We, as leaders in our communities, need to maintain that purpose of developing a "better manhood and womanhood among ourselves" for the benefit of all.

A final verse offered was John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. We then sang "Let there be Peace on Earth" and let it begin with me. May God bless you and your Grange and our country and world in the days to come and may we all find God's peace in our hearts.

Lecturer's Lines by Alice Daley

I had a great time at State Session. I was re-elected as Lecturer for another 2 years. Prizes were handed out Saturday night at the banquet. It was nice to have so many recipients there. Hope everyone is already working on this year's entries. Let's read some books and do a short report as well as doing some of the stories.

Any questions, feel free to contact me. adodds0322@gmail.com or 22 Carmichael St, Essex 05452

Educational Aid Fund by Lois Wakefield, Chair

Lois Wakefield was reelected, and Makayla Perkins was elected, each for a three year term on the Board of Trustees.

Lois Allen was elected for one year to complete Hiram's term. Our officer elections were as follows: Lois Wakefield-Chairman, Barbara Chambers-Vice Chairman, Beth Morse-Secretary and Janice Rousselle-Treasurer for the next year. Scoring scholarships next spring will be our big project for the year. Don't forget the loans, scholarships and grants that are available for members.

Grange Center Information – Linda Sanderson, Treasurer

The Grange Center Board met after State Session ended and the new officers are:

- Chair Ruth Hovey-Sicely
- Vice Chair Eunice Crowell
- Secretary Karen Barnouw
- Treasurer Linda Sanderson

It was a short meeting, and our next meeting hopefully will be in early December. There is \$11,000 in the Treasury currently. The Grange Center was shut down the weekend of Sept. 25th, electric and phone are turned off. Many projects need to be completed before the Center opens next June and we will need help to get those projects completed. I will try my best to keep you updated. **Please thank your members, family & friends for buying the raffle tickets (basket & 50/50), together we raised \$905.** A big thank you to Lois Allen for selling \$110 worth of tickets.

TAXES, TAXES, TAXES, TAXES, TAXES

Time to file those 990-N forms. Every Subordinate and Pomona Grange will need to file the 990-N tax form by February 2023. Brother Merton Snow was kind enough to send the following directions:

- At the top of your computer page where you type in WEB addresses:
 - Type in: Filing form990-N
 - Scroll down to New Form 990-N Submission Website
 - In 1st paragraph, click on Form 990-N WEB page

- Log In (you should have this Log In information from last year's filing)

Agriculture and the Environment Department Report- 2022 Director Jenny Nelson

A review of this past year has shown some changes in agriculture. Prices moderated upwards for dairy, but only due to the fact that droughts countrywide indicated some loss in feed production and rising costs for fuel. Local food sources in Vermont remain a priority to its citizens, as well it should. Having the big picture view and understanding the relevance of limited resources and global warming, we must stay diligent in our efforts to maintain the resources we have-our land and our water.

In 1977, our state of VT made policy to sustain and protect our agricultural base. By valuing the land needed for agriculture, the Current Use Program was established to put a fair value for taxation on the land used by farm families in the production of food and fiber rather than for building lots or potential development. This program has been successful with proper funding. The Land Trust concept began shortly afterwards in 1978. Instead of being taxed annually at the lower value for ag land, farmers could choose to sell their development rights to a statewide or regional Land Trust, vowing to keep the land in farming in perpetuity. Sometimes a few building lots have been held out for future family on the farm, but this allowed farmers to get a nest egg to use in future improvements in buildings, livestock, equipment, or more land to keep their farms viable.

Today, Vermont and the Feds have several programs, some like insurance on dairy revenue, assistance in buying that insurance to reduce risk, assistance with meeting more and more environmental requirements, and technical assistance to make their farms even more resilient to changing weather patterns and proximity to waterways and nutrient management. Agriculture and the environment will always go hand-in-hand. The UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture has been around since 1994. They also provide research and cultivate partnerships, as well as providing

technical services to our farmers around the state. I commend Blue Spruce and Champlain Valley Pomona for their Ag Resolution on Sustainable Agriculture. I would challenge us all to remember the part we can play in this system of food production. Grow your own food, share, and don't let it go to waste.

Remember the commitment to composting our waste. Use less, reduce more. Recycle all we can. Carpool, drive less, walk more.

As Grangers, we can all be practical and thoughtful in the way we live our daily lives. We all need reminders, and the burden can't be placed solely on farmers and their ability to grow so much of the food we need for sustenance, if the food prices don't meet the production cost.

Thank you to all who were able to donate to Heifer International and the Oliver Kelley Farm this past year and send your reports. My best to each of you,

Family Activities - Linda Sanderson, Director

On Labor Day I took the first-place entries to the New England Grange Building for the Northeast Needlework contest. They were judged and displayed during the Eastern States Expo which was Friday Sept 16 - Oct 2, 2022.

I have asked Worthy Master Kendal Holden to replace me as Director. I just have too much on my plate right now as National 2023 is a year out.

Thank you all who have entered the contest the last 2 years. If you would like to see a different craft, please get in touch with me or the new director before March 2023 so it can be added to the new year's program book. It's too late now to take out some of the categories that there were not entries in last year. I want to thank my State Committee (and anyone else) for their suggestions and help these last 2 years. God bless, stay healthy and KEEP CRAFTING & winning those premiums.

Northeast Needlework Contest: First place advances to the regional contest held in the

New England Grange Building at Eastern State Expo in West Springfield, MA

Class A-Afghans: 1st Deborah Ploof; 2nd Ann Gray; 3rd Jessica Falker

Class B-Doilies: 1st Doris Roberts; 2nd Deborah Ploof; 3rd Marion Cubit

Class C-Embroidery: 1st Marion Cubit
Class D-3-piece Baby Set: 1st Janice Rousselle; 2nd Marion Cubit; 3rd Darcelene Lewis-Wedge

Class E-Plastic Canvas: 1st Doris Roberts

Class F-Counted Cross Stitch: 1st Doris Roberts; 2nd Ellen Garneau

Class G-Adult Garment (crocheted/knitted): 1st Melody Falker; 2nd Ann Gray; 3rd Marion Cubit

Class H-Latch Hook: 1st Deborah Ploof
Class I-Quilted Wall Hanging: 1st Deborah Ploof; 2nd Doris Roberts

Class J-Stuffed Toy: 1st Doris Roberts; 2nd Melody Falker; 3rd Deborah Ploof

Class K-Baby Afghan: 1st Deborah Ploof; 2nd Janice Rousselle; 3rd Jessica Falker

Class L-Garment (sewn): 1st Deborah Ploof

Winners at the New England Grange Building were:

Deborah Ploof: Class A- 3rd; Class I- 3rd; Class K- 3rd; Class L- 1st

Doris Roberts Class B- 2nd; Class E- 3rd; Class F- 3rd

Janice Rousselle Class D- 1st

Vermont Family Activities contest winners

Class Z-Crafted Accessories

1. Hats: 1st Melody Falker; 2nd Jessica Falker; 3rd Marion Cubit

2. Mittens: 1st Marion Cubit

3. Scarf: 1st Marion Cubit; 2nd Doris Roberts; 3rd Miriam Williams

Class Y-Sewing Child's garment: NO ENTRIES

Class X-Recycled project: 1st Doris Roberts

Class W-Latch Hook: NO ENTRIES

Class V-Quilted wall hanging: NO ENTRIES

Class U-Coat Rack: 2nd Marion Cubit

Class T-Wood craft: NO ENTRIES

Class S-Craft not listed: 1st Ellen Garneau; 2nd Ellie Lawyer; 3rd Melody Falker

Ground Beef-Cooking Contest held in July at Family Camp

1st Alice Daley, Blue Spruce #574

2nd Brenda Rousselle, Blue Spruce #574

3rd Sallie May, Evening Star #154

4th Deborah Ploof, Blue Spruce #574

5th Nancy Perkins, Blue Mountain #263

6th Jenny Dimick, Bomoseen Valley #273

Health Awareness by Alice Daley, Director

I attended State Session this past weekend. Wonderful to see old friends. It was great to talk to people about their Health Concerns. Please continue to contact me if you have any concerns or questions. adodds0322@gmail.com or 22 Carmichael St, Essex 05452

Information by Lois Allen, Director

FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT!

I need to inform all that during State Session, something very strange happened to my email account. The Lgahea1308@gmail.com account was totally locked up by Google. ON ALL DEVICES. After working with Google into the wee hours of the night, it became evident that I needed to set up a new account. From State Grange (September 14-16), my new e-mail will be ***DevilsSister1308@gmail.com***. Please do not send anything to the former address. I cannot access it. I have tried to reconstruct my list of contacts, but if you notice you are no longer getting "calendar" and other information, please contact me at the new address. Sorry for the inconvenience. It doesn't make me very happy either. It was a great pleasure at State Session to see faces that I could connect with the email addresses I see each month.

For this past year, life has been challenging. I tried to keep up with all I was expected to do but may have fallen off the information wagon occasionally. There were times when for some reason, I was taken off the list of people who were sent information from National Grange and would have to get myself back on the list. If, in the future, you notice that the "Patron's Chain" or "View From the Hill" are not coming through from me, please let me know so I can get after National Grange again to get myself listed again. I started keeping track of what Granges sent in articles for the monthly calendar as promised. As a result of this, I tallied up the entries and decided to award the Grange that sent in the most entries and the Grange that was the most consistent. I consulted several people in higher authority, but they could not come up with a way to award these Granges. As a

result, Worthy State Secretary Nancy Perkins and I came up with the following idea. A certificate of merit and money is to be awarded to these Granges. For the most consistent, Middle Branch got a certificate in the amount of \$10 to be turned in to the State Secretary for items you wish to order from her. For the most entries in the calendar for the year goes to Charlotte as well as a \$10 certificate for items from Sister Nancy. Keep up the good work, everyone.

It has been a pleasure working with you all. Before the Google Caper, I had 125 contacts on my list. Most are on e-mail, but about 15 are snail mail. That explains the early deadline every month. I have to get the word out before some of the early functions get overlooked. If you are not on my contact list, and wish to be, please contact me. I can be reached by e-mail at DevilsSister1308@gmail.com, by phone 603-653-3045 and by snail mail. Lois Allen 69 Lily Lane Apt 229 West Lebanon, NH 03784. It is a great way to find out what is happening in our Grange family. I am pretty much constantly sending out information from other committee chairs about new happenings or cancelled happenings. Don't miss out.

Junior Grange Report - Martha Bissel, Director

Most of the following was the report given at The State Grange Session:

Once again, the past year has been quiet in the Junior Department. We did not hold camp because there was not enough response to make it logistically feasible to hold camp. It was decided that we should have at least 15 campers. We had 5 respond. One of which would have been a Junior counselor. We would have to have a staff of 7 adults.

We did have two entries in the contest. Thank you Bomoseen Valley 1+ Juniors. The 2022-2023 Contest Projects are as follows:

- Rock Painting - Find a nice rock to paint or color. Size of rock no larger than 3" x 3" x 3".
- Duct Tape project - Create a project using duct tape. Size not to exceed 6" X 6" X 6".
- Buttons--Create something interesting or useful using

buttons. Decorate with any medium. 4" X 4" X4"

- Other state contests can be found on the Community Service, Fall Festival, Family Activities and Lecturer's program pages in the program book. Junior aged people can enter those contests as well.
- Big E Project- To be determined. Watch for updates in the Green Mountain Granger.

I would like to encourage Subordinate Granges to take advantage of the 1+ Program. There are four subordinate granges that I know of that have 1+ members - Ferrisburg, Bomoseen Valley, Chelsea, and Marble Valley. We have one active Junior Grange- Middle Branch. Thank you to all the Subordinate and Pomona Granges that donated to the Junior Department.

The 2023 National Junior Grange Program Guide is on the National Junior Grange website. This version of the Junior Grange Program Guide replaces all prior versions and will go into effect beginning November 2022. For any additional updates or for more information visit the National Junior Grange Website at

www.nationaljuniorgrange.org Questions or comments should be directed to: Samantha Wilkins - National Junior Grange Director Junior@nationalgrange.org

As announced at State Session I am resigning as the Director of the Vermont State Junior Grange. It has been an interesting and fun journey for me but it is time to step away from the position. Thank you for your support.

Youth Department by Jessica Falker, Director

It was so nice talking to everyone at State Session about ideas for the Youth Department, and to see some of our youth members in attendance! As I announced at State Session, I have increased our social media presence so that in addition to our **Facebook page, Facebook.com/vtstategrangeyouth, you can now follow us on Instagram, Vermont Grange Youth, and Twitter @VTGrangeYouth.** Please share this information with your Grange. I still need

a list of youth members from some Granges so I can communicate effectively with them. If you have not done so already, please send a list of your youth members aged 14-35 by email to JJEM1999@yahoo.com, call or text 802-417-7020, or snail mail Jessica Falker, 72 Alfred Buck Ln, Pittsford, VT 05763. Or if you are a youth member reading this, please send me your contact info!

Historical Record about Gassetts Grange

FINALLY, FINALLY I have been able to attempt to duplicate the minutes of the Gassetts Grange meeting in 1904. Beautiful penmanship, but difficult to read. Many abbreviations were used. No guarantee on the spellings or correct interpretation of the notes!!!!

Historical Record Gassetts Grange #327 Gassetts, Vt. Dec. 17, 1904

The people of Gassetts met and organized a Grange to be called Gassetts Grange, the Worthy Deputy E. F. Whitcomb. Organized said Grange. There was a committee appointed to bring in a list of Officers. The following were reported and accepted by the Grange. After a short recess, the Officers were installed, except the Treasurer, who was not present. Sister Bertha Whitcomb acted as Asst. The Officers are as follows: Mr. Frank Dechafragh, W.M. Mr. W. A. Diaz, W.O. Mr. J. le Griddings, W.S. Mr. E. P. Putman Asst. Steward. Mrs. Winnie Putman, Lady Asst S. Mrs. Pricilla Johnson, W. Chap. Mrs. Myron Chandler, W. Lec. Mr. P. R. Earle W. Treas. Mrs. Minnie Lawrence, W. Sec. Mr. John Chandler, W. Gate Keeper. Mrs. S. de Griddings, W. Pomona, Mrs. Will Day W. Flora, Mts. Ida Parks W. Series. It was voted to have the next meeting in two weeks from tonight at 8 o'clock in Lockwoods Hall.

It was voted to support a business committee of three, by the W. M. & H. Dresser, the business committed appointed was Mr. Wm. Johnson, Mr. H. H. Chandler, and Mrs. E. P. Putman. No further business being on hand, the W. Deputy declared the order closed. Minnie Lawrence, Sec.

Can you put your hands on some of your older Grange Secretary Records? If you can, get a copy to me---kind of look it over and note clarification on spellings---and send me a copy. Will get it into the Granger. Be sure the notes include the name of your Grange and the date.

Community Grange Happenings

Blue Spruce Grange #574 - Kendal Holden presented a program August 10 on the "Fair before the Fair" as part of the Essex Community Historical Society's Tales and Treasures lecture series at Memorial Hall in Essex Center. This fair was organized and run by the Essex Center Grange in a field off from Towers Road in Essex Center from 1913 to 1921 when the fair moved to the current Champlain Valley Fair location. Kendal's presentation also included a history of the Essex Center Grange. Blue Spruce Grange was a co-sponsor of the program. Reporter, Ann Gray

Blue Spruce Grange #574 was at State Session where we participated in voting and one of our members was elected the new VT State Grange Master. Congratulations Kendal Holden. Also, our associate member, Linda Sanderson was elected VT State Grange Overseer. Congratulations Linda. Our next meeting will be October 28 where we will install our officers, including 2 new members. It is a potluck with evaluation by Worthy Errol Briggs. The meeting starts at 4:30. Reporter, Alice Daley, Master

Broad Brook Grange #151 - On Saturday, October 22, the official reopening celebration of the Broad Brook Community Center in Guilford Center, Vermont, took place. This marked the completion of a monumental renovation project that was sparked in 2013 by community visits held with the Vermont Council of Rural Development. As a result of those visits, an independent committee of residents and Broad Brook Grange members began discussions to undertake renovation of the Grange Hall. Now, nine years later and the investment of over \$2.1 million, the former Grange Hall has

been transformed with improvements that both modernize yet keep its historic presence to meet the needs of the community for the next 100 years. The celebration drew over 100 folks, including two from our Vermont State Grange: Garry Sharon (Deputy State Master) and newly elected Vermont State Grange Master Kendal Holden. It also included the dedication of a National Register of Historic Places marker for the hall. The building, under the ownership of the Broad Brook Community Center, remains the home of Broad Brook Grange #151.

Members of the subordinate Grange are hosting two events during November. On Saturday afternoon, Nov. 5, from 2-5 p.m., we will hold a Board Game party for all ages. Then, on Saturday, November 19, we will host our annual free Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

Capital City Grange: Our November meeting will be devoted to discussion of our finances, as we deal with rapidly rising costs for insurance, snowplowing, and sanding, among other things. We are reluctant to have to raise rental rates; the many non-profit organizations and families who rent our Grange Hall are equally stressed by rising costs. By that meeting, we will also know if the Berlin Board of Abatement has responded to our request to have our property taxes abated--another major expense we hope to avoid. We will be looking at ways to increase our rental income to meet the rising costs.

We will be discussing the results of the State Grange annual session as well and will start looking at topics about which we can compose Resolutions for next year's session.

We will also be looking for volunteers to put together holiday food boxes for needy families, as we have in past years pre-pandemic. We are sure that these will be extra-welcome additions to family celebrations in the face of rising prices for food among other things.

We are looking forward to starting the construction work on the addition of a wheelchair/platform lift to our Hall, to finally make the Stage and Lower levels accessible. This is something families and organizations whose members include

people with mobility impairments have missed--and having it will allow more rentals and Hall usage, in addition to fitting our mission to be a completely accessible Community Hall for the Town of Berlin and central Vermont. Reported by Tim Swartz

Gassetts Grange has shut down for the winter, hoping to reopen in April. We just don't have the funds to keep it open over the winter. Thank-you and all stay safe and warm for the winter. Have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas to all. Donna King reporting

Maple Valley #450 put a booth in the Floral Hall at Barton Fair. It was the only one. I hope it brought back memories for some people and let them know that there are still Granges alive in the Northeast Kingdom., it did me. Marion Cubit reporting



Barton Fair Grange Exhibit

Marble Valley Grange – We have had a very busy quarter! We hosted the home-grown & home-made exhibit at the Brandon Carnival and raised \$1,195 at our basket raffle there. We set up a booth and volunteered many hours at the Vermont State Fair in August and then 4 of our members also volunteered at the Champlain Valley Fair. Five of us attended Fall Festival where we set up a booth, and 5 of us also attended State Session where our member Marsha Johnson was elected State Pomona! Coming up we have Pittsford Trunk or Treat and collection of holiday gifts for the Brandon Area Toy Project.

Tunbridge Grange - On October 5th elections were held when Linda Lazaroff was elected Master; Karmen Bascom, Steward; Brian Cook, Assistant Steward; Mary Roberts, Assistant Lady Steward;

Chancity Young, Lecturer; Dan Robets, Gatekeeper; Tracy Amell, Overseer; Jennifer Cook, Chaplain; Paul Amell, Treasurer; Peggy Willoughby, Secretary; Rosemary Distel, Ceres; Hazel Welch, Pomona; and Mert Vesper, Flora. On August 28th we hosted our first Safety Break at the Sharon Welcome Center located on I-89 north, just before exit 2. It was a successful event raising money for our building repairs. The next Safety Breaks will be October 16th and then December 23rd. We were pleased with the food donations to make this a success. Our annual Harvest Supper will be held on Saturday, October 22nd and the 2nd Annual Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday November 12th. We've had four new members join the Grange. Linda Lazaroff reporting