



Maine State Grange Bulletin

*American Values.
Hometown Roots.*

Maine State Grange
146 State Street
Augusta Maine 04330

<http://MaineStateGrange.org>

APRIL 2024 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 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**— *Grange Procedures*
- **Agriculture Report**— *No Report.*
- **Chaplain's View**— *Lending a hand*
- **Communications Column**— *What are we boosting?*
- **Community Service/FH&H Corner**— *Unplanned community service*
- **CWA Report**— *No report.*
- **Educational Aid**— *No report.*
- **Fundraising Committee Report**— *No report.*
- **Junior Report**— *No Report.*
- **Lecturer's Column**— *No Report*
- **Legislative Report**— *No report.*
- **Membership Moments**— *Anniversary celebrations*
- **From the Secretary's Desk**— *No report.*
- **Youth Report**— *No report, position vacant.*
- **Exploring Traditions**— *What is a Patron of Husbandry?*
- **View from the Farm**— *All good things must...*
- **Communication Shorts**— *Brief (short) items for our information and use*
- **But wait, there's more!** — *Items recently posted to the website.*
- **Conferences and Dates**— *A 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
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President's Perspective

By Sherry Harriman, MSG President/Master

Richard asked me to say "thank you" for the cards, calls, prayers and words of encouragement after his recent colon surgery. He is mending well, getting about more and more and eating whatever takes his fancy and appreciates your support.

State of Maine Corporation Filings: The State Grange office has been printing and sending the annual corporation forms for your Granges. Granges are required by law to be incorporated. These forms are to be made out and returned with the \$35 filing fee to the Secretary of State, which is a State of Maine Government Agency. Please be sure to send the form and fee together to the proper address.

Reading and Adopting Minutes: Records from the meeting are required to be **read aloud** at least one time during the meeting which must be open in full form to adopt them. The previous minutes are to be read as the third order of business and may be adopted at that time or read for reference. The records may be read and adopted at the end of the current meeting, just before closing, but must be read and adopted during the business of the Grange one place or the other in the order of business. You may read both previous and



current during the order of business where prescribed.

Election of Officers: Full elections are required in each Grange and yes, we use paper ballots for each officer. After election the reelected or newly elected Master will appoint and give the names of the committee chairmen to the Secretary asap after election, so the Subordinate or Pomona Secretary can provide the info to the office. I have included written procedure to follow for election.

Resolutions: These are due by Aug 15 to the Maine State Grange office by email or standard mail. Resolutions must have a title on the resolution provided by the Grange presenting them; we cannot give it a title, and the entire resolution must be written out in full. If you use initials in your resolution, the words must also be written out. The resolution must be voted on & supported by the Grange to be submitted to the State Grange.

Spring in Maine, even with the surprises Mother Nature throws our way, its nice to see the green shoots of the jonquils, daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths, the variety of colors in the crocus beds and patches of green grass showing up here and there, even though those little shoots may still be shivering during the chilly nights, and buried under more than a foot of snow, the sun is warming them more and more. With spring comes reopening. Spring is also clean-up time outside and inside for our own yards, but this should also include our Grange halls. Get the gravel raked off the lawns, pick up the branches and trash lying around, clip the grass and bushes around the steps and foundation, get the tattered plastic off the windows, and maybe even wash the reachable ones. In another month, get some new plants in the window boxes and garden. Repaint your sign, the steps, railings, and even the door. We all need an occasional facelift, and get ready to provide a welcoming place for your neighbors to come and trade seeds, and starter plants, and get gardening advice.

Chaplain's View

By Clay Collins, Former MSG Chaplain

I guess there is no such thing as a permanent retirement. Our State Chaplain recently contacted me and asked me to fill in for her this month as she had some other pressing business to take care of. Being a good Granger and a man of my word, I said of course I would be delighted. I hope you enjoy!



"He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come see the place where the Lord lay."

Matthew 28:6

As I write this column, it is one day past Easter Sunday. All the Easter eggs are found and candy is devoured, family dinners are finished, and family and friends have gone home.

Now what? Do we go back to what we were doing before Easter with no thought to what the resurrection really means? Think about what Christ endured that last week of His life.

The weight of the cross that He had to carry could represent all of our problems. The crown of thorns could represent our lies, indiscretions, and deceitfulness. He died for our sins. All He asks of us is that we don't turn our backs to Him.

All He asks of us is that we live our lives for God. When we are faced with people needing help, we need to lend a hand with no expectations of reward. I am sure you can come up with other examples of things you can do to make life better for the unfortunate. Remember, when things look darkest for you, there are others worse off. May we always have compassion for our fellow man.

I leave you with this: Remember that Jesus forgave us our sins! We should try to do the same!

Until we meet again, I continue to pray for good health for you and yours, and remember, "Be well, do good work, and keep in touch."

Don't forget to thank a veteran for his/her service in the defense of our country and their safe return to their families! Amen

Benediction:

Gracious Father, thank you for your gift of everlasting life. May we be grateful for your gift. "He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come see the place where the Lord lay." (Matthew 28:6) Amen.

May the sun shine all day long,
Everything go right, and nothing wrong.
May those you love bring love back to you,
And may all the wishes you wish come true.
Irish Blessing

Communications Column

By Walter Boomsma, MSG Communications Director

What are we boosting?

Remember "Booster Nights?" I'm not sure there ever was a clear definition or description, but it would probably be fair to describe it as a recruiting effort to "boost" membership with an open house-themed meeting or program.



I'm not aware of any data, but I suspect you won't find too many people who joined the Grange after attending a Booster Night in recent years--for one thing, they've gone out of fashion. But remembering them raises a question. In our efforts to grow our Granges, what are we boosting?

People join the Grange and maintain their membership for various reasons, which can be very diverse and individualistic. I haven't kept track, but the most common explanation I've heard for joining is family tradition—"My parents and grandparents were members." In "my" Grange, we have a few members who pay their dues but aren't involved, don't attend meetings, but maintain their membership status. No criticism is implied. It's just a fact.

Does that mean we should be contacting all of our current members' relatives?

If we are promoting the Grange, maybe so. In a somewhat desperate sense, any reason for joining is acceptable, right?

But the more important question arises. What are we boosting? Or, in a larger way, what are we communicating?

Within the context, it might be time to think about what the Grange *does* in addition to what it *is*.

It's probably time to dust off the "[Why I love the Grange](#)" survey. If you [read some of the reasons](#), you won't see many, "I love the Grange because it is an organization with a long history and agricultural roots..." Most of the answers reflect what the Grange does and how those current members actually benefit. Those answers tell us what we should be communicating if we want to attract new members. We should be looking for "like-minded" people.

Many members mention "family" in explaining why they love the Grange. So, a simple example of what that might mean is we should include "family-friendly" when promoting events. (And we'd better mean it. Valley Grange has an "activity tote" and "book tote" that visiting kids are encouraged to use—and they get to take one home. If they bring it back, they can trade it for another or just keep it.)

In addition to "family-friendly," it might make sense to use the word "community" when promoting your Grange's activity. While not always aware of it on a conscious level, many people are searching for a sense of belonging to something. Maybe your "public supper" should be a "community supper." It sounds too simple and almost trite, but words can mean a lot. I once had someone admit they would be more likely to attend a "Grange Program" than a "Grange Meeting." Meetings are for members. Programs are for everyone.

What is your Grange doing these days? Boost that because your Grange is what it does.

► **FACT:** The website currently has 862 posts and 20 pages! That's a lot of information!

Community Service/FH&H

By Brenda Dyer, MSG Community Service/FHH Director



The unplanned community service activities are bountiful. Helping the community during the last few storms and power outages are endless. Congratulations!!!

April is Grange Month. Have an open meeting, invite the community to participate, and discuss the advantages of being a member!

May is Community Service Month. Choose a new community project.

April

- Grange Month - Follow the National Grange theme. Picture and advertisement needed as proof.

May

- Set up and complete a new project in May. Send in a write-up and pictures with the Family, Health, and Hearing Reports.

Reminder:

- Coups for Troops

Happy Spring!

Membership Moments



By Rick Grotton, MSG Membership Director

This year is the 150th anniversary of the Maine State Grange and many of the earlier established Granges, which were organized in 1874. I attended the 150th anniversary of Excelsior #5, the earliest of the surviving Granges. It was a great celebration with music, awards, a history presentation, a great meal (of course!!), and a wonderful attendance of both Grange members and non-members. Attendees were amazed to see the history of the Grange in that area and the changes that happened over the years.

Hopefully, all Granges will have a tribute to the 150th Maine State Grange anniversary, as well as those who also will be celebrating this year. It is a great milestone, one we are proud of and willing to share with our communities. Advertise and be proud; let the word out and invite the public to celebrate with you. This is one of the best ways to attract new members! Plan your event with a

neighboring Grange or with your Pomona. Don't miss out on new membership; take action and open those doors!!!

I am excited to hear of the results of the two degree days in April. Remember, make sure all your members who are new or only had an obligation ceremony receive a chance to see the full degrees to enhance their knowledge of lessons and symbolism.

Exploring Traditions--Meandering Around the Grange Way of Life

By Walter Boomsma, Guest Columnist

What is a Patron of Husbandry?

"...I will endeavor to be a true and faithful Patron of Husbandry, perform the duties enjoined in this order and aid others in the performance of the same..."

--Obligation from the First Degree



Until insurance regulations required us to remove a wood stove, the foyer of our Grange hall included a non-working woodstove with several chairs around it. One day, during a quick stop, I found my companion sitting in one of the chairs, staring into space.

He explained that he was visualizing a scene from a century earlier. He pictured a few farmers sitting there, absorbing the warmth and discussing their challenges. I joined him in his reverie as we speculated the topics of conversation.

While the past is behind us, sometimes it's worthy of a visit. When we consider those early members, we should consider how difficult their lives were as farmers and as early organizers of the Patrons of Husbandry. Consciously or not, they didn't focus on the low-hanging fruit in their farming practice and in growing the Grange.

Those familiar with Grange History will know that the term "Granger" was a relatively new term introduced amid some significant controversy. From the beginning, members were (and still are) Patrons of Husbandry. Those who fought against adopting the term "Granger" pointed out that the "Grange" was a building. Patrons of Husbandry went to the building (Grange) to meet.

Viewed in the frame of Grange vocabulary, that makes sense. A grange was (in the historical sense) "an outlying farm with the barns belonging to a monastery or feudal lord." (Cambridge Dictionary) Small wonder that we have members who serve as masters, stewards, and gatekeepers.

We can debate the value of the changing vocabulary, but the bigger question might be what is a "true and faithful Patron of Husbandry?" What is a new member agreeing to? The answer is found in the entire obligation and Degrees, but we don't include that in the membership application.

What are the duties of a Patron of Husbandry?

When I explain this to third graders, we look up the words in their new dictionaries. The keywords in the definitions are "support" and "agriculture." Kids are usually quite literal, and that works for them. Adults may want to know, "What's the fine print?" For the most part, the answers are found in the degree work. But you don't get to experience that until you've decided to join.

Ultimately, we all develop our answers to the question. I remember one third grader who visited the Grange Hall. She explained to her young friend that Grangers lived there and read a lot because we like books. Maybe that was close enough.

Pull up a chair next to the virtual woodstove. Someone who knows little about the Grange has joined us. He asked, "What do I have to do if I become a member?"

That might be more important than "What do I get if I become a member?"

Any degree or ritual quotations are from the forty-seventh edition of the 2023 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 on Amazon or by contacting the author.

View from the Farm

By Quill's End Farm's Endians

Editor's note: This column's format includes all of the Quill's Endians participating at various times and in various ways! This month's column is by Phil.

As humans, we want to hold on to the good things: A perfect day. A good hearty laugh. A job well done. Satisfaction. A great meal. Love.

And yet, as humans, we also hold that all good things come to an end.

I had to let one good thing come to an end last week. As far as things go, a Toyota Tacoma with 356,000 miles on it is at its scheduled end. Perhaps beyond it, since it came to Quill's End uninspectable several years ago. Alexander got it back on the road, and



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

for 50,000 miles, it served me well. It also served as a great memory, as it was passed onto us by someone we loved, whose time came to an early end.

Now, I vacillate over this little truck's future. I want to think that it can continue on with the right fix. I want to take it for granted and have it last forever, to hold on to the good thing. I want to know that I'll still think of my friend while driving down the road, and smile at his relentless kindness.

But for now, I'll pass it twice a day, still buried in the mud from its last attempt to bring water to the hogs in the lower field, its frame cracked from the force of trying to separate it from the suction of the saturated soil.

Can I take consolation from a search for my next Tacoma? The excitement of the possibility of another good thing? Perhaps another story, another memory can accompany me as I drive and work.

--
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!

Staying Safe

Just another reminder not to automatically respond to email or text messages that "don't sound right."

Save This Idea!

It's too late for this year, but the town of Falmouth, Maine, is sponsoring an April Stools Day event (that's not a typo). Volunteers will clear the Falmouth Community Park trails for spring (with special attention to dog waste). Trash bags and gloves will be available for participants. The event will have a party atmosphere and fun prizes..

National 9-1-1 Education Month

April is being observed as National 9-1-1 Education Month, an observance designed to ensure that the public is ready to access help during emergencies. This is also an excellent time to make sure you know the 911 address for your Grange Hall--it's usually also the GPS address. Post in around the hall so if there's an emergency, you can provide it to the dispatcher!

Ideas for Granges

Discussion Groups! We recently learned of a local Council on Aging sponsoring General Quarters!, a monthly roundtable discussion group focusing on military topics. What a great name! But almost any topic could work. It wouldn't have to include a formalized program--just an opportunity for people to come together and discuss a mutually interesting topic. Gardening, cooking, reading... use your hall!

Thought for you:

"I find my greatest freedom on the farm. I can be a bad farmer or a lazy farmer and it's my own business." Robert Frost

But Wait! There's More!

Here are some posts you may have missed.

- Valley Grange Celebrates Community
- Promoting Maine Farm Products
- Freeport Grange Celebrates
- Recycle Eclipse Glasses
- Grange Heirloom – April 2024
- Eclipse Day Update
- Jonesboro Indoor Yard Sale
- Email Scam Alert
- Fraternal Concern – Richard Harriman
- Grange Songbooks Exposed!

By three methods we may learn wisdom. First, by reflection which is noblest. Second, by imitation, which is easiest, and third by experience, which is the bitterest.

Confucius

Grange Events

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.

May 2024

- May 3, 2024, Community Potluck Supper at Trenton Grange, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., 1134 Bar Harbor Road in Trenton. For more information, visit the [Trenton Grange Website](#).
- May 4-5, 2024, Community Bazaar (crafts, farmers' market, yard sale...) at Trenton Grange from 9 am until 2 pm both days. For more information, visit the [Trenton Grange Website](#).
- May 7, 2024, Open Mic Night at Trenton Grange. Doors open at 5:30 pm, and the event is from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. \$5 donation cover. [Trenton Grange Website](#).
- May 14, 2024, Deadline for the MSG Bulletin
- May 17, 2024, Valley Grange Community Celebration with potluck supper at 6 p.m. and Celebration at 7 p.m. Visit the [Valley Grange Website](#) FMI.
- May 18, 2024, Junior Grange Meeting at Enterprise Grange. Contact [Director Betty Young](#) for more information.
- May 25-26, 2024, Community Bazaar (crafts, farmers' market, yard sale...) at Trenton Grange from 9 am until 2 pm both days. For more information, see this post or visit the [Trenton Grange Website](#).

June 2024

- June 3, 2024, Ag Scholarship Recipients will be notified.
- June 6, 2024, Piscataquis Pomona Meeting at Wayside Grange Hall. Contact Bill Bemis FMI.
- June 7, 2024, Community Potluck Supper at Trenton Grange, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., 1134 Bar Harbor Road in Trenton. For more information, visit the [Trenton Grange Website](#).
- June 8-9, 2024, Community Bazaar (crafts, farmers' market, yard sale...) at Trenton Grange from 9 am until 2 pm both days. For more information, visit the [Trenton Grange Website](#).
- June 14, 2024, Deadline for the MSG Bulletin
- June 21-23, 2024, Northeast Lecturers' Conference at the Holiday Inn in Norwich CT. Contact MSG Lecturer Missy Baldwin FMI.
- June 22, 2024, Junior Grange Meeting at Lincolnville Grange. Contact [Director Betty Young](#) for more information.

July 2024

- July 5, 2024, Community Potluck Supper at Trenton Grange, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., 1134 Bar Harbor Road in Trenton. For more information, visit the [Trenton Grange Website](#).
- July 6-7, 2024, Community Bazaar (crafts, farmers' market, yard sale...) at Trenton Grange from 9 am until 2 pm both days. For more information, the [Trenton Grange Website](#).
- July 14, 2024, Deadline for the MSG Bulletin
- July 20, 2024, Junior Grange Meeting at Enterprise Grange. Contact [Director Betty Young](#) for more information.
- July 27, 2024, Regional Church Sunday at the Vermont Grange Camp.

August 2024

Note that contest information is typically available from the appropriate officer or directory or the Program Book. Books are available on the [Program Books and Information Page](#).

- August 1, 2024, Grange Ag Enterprise Award Applications due
- August 2, 2024, Community Potluck Supper at Trenton Grange, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., 1134 Bar Harbor Road in Trenton. For more information, visit the [Trenton Grange Website](#).
- August 3-4, 2024, Community Bazaar (crafts, farmers' market, yard sale...) at Trenton Grange from 9 am until 2 pm both days. For more information, visit the [Trenton Grange Website](#).
- August 3 -5, 2024, Junior Grange Camp at Highland Lake Grange. Contact [Director Betty Young](#) for more information.
- August 14, 2024, Deadline for the MSG Bulletin
- August 20, 2024, Drop off CWA Contest items at MSG Headquarters, 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
- August 24, 2024, Subordinate and Pomona CWA Reports Due to State Director.
- August 24, 2024, State CWA Conference begins at 9:00 a.m.

September 2024

Note that contest information is typically available from the appropriate officer or directory or the Program Book. Books are

available on the [Program Books and Information Page](#).

- September 1, 2024, Lecturer's Skit Writing, Poetry Writing, and Book Reading Contest entries are due.
- September 1, 2024, Community Service and FHH Reports are due.
- September 6, 2024, Community Potluck Supper at Trenton Grange, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., 1134 Bar Harbor Road in Trenton. For more information, visit the [Trenton Grange Website](#).
- September 7-8, 2024, Community Bazaar (crafts, farmers' market, yard sale...) at Trenton Grange from 9 am until 2 pm both days. For more information, visit the [Trenton Grange Website](#).
- September 14, 2024, Deadline for the MSG Bulletin
- September 24, 2024, Junior Grange Meeting at Headquarters. Contact [Director Betty Young](#) for more information.

October 2024

- October 3, 2024, Piscataquis Pomona Meeting at Valley Grange Hall. Contact Bill Bemis FMI.
- October 4, 2024, Community Potluck Supper at Trenton Grange, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., 1134 Bar Harbor Road in Trenton. For more information, visit the [Trenton Grange Website](#).
- October 5-6, 2024, Community Bazaar (crafts, farmers' market, yard sale...) at Trenton Grange from 9 am until 2 pm both days. For more information, visit the [Trenton Grange Website](#).
- October 14, 2024, Deadline for the MSG Bulletin
- October 18-19, 2024, Maine State Grange Annual Convention, tentative

November 2024

- November 1, 2024, Community Potluck Supper at Trenton Grange, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., 1134 Bar Harbor Road in Trenton. For more information, visit the [Trenton Grange Website](#).
- November 2-3, 2024, Community Bazaar (crafts, farmers' market, yard sale...) at Trenton Grange from 9 am until 2 pm both days. For more information, visit the [Trenton Grange Website](#).
- November 12-16, 2024, 158th National Grange Convention in Bettendorf, IA.
- November 14, 2024, Deadline for the MSG Bulletin

December 2024

- December 6, 2024, Community Potluck Supper at Trenton Grange, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., 1134 Bar Harbor Road in Trenton. For more information, visit the [Trenton Grange Website](#).
- December 7-8, 2024, Community Bazaar (crafts, farmers' market, yard sale...) at Trenton Grange from 9 am until 2 pm both days. For more information, visit the [Trenton Grange Website](#).
- December 14, 2024, Deadline for the MSG Bulletin
- December 21-22, 2024, Community Bazaar (crafts, farmers' market, yard sale...) at Trenton Grange from 9 am until 2 pm both days. For more information, visit the [Trenton Grange Website](#).

All letters or articles submitted for publication must have contents relating to the Grange and may be edited for length and grammar. Our complete editorial policy is available on the Maine State Grange website.

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