

Annual Junior Report, 2022

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

We meet mostly by Zoom or at Junior meetings when the kids are busy either playing or working on a project. Our July meeting was at Enterprise and while the kids were on the playground, we met at the picnic table and Beth offered to make the goop for the kids to make a paper clay with shredded paper (not papier mache) so the kids could make some bowls. Since we have been using the State Lecturer's Theme, it will be "Harmony" next year and she suggested 'Harmony for Humanity' bowls that could be used to share something with others. It will be a 2 time process and will start at Enterprise because she lives next door to that hall and will be leading the process. Anyone is welcome to come have free art lessons that day.

JUNIOR MEETINGS

We met in Hudson for last fall's "Grow Juniors" meeting and their projects that hadn't been judged because there was no Family Campout in July were judged. Terry found some wonderful people who not only judged, but helped with setting up the crafts, etc. We keep trying to reach out to our Downeast Granges to include their kids and SW families still not have to drive hours to be there. On the map, the Bangor area seems to be a half-way point, but we've been disappointed that it is still the Auburn area kids who attend with the girls from Lincolnville.

Our October meeting was at State Session where they had a pizza-pool party at the hotel where directors were staying. They had a concern when COVID caused an exposure problem and they didn't know whether to go to the banquet or not. The compromise was to have the kids just have some dessert in another room and still present their program.

Since our bylaw discovery, we have been meeting every month either in person or by Zoom. Sometimes, some members haven't been able to attend, but we realize that can happen, we all have lives to live. Terry was on her way to Richmond in July when she had to call and report she had been with her granddaughters and they had been exposed to COVID so she went back home for quarantine. One of the badges requires the kids to plan the lecturer's program and they have been taking turns doing that so that they can get badges.

At one Zoom meeting, we had an Old Testament Teacher explain some of the holiday customs that Jews celebrate which has been a good experience since many of our kids are Christians and it showed how Jesus lived.

We were at Enterprise in Richmond for our 'Spring Challenge' Meeting. Sister Terry had been wanting to let the kids have an experience at Maine State Grange Building for the overnight campout so we went there in June and went to Old Fort Western and did our crafts, etc. at headquarters. The kids voted during their meeting to have the overnight at Enterprise next year and they can have another history lesson with visiting Pownalborough Court House where some of the Revolution was planned, away from Boston.

MEMBERSHIP

The 1+ program from National Grange seems to be working from what we can see on face book and Bulletin posts, but the Community Granges aren't sending the Junior Department the information we need and we don't know who has joined.

We need the Junior's name _____ and birthdate _____,
parent(s) or guardian(s) – name, _____ address, _____
email, _____ phone number _____
home Grange _____, date of joining _____

Marilyn (beedlehill@twc.com or 71 Beedle Road, Richmond 04357) will remain on the Jr. Committee and will accept this information and forward it to our new Director. Please let us know so we can put the kids on our rolls and they can be included with information about Junior Activities.

ZOOM

When we realized that according to National Junior Bylaws, we are required to meet monthly instead of quarterly, we decided to rely on our Zoom connection because we are separated by so many miles. It is

difficult to meet in person every month. We decided to alternate months, and then realized we should meet in person during the summer and by Zoom during the winter driving months. Zoom service has been renewed and Marilyn and Kathy are still the administrators of it. We couldn't figure out how to change to Terry and Marilyn. If any other department wants to use our service, just let Marilyn know and she will open it for you.

COVID

Although COVID was less threatening, it was still a force to be reckoned with causing some changes and last minute cancellations for some people. Those who could attend did and those who couldn't just couldn't and we worked with it. Family Summer Campout didn't occur which made it difficult for judging the crafts. There was a meeting at Enterprise to make the Big E Star crafts and because of exposure, the Crockett girls couldn't be there. But they did the craft at home and mailed their stars to Marilyn who had a couple of Richmond people who didn't know the kids judge the stars and the winners were mailed to Big E for that contest. All the other stars became stars of the Fair Exhibits.

ACTIVITIES & SUMMER CAMPOUT

It's been a summer of history events for the Juniors. They've been to Old Fort Western and cut wood for the fires, cooked as the colonists did, learned about the herbs that not only flavor food, but are health and wellness products. They carded wool and learned about feather beds as well as having a picnic and playing on the playground in Augusta. Had craft times and fun times at MSG Headquarters. Then they visited The Knight House which is the oldest house in Androscoggin County and learned more about historical times including kitchen tools and games from Revolutionary Days. The 2 boys ages 12 and 13 played hopscotch and enjoyed each other's company. Many thanks to Danville Junction for hosting their meeting in August.

CONTESTS

Most of their crafts have been judged and the stars going to Big E were sent for judging there. We still have their Sand Art crafts to be judged which have been displayed at the 3 fair exhibits to earn money for their activities and donations. This will be at the 'Grow Juniors' meeting at Tranquility Grange in Lincolnville in Sept. This meeting is always planned in an area closer to the North East Granges instead of the South West ones. It's a long way from Westbrook/Auburn to Jonesboro/Alexander so we try to compromise and give all kids a chance to gather together at least once a year.

Hopefully, there will be someone to continue exhibiting at the fairs next year. Marilyn is willing to help, but is physically unable to continue the setting up. They earned \$341.00 at fairs near Marilyn – Pittston, Windsor and Litchfield and she has enjoyed promoting the Juniors, showing they are alive and involved. We need to find someone to set up more exhibits in other areas. Can you do it??? Marilyn will help with writing posters and emailing them to anyone able to print and display.

They have practiced a song for their program after the banquet at State Session in Auburn and plan to get together at the hotel where the Co-directors are staying to go over last minute stuff and use the pool. There will be a table to show what was exhibited at the fairs and the kids can pick up whatever they've made at State Session.

Many thanks for the committee members who worked so diligently this year and prayers for the ones who will be involved next year.

Let's continue with the "Spring Challenge" meeting in the spring and the "Grow Juniors" meeting in the fall. All to help with the Junior Motto of "Improvement"

Respectfully submitted, Terry LaCombe and Marilyn Stinson