



Maine State Grange Bulletin

*American Values.
Hometown Roots.*

Maine State Grange
146 State Street
Augusta Maine 04330

<http://MaineStateGrange.org>

AUGUST 2023 ISSUE

The two words 'information' and 'communication' are often used interchangeably, but they signify quite different things. Information is giving out; communication is getting through.

Sydney J. Harris

Highlights for Secretaries to Read

In this section, we'll try to help secretaries by providing a short synopsis of each article. **Try just reading just this highlights section during "communications" and offer the Bulletin to those interested in more information.** "The Bulletin contains the following information..." Then post on the Bulletin Board or make copies so members can read the sections of interest.

- **President's Perspective**— *Installations, Committees Audits. Roster Information and State Session*
- **Agriculture Report**— *No report*
- **Communications Column**— *An Annual Potpourri and Update*
- **Community Service/FH&H Corner**— *No report*
- **CWA Report**— *Upcoming Conference*
- **Educational Aid**— *No report.*
- **From the Deacon's Bench**— *No report*
- **Fundraising Committee Report**— *No report*
- **Junior Report**— *No report*
- **Lecturer's Column**— *Contest Reminders*
- **Legislative Report**— *No report*
- **Membership Moments**— *Ag Fairs and New Members*
- **From the Secretary's Desk**— *No report*
- **Youth Report**— *No report, position vacant*
- **Exploring Traditions**— *Subordinate Grange Manuals*
- **View from the Farm**— *She's an Easy Keeper*
- **Communication Shorts**— *Brief (short) items for our information and use*
- **But wait, there's more!** — *Items recently posted to the website.*
- **Conferences and Dates**— *An updated list of events and deadlines.*

The Maine State Grange Bulletin is published monthly by the Maine State Grange, 146 State Street, Augusta ME 04330

Walter Boomsma, Editor

Submit articles and info to:
Webmaster@MaineStateGrange.org or to
Editor, 17 River Road, Abbot ME 04406.

© 2023- all rights reserved

The views and opinions expressed in contributed articles are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Grange.

Printed in the U.S.A.

President's Perspective

By Sherry Harriman, MSG President/Master

RESOLUTIONS are due in the office on August 15, 2023. Any resolutions received or submitted after the August 15th deadline date will not be considered at this year's 2023 Annual State Session. Resolutions are printed and then mailed back to each Grange. This all takes time.

Just like elections, Granges are required to install their officers usually in September or as soon as practicable after elections. There are not many installation teams traveling the state to perform the ceremony. The Installation Ceremony may be handled by each Grange on their own. There is an official alternative Installation of Officers printed in the new manual that can easily be followed by your members with one person taking charge, all participating or just a few. This alternative ceremony contains half the words as the original one, which is also in the manual.

Grange Committees are **appointed** by the Master/President-elect (whether newly elected or re-elected) and are responsible for asking the people to be involved. The Committees are responsible for organizing and implementing their programs in Subordinate, Pomona, and State Granges. Each level has more responsibilities and activities for the membership. If you would like to serve on a



committee, please contact the Master/President of your Subordinate or Pomona Grange. The State level is also looking for members to get involved with Committees and being Deputies, this being an election year, some officers, deputies, and committees may change.

This is a good time to remind you that your Grange Secretary's and Treasurer's books are to be audited at least once a year, and carrying that out close to installation is the perfect time to get it done. The Executive Committee and/or the Finance Committee of your Grange are the ones to carry out the audit. Written records should be kept for all accounts in the Grange, receipts and expenditures.

Maine State Grange By-Laws: Article XXI – Subordinate Officers and Their Duties

Section 8.1 *It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee of each Subordinate Grange to see that the books of the Secretary and Treasurer and any other funds of the Grange are audited at the end of the fiscal year.*

You will need the Secretary's Records and Secretary's Order Book. This is the 5x7 book the Secretary writes what bills have come into the Grange and need to be paid with an amount listed. This record book also includes donations made to whom, etc. You will need the Treasurer's books, checkbook, bank statements, savings book, etc., and receipt book (for funds received from the Secretary). You compare the Secretary's minutes and Order Book with the Treasurer's checkbook and statements for receipts and expenditures. All items should match between the Secretary and the Treasurer. All Committees of the Grange that handle funds, such as CWA, Lecturer, Chaplain, Bingo, Dinner, Fund Raising, etc., should also be keeping written records of receipts and expenditures to have audited at the end of the Grange year.

Another reminder, 28 Subordinate and 7 Pomona Granges have provided your 2024 Roster information. Even if there were no changes, a report needs to be sent, either the printed form or typed in an email. During the order of business, the Master asks, "Have the reports to the Pomona and State Granges been duly and promptly made?" This includes this request for information. You may not have every committee in your Grange, but we still need the information you have, especially the meeting day & time, the address of your meeting hall, the Master and Secretary's names, addresses, and phone numbers. Something I did notice on the ones I have received, several of the Granges have changed their meeting day and/or time. That is a By-law change and there is a proper procedure to make those changes correctly, then the change must be submitted for approval by MSG. The Article, Section, and Sub-section numbers/letters must be stated in the by-law change request, the current information completely written out then the requested change completely written out. All your members must receive a copy of the proposed change(s), and it will be voted on as a motion at a subsequent meeting from when it is first introduced. After the affirmative vote of the Grange, the same old and new printed information is sent to the State Master for approval. It will take effect after I sign it.

The 150th Annual State Grange Session is Oct. 20 & 21 at the Auburn Masonic Hall located at 1021 Turner St, Auburn. Please note this is a Friday and Saturday event. Anyone may attend the session. Letters about the session will be going out next week to the Granges, which will include the Delegate Registration form, schedule, meal information, and hotel info. All information will be posted on the website. Resolutions will be sent after the 15th of August.

Friday, Oct. 20 -- 1:00 p.m. opening & business. 2:00 State Master's Address. 2:45 Memorial Service, 3:45 Resolutions and National Grange Rep. guest speaker, 6:00 p.m. Banquet by Pine Cone Eastern Star Chapter here in the Masonic Hall – tickets \$16.00 purchased in advance. Awards will be presented upstairs after the banquet: Junior Presentation, Community Service, Family Health & Hearing, Membership, Educational Aid and Howe's Nurses Scholarships, and others.

Saturday, Oct 21 -- 9:00 a.m. opening, acceptance of budget, full election of officer(s), resolutions and reports mixed in with elections as needed & installation of officers. 12:00 Ag Luncheon - tickets \$10.00 purchased in advance. 1:30 Call back to order - business continues. **Conferral of the Sixth Degree will be at 2:30 p.m.** (\$10 fee for 6th Degree candidates) (must have had the 5th Degree or 5th Degree Obligation to take the 6th Degree)

Fair Season is in full swing, and I hope you get a chance to attend a few of them, there are lots of things to see and do. Here are some of the results of the Grange exhibits I have heard about so far:

Ossipee Valley Fair:

1st Maple Grove 148

2nd Waterford 479

3rd Saco 53

Monmouth Fair:

1st Winthrop 209

2nd Waterford 479

3rd Enterprise 48

Pittston Fair:

1st Enterprise 48

2nd Chelsea 215

Maine State Junior Grange received 1st Place award also.

Congratulations and compliments to all who put together these wonderful displays, thank you for your hard work. We are looking forward to seeing more this summer. Thank you, judges!

Communications Column

By Walter Boomsma, MSG Communications Director



An Annual Potpourri and Update...

As we approach the end of another Grange year, making this month's column a bit of potpourri that includes a few updates and thoughts about our ongoing communication efforts seems appropriate.

As a director, it's that time of year when, as a director, I have the opportunity to write an annual report. I get to think about the past year's accomplishments and look ahead to the following year. While it's work, it's good work well worth doing. I challenge each Grange to consider a similar effort. Written reports force discipline and accountability. Can you at least list the programs and projects your Grange has completed? (This fiscal Grange Year is fiscal and runs from October 1, 2022, until September 30, 2023.) If you create a year-end summary or report, send it to me so I can post it on the website!

Additionally, each committee, director, and certain elected officers publish a Program Book for the upcoming year. These books serve as a resource for members and their local Granges. I'll be making some significant changes to the MSG Website Handbook to reflect the major changes made to the site.

Of course, both activities are completed in anticipation of this year's State Convention held on October 20-21, 2023. This will be the 150th time delegates from Granges around Maine have met to look back and ahead. This year I've created a graphic celebrating that anniversary using the theme "A Road to the Future." You'll also find the traditional page on the site offering many details regarding the convention, such as the preliminary schedule, local hotel information, FAQs, and a material packet.

Keeping the website valuable and relevant requires your help! We typically receive over 20,000 views yearly, which doesn't count posts sent to subscribers. (Subscribers receive posts by email once daily.) I'll share more about this in my annual report. Please consider using the site to promote your Grange's programs and activities. Both Grangers and non-Grangers visit the site. Many of those who aren't members are seeking information. One of the most visited pages is the director of Granges. Please make sure it includes your most current contact information!

In addition to information about Granges, the site also carries information of interest to members. For example, I recently posted information about the Maine Referendum Questions on the ballot this fall. At least one Grange will be sponsoring an informational meeting for their community. I also received a "tip" that a local news outlet published an article, "Saving the Halls and Granges that House so Much of our Heritage." A link to the article has been posted on the site. And, by the way, the article notes that it relied on the Maine State Grange Website for historical and background information! If you see an article that interests other Grangers, please send me at least a link.

Speaking of links, I receive daily reports of links on the site that have stopped working. This happens for many reasons, and nearly all of it is beyond my control. Thankfully, most are links in older posts to items that have either been moved or deleted. Please understand that it would be extremely time-consuming to investigate all of these. Let me know if something is missing that is important, and I'll try to research it. (You can also do so. If you find it, please let me know!)

In case you haven't noticed, there's a theme here. Communication is about more than just getting information! It's about giving information too! I received an email recently asking why a particular Grange's Facebook Page wasn't listed on the website. The answer was easy: I didn't know they had one! I occasionally get questions about events at local Granges and know nothing about them! Using the online directory, I refer the inquirer to someone from that Grange, but wouldn't it be great if the information was readily available on the site? We can't share what we don't have or tell what we don't know!

► **FACT:** During the first week in August, there were 513 emails delivered to website subscribers. (The most subscribers get is one per day.) A big advantage for subscribers is that they don't have to remember to check the website and can choose which posts they are going to read entirely.

CWA Report

By Margaret Henderson



The tomato plants are giving us some nice tomatoes. It is wonderful to have fresh produce.

Everything is ready for the conference. A big thank you to Sister Sherry and Brother Richard for setting up the tables and chairs. It is greatly appreciated. I am so excited about seeing all the entries. It does my heart good to see how you are all blessed with these talents.

Next month I will post a list of all the winners.

Hope that everyone is healthy and safe.

Lecturer's Column

By Margaret Morse, MSG Lecturer

As the days rush towards October and the State Grange session, it may be time to look over the photos you have taken during the last year and decide which ones you are going to enter into the photo contest. The categories for this year are water, animals, winter, and gardens. All photos must be turned in to the lecturer's table no later than 2 pm on October 20, 2023. The photography contest is open to all Grangers and Junior Grangers as well as children and grandchildren of Subordinate members. The photographer must select the category for the entry and may enter as many photos in a single category as they wish. Entries, including matting or backing, must be no smaller than 4"x 6" and no larger than 11"x 14". Frames and glass are NOT permitted.



Also, this year the adult coloring contest is still open for all who find coloring challenging and/or relaxing. All entries must be from an adult coloring book and no smaller than 4"x 6" and no larger than 11"x 14".

The Art contest for Junior Grangers will also be judged at this time. The mediums that will be judged include oils & acrylics, watercolors, charcoal or pencil, markers or crayons.

The photography, coloring, and junior art contest entries will be judged against each other based on composition and arrangement, presentation, and technique. Junior Grangers' work will be judged in three age groups: 5 – 7, 8 – 10, and 11 – 14.



Membership Moments

By Rick Grotton, MSG Membership Director

Is everyone having a good summer? Rainy and warm. State Session is soon upon us. I am wishing that you send delegates to represent your Grange. I have received no responses for my requests for your thoughts on getting new members.

Everyone should be busy with their gardens and fair displays. My Grange is a small group, but we always try to go public at the local fairs with a fair booth. The public looks forward to seeing these displays, and the agricultural fairs are screaming for more Granges to participate. As an agricultural organization, it is our duty to showcase these fairs and to support farming in Maine. It is a great publicity offering and a chance to talk to people about Grange and its activities.

Again, I will highlight some ways to get new membership.

- Be an active Grange by meeting regularly and participating in Community events. Have active committees.
- Be open and prepared to accept new members. We can't meet with no quorum or members.
- Be diverse. Allow all members to contribute. Do not be a one-person show. Elect good leaders.
- Learn the floor work and your part as an officer. Reading is fine, but do it clearly without hesitations.
- Publicize your events in local free papers, cable, social media, or the area newspaper.
- Have an open house for the community with a free lunch or snacks. Honor citizens with an award for volunteerism, helping your Grange, or any other special honor they have done to help the community.
- Wear your Grange apparel out in public.
- Visit other Granges/Pomonas. Invite others to visit your Grange. The pandemic hurt this but start again.
- Smile! Smile! Smile!

Exploring Traditions--Meandering Around the Grange Way of Life

By Walter Boomsma, Guest Columnist

Where Do I Find a Manual?

Recently, there have been some questions regarding sources of information for meetings and rituals. The fundamental source is the Subordinate Grange Manual (SGM). So where do we find one of those?

First, a few words about the SGM. Technically, "Grange Manuals are sold only to Grange units themselves and are never sold to individuals. They must remain the property of the Grange and, as such, should always be accounted for by the Worthy Steward of said Grange." While that's true in principle, it is not so much so in practice. If you don't tell anyone, I'll share that one of my treasured possessions is an SGM published in 1908 that belonged to a relative. His name is written in the front, and many handwritten notes throughout the book. I guess the rules haven't been strictly enforced for some time. I occasionally see them offered for sale on eBay.



The SGM contains much of the "ritual" used throughout the Grange: procedures for opening and closing a Grange Meeting, conferring the First Four Degrees, and installing officers. There's even a Grange Burial Service. I recently had the distinct honor of conducting one!

We can think of the SGM as a procedure manual—the "how to" book focused on the ritualistic aspect of Grange meetings and

events. There were some significant changes and additions made to the paperback SGM published in 2013. A few language updates were made and a number of “alternate” procedures and ceremonies were added. For example, this edition includes the Welcoming and Obligation Ceremony—streamlined paths to membership approved by National Grange. (Conferral of the Four Degrees is still highly recommended but not required for a new member to become “official” with voting rights, etc.)

Another SGM reality is that copies (pre-2013) can often be found lying around Grange Halls. These older copies remain useful because procedures have not altered significantly. Sometimes, the older editions are useful for their additional detail. For example, when I conducted that burial service, I used an older manual for its rich language and some additional information.

A Grange seeking copies of these older editions can try contacting:

- Neighboring Granges. Many will have more copies than they need, particularly if they’ve accumulated manuals from closed Granges.
- The local Grange Deputy. The deputy has contact with those neighboring Granges and is charged with assisting.
- A State Officer. The State Master/President would be a good place to start.

It might also be possible to find one on eBay or in a used bookstore, but looking “in-house” will likely be most efficient.

The most recent (2013) SGM will be a bit more challenging. Normally, it can be purchased from the National Grange Store, but as of this writing, it shows as “out of stock.” Hopefully, it’ll be available again soon!

Any degree or ritual quotations are from the forty-sixth edition of the 2013 Subordinate Grange Manual or the most recent edition of the Pomona Grange Manual. The views and opinions expressed in "Exploring Traditions" are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official doctrine and policy of the Grange. Information about the book "Exploring Traditions—Celebrating the Grange Way of Life" can be found at on Amazon, or by contacting the author.

View from the Farm

By Quill’s End Farm’s Endians

Editor’s note: The format of this column has changed a bit with all of the Quill’s Endians participating at various times and in various ways! This month’s column is by Phil.

This week, I was reminded of the age-old acronym KISS. Keep it simple, stupid. For some time now, my main form of transportation has been misbehaving, and even a short to the mechanic’s shop this week drive provided a massive dose of adrenaline.

Since my appointment with the mechanic was scheduled three weeks after my phone call, I had time to research, troubleshoot, and possibly save some money by doing some of the work myself. The more modern the vehicle, the deeper the rabbit hole of sensors and components. My little Toyota Tacoma is a 1996, and fortunately, still has a fair amount of mechanical, rather than electrical, components. I should have concentrated on corrosion instead of sensors, it seems. My research complicated a problem fixed by a professional with WD40.

I was flabbergasted when, after a harrowing drive to the mechanic shop on Wednesday, they called with a fix mere hours later. Thank God for knowledgeable professionals. Mechanics are a mystery to me. I lack the patience for discovery and the mechanical sense that clicks so easily in their minds.

It is that “click” that sets an individual apart in any field. Sometimes, creatures just intuit a skill. Cows as well as humans. True in fields of pasture as well as mechanical fields. Ariel is like that. She is just three and on her first lactation as a dairy cow, a novice in her career. Yet, she is the essence of a dairy cow...she embodies it.

Born from Pippin, of whom I wrote three weeks ago; and sired by Hughbert, the mellowest bull we have ever had, Ariel has been eager to please and unwilling to make a fuss from day one. She goes about her business with class and skill, no matter what you ask of her.

She calved last fall when we had too much milk and were trying to sell a few cows to even out the supply-demand cycle. We felt we had to list her for sale along with some other difficult choices. We are glad no one bought her.

She raised three veal calves for a few months and then willingly came into the milking parlor to provide you all with dairy products. This would not be an easy transition for many cows. She would melt into a larger herd, but is all too happy to be treated to royal care here at Quill’s End, where we can seek her and her wonderful, willing personality out and value the ease she provides us.

Old-timers would call her an “easy keeper” and I am beginning to understand just what that understated metaphor means, thanks to Ariel.



Carolyn, Ben, Phil, Zander, and Heather all have a “view from the farm” and are contributing to these columns

Heather and Phil Retberg and their three children run Quill’s End Farm, a 105-acre property in Penobscot that they bought in 2004. They use rotational grazing on their fifteen open acres and are renovating thirty more acres from woods to pasture to increase grazing for their pigs, grass-fed cattle, lambs, laying hens, and goats. Heather is Vice President of Halcyon Grange #345 and writes a newsletter for their farm’s buying club of farmers in her area and has generously permitted us to share some of their columns with Grangers. Visit the [Quill’s End Farm Facebook Page](#) for more information.

Communication Shorts

A few short items of information and interest!

National Grange Lecturers' Newsletter

It's not just for lecturers! The third quarter issue of "[A Quarter's Worth](#)" has been posted to the website. Take a look! Thanks to MSG Lecturer Margaret Morse for sharing!

What Can You Say Other than "WOW!"

For the second full week in August, the most visited post was "[High Season Market at Ocean View Grange](#)! One thing that makes this especially interesting is that the post covers an event that already happened! Should Granges be doing more markets?

Ideas for Granges

See this month's Communications Column! Why not publish an annual report of your Grange's accomplishments? You could even offer them for inclusion in your town's annual report!

Article About Grange and Other Halls in Maine

The Maine Monitor recently published an article entitled "[Saving the Halls and Granges that House So Much of Our Heritage.](#)" We're particularly proud of the fact the author depended upon and quoted from the Maine State Grange Website!

Thought for You...

"Let's be honest; it's rather easy to be busy. We all can think up a list of tasks that will overwhelm our schedules. Some might even think that their self-worth depends on the length of their to-do list. They flood the open spaces in their time with lists of meetings and minutia - even during times of stress and fatigue.

Dieter F. Uchdorf

Online Directories Available 24-7

Remember, we have two interactive directories, meaning you can sort and search! The first is the [ODD Directory](#), which features all state officers, directors, and deputies with contact information. The second is the [Directory of Granges](#), which features all Granges in the state.

But wait, there's more!

A sampling of articles posted on the website...

- Maine Referendum Questions Offer Granges Opportunity
- Sweet, Savory, and Song at Tranquility Grange
- Free Pesticide Disposal
- Notes from National Grange
- St. George Grange August Public Supper
- View from the Hill, July 2023
- Parkman Grange to Award Scholarships
- Valley Grange Thanks MHFCU!
- Grange Love at Guilford River Festival

Conferences and Dates

Please note that events scheduled in advance are always subject to change. State and Regional events are listed, as well as Degree Days, Officer Installations, and Pomona Meetings. Sorry, but space does not permit us to include regular local meetings, but we do include local Grange Special Events.

September 2023

Note that most contest entry forms and information can be found in the Program Book for that department or committee.

- Music Mondays, every Monday at St. George Grange at 7 pm. Bring an instrument and play with others. Weekly until October.
- September 1, 2023, Skit and Poetry Writing Entries due to MSG Lecturer. See the Lecturers' Program Book for more information.
- September 1, 2023, East Madison Grange Open Mic Night on the first Friday of every month at 7 PM. Refreshments are available, free to the public, but donations are appreciated. Contact hideandgopeep@gmail.com or 207 716-6441.
- September 9, 2023, St George Grange Public Supper. Adults, \$10; Kids \$5, under 10 eat free.
- September 14, 2023, MSG Bulletin Deadline — columns and posts are due.
- September 15, 2023, Deadline for Educational Aid Scholarship Applications. FMI, see the "About Scholarships" Page.
- September 30, 2023, Wayside Grange Concert, doors open at 6:30 pm, concert at 7:00 pm. FMI visit Wayside Grange's Facebook Page.
- Date to be determined, Maine Lecturer's Conference.

October 2023

Note that most contest entry forms and information can be found in the Program Book for that department or committee.

- Music Mondays, every Monday at St. George Grange at 7 pm. Bring an instrument and play with others. Weekly until October.
- October 6, 2023, East Madison Grange Open Mic Night on the first Friday of every month at 7 pm. Refreshments are available, free to the public, but donations are appreciated. Contact hideandgopeep@gmail.com or 207 716-6441.
- October 20-21, 2023, MSG Annual Convention at the Auburn Masonic Hall.
- Photo, Coloring, and Art Contest Entries are due at MSG Convention. See the Lecturers' Program Book for more information.
- October 28, 2023, Wayside Grange Concert, doors open at 6:30 pm, concert at 7:00 pm. FMI visit Wayside Grange's Facebook Page.

November 2023

- November 14-18, 2023, National Grange Convention will be held in Niagara Falls, NY

All articles and information for the Bulletin must be submitted by the fifteenth of the month. (Articles will be posted to the website as received unless otherwise requested.) All letters or articles submitted for publication must have contents relating to the Grange and may be edited for length and grammar. The complete editorial policy is available on the Maine State Grange website.

PLEASE POST A COPY OF THE BULLETIN TO YOUR GRANGE'S BULLETIN BOARD



150th Maine State Grange Convention

A Road to the Future...

October 20-21, 2023

Auburn Masonic Hall
1021 Turner Street
Auburn ME

<http://mainestategrange.org>

