

COMMUNITY SERVICE/FAMILY, HEALTH & HEARING REPORT

MAINE STATE GRANGE

September 1st, 2023

To the Officers and Members of the Maine State Grange,

This year's Community Service/Family, Health & Hearing Committee included: Cassandra Corliss & Victoria Huff.

Community Service

I am very excited to say I have made it through my ninth year as the Director of this committee. I would like to thank all of those who have supported this Committee and Director during my time as Community Service Director.

I was excited to see the Community Service Books/Activity Sheet that came in again this year. I am so proud of all the work that has been done around the state this year. The quality of books was wonderful, and I was truly worried at the difficulty of the judging for the judges.

This year's Community Service Winners are:

- 1. Highland Lake Grange #87**
- 2. Maple Grove #148**
- 3. Jonesboro Grange #357**
- 4. Valley Grange #144**
- 4. Saco Grange #53**

Of 84 Subordinate Granges, 10 reports were submitted. We are required to have a 25% participation rate to receive monetary support from National Grange. We did not make it this year. It was a sad day.

Please keep sending them in each year. Let me say the work put into these books is getting so much more extensive. This year's judges were so impressed with the quality of the books that we had to add a sixth judge to our panel for final determination. The top six books were separated by a total of 4 points. We had a tie this year for 4th place and even with 6 judges and me we could not separate the 4th place so we are awarding both of the \$50.00. That was how close the book quality and content was. Wonderful work to all!!!

I am happy to say that many Granges are still supporting Barbara Bush Children's Hospital. If your Grange ever gets a chance to do a visit to BBCH it is the most rewarding and inspiring experience. These children don't understand the words "GIVE UP". We can all learn something from them. Our own version of Coups for Troops is still going strong, well let me correct that, stronger than ever. I am pleased to report that we have shipped out 398 lbs. of coupons this year. A little more than last year and we are still moving along.

I am sad to report that we did have any entries in the Fire Fighter & EMT and Educator of the Year Contest this year. I hope that this program can be repeated in the upcoming years.

Four years ago, we added the category of Granger of the Year. That individual would receive an award and a check in the amount of \$100.00 to the charity of their choice. I am very sad to say we did not have any nominees this year.

2017 – 2018 Winner was Victoria Huff

2018 – 2019 Winner was Ann Burns

2019 – 2020 Winner was Walter Boomsma

2020 - 2021 Winner was Rebekah Hodgson

2021 – 2022 Winner is: John Cox Jr. of Jonesboro Grange #357

Community Service & Family, Health & Hearing packets will be available online at the Maine State Grange Website.

Family, Health & Hearing

The committee is overjoyed at the responses this year to the Family, Health & Hearing Contest. It is great to see the increased activity to this committee. It was also incredible to read the way items were presented this year in these trying times. Awareness and knowledge of a given subject helps give you an upper hand in fighting it.

This year's Family, Health & Hearing Contest Winner is: **Highland Lake Grange #87**

Please keep this contest in mind for the upcoming year. This can help your Grange raise an extra \$50.00. Make sure to work with your Community Service Chair and Lecturers to bring awareness to different causes. Open your halls and hearts to the public and bring awareness to the community. We understand that this has been challenging, but there are ways to bring awareness to your Grange Hall in unique ways.

This committee would like to give a sincere thank you to all that have helped and supported us over the past year, to make our committee the success it has become.

In closing I would like to thank everyone who has supported this committee over the past 9 years. Thank you all for making a difference.

Give yourselves a big round of applause for all that you have done and are planning to do in this upcoming year.

Maine State Grange – CS/FHH “Making a Difference One Project at a Time!”

Fraternally and Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Corliss, Director