

Maine State Grange Agricultural Committee

Minutes for December 8, 2016 at Maine State Grange Headquarters.

Committee members present: Steve Verrill, Agnes and Bob Nelson, Sharon Morton, Bill and Shirley Hatch, Eleanor and Rance Pooler, Willie Grenier and Karen Hatch Gagne

- Agnes updated the committee on the activities and tasks to prepare for events in 2017. Sharon will update the Maine State Grange display and Karen will pick it up and set up at the Augusta Civic Center for the January Maine Agricultural Trade Show. Karen will make up a Valentines Basket to raffle off during the show. **I still need help at the Trade show. 1-5 on Tuesday January 10th and 9-1 and 1-5 on Thursday January 12th.** If you can assist, please call me at 592-6980.
- Committee updated the rules for the Maine State Grange Farm Family Award. Karen will edit the rules and get to Sharon and have it posted in January 2017. A letter with the rules and application will be sent to every grange in March 2017 and the deadline for return is June 15, 2017.
- Committee updated the rules for the Maine State Grange Agricultural Scholarship. This will be updated by Karen, sent to Sharon and posted on web by January 2017. A letter and the rules and application will be sent to every school in February 2017. A letter will be sent to every grange in February asking for financial support for the Maine Agricultural Scholarship.
- The committee discussed the possibility of having grange educational displays at fairs. Karen will connect with Grangers who judge at the fairs to develop criteria for these exhibits. Karen will talk with Fair Superintendents at the State Fair Association meeting in January to see if Fairs are willing to provide space for granges to exhibit in this category.
- Agnes and Bob are willing to attend Ingraham's Tractor Open House and sell raffle tickets. Looking for other grange members to sell raffles at other Tractor Open houses this spring.
- We do not have a date for the Legislative Luncheon in March. Agnes and Bob are willing to coordinate the luncheon (thank you!) Karen will touch base with Sharon about contacting the groups who could donate foods for this luncheon. We need to bring Maine made items to fill the raffle basket focusing on Maine made items that will be raffles to benefit the Maine Agricultural Scholarship. This basket will be raffled off at the Maine State Grange Convention in Skowhegan in October 2017.
- Karen shared that she had received a letter from Bill and Ann Rust who have resigned from the Ag Committee

- There will be an Ag Luncheon at the Maine State Grange meeting this year. We will need to make more plans at the next meeting.

Maine State Grange Agricultural Committee

DATE: Tuesday February 7th

TIME: 10 am - Noon

LOCATION: Maine State Grange Headquarters

AGENDA:

- Update on Maine Agricultural Trade Show and Maine State Fair Association Meeting (Karen)
- Legislative Luncheon- plans
- Maine State Grange Annual Convention Luncheon and table for fundraising (baskets and silent auction donations)- plans
- Annual meeting for Maine Ag in the Classroom- date and plans
- Fair Exhibits and judges
- Other agenda items