

To the Officers and Members of the Maine State Grange,

It is an honor to submit my seventh annual report on the activities of the lecturer's department for 2022 - 2023. Without the assistance of the members of the lecturer's committee and the participation of the members of the Maine State Grange this department would not be as effective as it has been. I would especially like to thank Missy Baldwin and Leslie Guy for stepping in when I was unable to attend the second day of the 2022 session.

In June of 2022 I announced the theme for 2022 – 2023 was going to be “Live in Harmony.” By selecting this theme, I had hoped to inspire members to work together for the good of the order.

Throughout the year I have submitted columns that have been posted on the Maine State Grange Website and printed in the Bulletin. I have also sent program helps and information from the National Lecturer to those who have email.

NELC: In late 2022 and early 2023 the State Lecturers of the Northeast region met via Zoom to discuss the possibility of a Leadership, Lecturer & Youth combined conference. During the meetings we discussed plans for our portion of the conference. Unfortunately, the 2023 conference was not held.

Creative Writing Contest: The participation in the creative writing contests, which includes skits and poetry, continues to be limited. I received poetry entries from only two Grangers and skits from one Granger. I sincerely thank them for taking the time to compose these pieces of writing and applaud their accomplishments.

Poetry Awards:

Family: Sherry Harriman, Bauneg Beg Grange #382

Weather: Sherry Harriman, Bauneg Beg Grange #382

Camping: Sherry Harriman, Bauneg Beg Grange #382

Other: 1st Sherry Harriman, Bauneg Beg Grange #382

2nd Barbara Strout, Excelsior Grange #5

Skits: Sherry Harriman, Bauneg Beg Grange #382

Subordinate & Pomona Lecturer's Report: Since State Lecturers are no longer required to send a report to the National Lecturer, it was decided to discontinue Subordinate & Pomona reports. I did receive 2 reports and those Lecturers will receive certificates.

Book Reading Club: Twenty-seven subordinate members sent in reading logs. These twenty-seven members read a total of approximately 1744 books and an amazing 619883 pages. Everyone submitting lists will receive certificates as well as bookmarks. The top three readers in each category will receive ribbons and special awards.

Top readers based on Number of Books and Pages

1st Books & pages -Norma Meserve, Danville Jct. Grange #65 (227 books/60065 pages)

2nd Books & pages - Margaret Henderson, Dirigo Grange #96 (160 books/48167 pages)

3rd Books - Melissa Baldwin, Hollis Grange #132 (148 books)

3rd Pages – Gay Anderson, Mill Stream Grange #574 (42456 pages)

Lecturer's Conference : The attendance at the 2022 Lecturer's conference was small. Therefore, this year an invitation was sent to each Subordinate and Pomona Grange in August. In September the invitation was put on the Maine State Website. At this year's conference the Lecturer's Program book for 2023 – 2024 as well as the Creative Writing booklets and information on the duties of the Lecturer will be passed out to all Subordinate and Pomona Granges. New programs will be reviewed, workshops held, awards presented, and door prizes drawn during the conference. There will also be time for sharing.

State Session: is expected to again be a busy time for the Lecturer's Department. I am hoping for a large participation in the Photo contests. Each photo category will be judged and a first, second and third place will be awarded. A Best in Show ribbon will also be awarded. Last year a People's Choice award was added. A People's Choice Photo will be awarded again this year. Any member attending the session may vote for their favorite photo, the votes will be tallied and a People's Choice ribbon will be awarded. There will again be an adult coloring contest this year.

In July I announced the theme for 2023 – 2024. Any theme should set the tone for the year, so after much contemplation I have chosen to use "MANY HANDS ..." as the theme. The phrase was left open ended, on purpose, so that each Grange can complete the statement the way that fits them best.

THANK YOU to all who have supported, promoted, and participated in any of the programs or activities of this department. Again, I would like to thank the members of the Lecturer's Committee who have helped throughout the year. I wish to thank all those in advance who will assist at the Lecturers tables, hanging art and photos, and all the other things that will need doing during the session. I wish to thank State Master, Sherry Harriman for her help and patience when I call her for advice. Also, a heartfelt thank you to my sister, Diane Miller for all her assistance in the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret A. Morse, Lecturer