



Maine State Grange Bulletin

*American Values.
Hometown Roots.*

Maine State Grange
146 State Street
Augusta Maine 04330

<http://MaineStateGrange.org>

MAY 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**— *Degree Days and Elections*
- **Agriculture Report**— *Scholarships Awarded, Grange Enterprise Award Info*
- **Chaplain's View**— *The Meaning of Trust*
- **Communications Column**— *Promoting Your Events*
- **Community Service/FH&H Corner**— *No report*
- **CWA Report**— *Contest entry submissions*
- **Educational Aid**— *No report.*
- **Fundraising Committee Report**— *No report.*
- **Junior Report**— *No Report.*
- **Lecturer's Column**— *No Report*
- **Legislative Report**— *No report.*
- **Membership Moments**— *April Degree Days*
- **From the Secretary's Desk**— *No report.*
- **Youth Report**— *No report, position vacant.*
- **Guest Article**— *Flowers in Your Garden?*
- **Exploring Traditions**— *Harvesting the Low-hanging fruit*
- **View from the Farm**— *The Mother of Invention*
- **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

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President's Perspective

By Sherry Harriman, MSG President/Master

WELCOME to our 37 new members who received their degrees at last month's Degree Days. The first held at North Scarborough Grange conferring all four degrees on ten candidates from North Scarborough, Deering, St. George, Hollis and White Rock. Thank you, officers from Cumberland and Androscoggin Pomonas for filling the chairs, nice job everyone. Thank you, Yvonne Johnson for putting things together. The second held on Maine State Grange's 150th Anniversary April 21 at the State Grange Home in Augusta. Candidates were from Danville Junction, Excelsior, Mill Stream, Farmington, Androscoggin, Cambridge Valley, St. George, Victor, and Merriconeag. Thank you to the officers from Androscoggin and Cumberland Pomonas for taking the office parts, super job everyone. Thank you to Maynard Chapman, Chief Deputy for getting things organized. Thank you to the folks who attended the two meetings just to view the Degrees.

Reminder dates:

June 1, 2024, Maine State Grange Yard Sale at Manchester Grange



June 21 -23, 2024 North East Lecturers Conference hosted in Norwich, Connecticut

RESOLUTIONS are due to the State Grange office by August 15 — email or standard mail.

MAINE STATE GRANGE ANNUAL SESSION dates set for October 18 and 19 at the Auburn Masonic Lodge in Auburn. Details coming out soon.

PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Maine still uses paper ballots for each officer and should be held in June. The committees are named by the elected Master ASAP after elections.

1. The Master will appoint tellers to count the ballots.
2. Master will say: “The Chair awaits presentations of names for the office of...” and will repeat the name presented and ask, “Are there any others?” asking a total of three times, repeating the list of names for that office each time. A person may decline or withdraw their name for the office, if they wish to, at the time their name is presented and does not have to give a reason for declining.
3. The Master will repeat the names and say “You will prepare your ballots for the office of” After a brief pause, the Master will instruct the Assistants to collect the ballots and may excuse the Assistants from carrying their staves. You do not have to ballot if you do not wish to. If you want to cast your ballot, but do not want to vote for one of those names presented or any other name, you must write the word “Blank” on the ballot to be counted in the total.
4. After the Assistants have collected the ballots, the Master will declare the ballot closed. The ballot is then given to the tellers and the Assistants return to their seats.
5. The tellers will count the ballots and make the report to the Master.
6. The final choice is announced by the Master, “By your ballot, you have elected _____ to the office of _____.” and the results are recorded. Once a majority has been reached, the Master will ask the person “Brother or Sister _____, do you accept the office of _____.” If they decline or if there is no majority of the ballots cast, the Master will say, “Since we have no majority, you will prepare your ballot for the office of _____,” repeating all names listed. You will proceed to ballot once again on the same office until a majority is reached. The ballots are then thrown away after the result is given by the Master. The same procedure is followed for each office.
7. Upon completion of the election, the tellers are excused with thanks.
8. After the election of the Subordinate or Pomona Grange, the Secretary will provide Roster info for the meeting day and time, the Grange address, and name, address, phone & email for the Master, Lecturer, Secretary & CWA Chairman to the State Grange as soon as possible.

Ag Committee Report

By Roberta Meserve, MSG Ag Committee Chair

A big Thank-you for those who provided fudge in March for the Legislators. They loved it.

The Agriculture Committee met in Augusta on May 10, 2024 to discuss Agricultural Scholarship applications. We awarded scholarships to these applicants:

- **Samantha Bissell**, Palmyra, Nokomis H.S.
- **Hannah Dean**, Ripley, Dexter H.S.
- **Cooper Dellarma**, Solon, Carrabec H.S.
- **June Foyt**, Monmouth, Monmouth Academy
- **Madison Shaw**, Saco, Old Orchard Beach H.S.
- **Ryleigh Turgeon**, Buxton, Bonny Eagle H.S.

Each recipient will receive \$500.00.

Grange Agricultural Enterprise Award *Application deadline date August 1.*

Applicants must earn at least a portion of their income from their Agricultural Enterprise.

The application form approved by the Maine State Grange Agriculture Committee must be used. [The form is available on the MSG Website.](#)

Awards: The winner will receive \$100 cash prize and will be invited to showcase their enterprise at the State Grange Annual Session in October of that year, and share display space with the MSG Agriculture committee at the Agricultural Trade Show the following January at the Augusta Civic Center, at no expense. The sponsoring Grange will also receive a \$100 cash award.

Chaplain’s View

By Chistine Herbert, MSG Chaplain

What is trust and what does it mean to you?

Definitions:

1. Firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something.
2. An arrangement whereby a person (a trustee) holds property as its normal owner for the good of one or more beneficiaries. (A trust was set up)



We trust our leaders in the Grange that they will continue to follow the By-Laws and improve communication in their leadership roles.

We trust financial institutions; that is why we use them. Therefore, shouldn't we trust in one another as God trusts us? If you believe in God, then you trust in God.

Justice and judgment are the foundation of your throne; Kindness and truth go before you. (Psalms 89:16)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not; in all your ways be mindful of him; and he will make straight your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

The two Biblical references come from the Catholic Bible Publishers 1972-1973 edition.

Communications Column

By Walter Boomsma, MSG Communications Director



Promoting Your Event

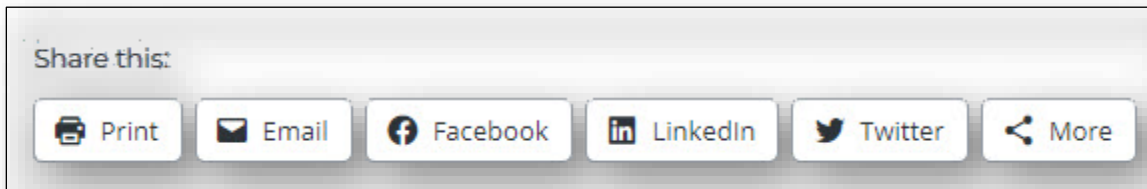
Our April Column discussed “boosting” the Grange. One obvious way of doing that is to promote your events thoroughly. Since I’ve recently had some questions about posting events on the website and in the calendar, let’s continue the theme!

When you submit information about an event...

For example, the deadline for the May Bulletin was May 14th. As long as space permits, I include the entire website calendar (the following month [June] through December) in that (and every) Bulletin. I usually complete the Bulletin a day or two after the deadline and post the PDF on the website. I also send it to MSG Headquarters for them to print and snail mail a copy to all Subordinate Grange Secretaries. The way the local secretary handles it is very individualistic. Many bring it to their next meeting. That’s where it gets tricky. Using Valley Grange as an example, we’ll be meeting on June 19th, so you can see how most of the June events in that Bulletin will be over by the time it reaches some people.

For the website, I usually post events within 24-48 hours of receiving them. I probably should note that we don’t post “regular” meetings. I love to create an individual post for events when there’s sufficient information. If you use the [submission form on the website](#), it prompts you for what to include. If sending an email is easier, by all means do so—if you send an email, you can attach a copy of any flyers or other visuals. Visuals help me create an actual post for the event!

Once your event is posted on the MSG Website, it’s easy-peasy to share that post to Facebook—or lots of other places! Go to the bottom of the post and click the button!



Hopefully, this shows the value of posting your events to the website:

- Your event information is posted and available almost immediately after submitting it;
- Your event may include illustration—for example, we have standard logos for events such as public suppers and yard sales;
- Your event information is easily discovered by people searching for Grange activities;
- Your event is easily shared by anyone on social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, etc.;
- Your repeating events are listed as such on the MSG Event Calendar;
- Your event gets statewide and national exposure.

To achieve great things, two things are needed: a plan, and not quite enough time.

Leonard Bernstein

► **FACT:** So far this year, nearly 3,000 people have visited the MSG Website!

CWA Report

By Margaret Henderson, CWA MSG Director

The CWA Committee met last month. We planned the program booklet for next year and chose the items for the baking contest

and craft projects. This was a very productive meeting. I am so thankful for the ladies who are on this committee with me.

Just a reminder that contest entries are due at Headquarters on August 20th. I will be there from 9-3 that day. If you cannot bring them that day, please call me or headquarters and make arrangements with either Sharon or myself to make sure that your entries will be there to be logged in on the 20th and judged on the 23rd. Sharon is there on Tuesday and Thursday every week, and if you cannot do one of those days, call me, and I will find a day that works to make sure that your entries will be judged.

I hope that everyone is doing well. I am looking forward to some warm, sunny days and many Grange activities.

Membership Moments



By Rick Grotton, MSG Membership Director

Spring has sprung, and warmer weather has us out and about and ready to plant our crops. Enjoy the wonders of Nature as the seed becomes a healthy plant and then bears fruit. We are grateful for all the resources that nature provides so we can have a bountiful harvest.

I am pleased to hear that the Degree Days in April were successful and that Granges recruited new members. I know of fifty, yes fifty, new members who saw the degrees or were obligated last month. Our Grange had 2 who were obligated. Out of the fifty new members, three Granges alone totaled 36; Fairview (Smithfield) had 18, Mericoncog (Harpwell) had 10, and Androscoggin (Greene) had 8. I also know that Deering Grange (Portland) took in 4 new members! Keep up the good work!

The new members will need proper training in the Ritual and floorwork. Please offer to help mentor them and provide them with the resources and information they can use to become active in their communities. In previous columns, how your Grange can help these new members was explained. For a quick review, remember to greet them and make them feel welcome, listen to their ideas, get to know their interests, and have an active Grange for them to be able to participate in events. I am available to attend and mentor if needed. Membership takes work, but we are well-equipped to handle the task with ease. Enjoy!

Flowers in Your Garden?

Guest Ag Article by Nate Pennell, MSG Executive Committee Member

Some flowers in your vegetable garden will be very helpful to attract native pollinators and other beneficial insects. Marigolds are one example. Try several of your favorites. Pansies are great for early gardens and will last all summer and into fall. Try a few glads. Some of the most productive gardens in Maine, include flowers. Always try to produce enough for your family and some to give or sell to others.

Community gardens are also very popular. They grow for many in their community and enjoy doing it. It is very easy to enjoy what you do when you do for others!

Raised Beds for Farming

Warming the soil in raised beds before you plant in Maine, it needs to be done in March and April, or early May up north. Adding some compost and additional soil if needed, will insure a successful crop. Raised beds can be replanted with lettuce, greens, radish, and other quick growing items. If you do not have very successful crops at any time, be sure to take a soil test! The University of Maine Soil testing service can get you results in a couple of weeks. Soil and Water Districts across Maine as well as your local Cooperative Extension Office can assist and guide you. Other ideas that can work for you are window boxes, door step planters, and small gardens, especially for the elderly.

Happy gardening this year and next!



Exploring Traditions--Meandering Around the Grange Way of Life

By Walter Boomsma, Guest Columnist

Harvesting the Low-hanging Fruit

"We are kept from our goal not by obstacles but by a clear path to a lesser goal."

--Robert Brault

An apple picker often works with a bag slung over his shoulder. Experienced pickers always begin at the top of the tree. Typically, the fruit is "better" because it gets more sun. The bag gets heavier as the work progresses. Starting at the top puts gravity to work on the picker's side.

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.

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

Perhaps we should sit by the stove virtually and discuss continuing the Grange. I recall a conversation (electronic, not by the stove) several years ago with a member who passionately suggested that the Grange should be open and welcoming to everyone. He wasn't wrong. But the hazard we may create is forgetting the lessons of agriculture. Culling livestock, selective breeding, and many other practices are necessary to maintain the health of the herd. Weeding the garden removes unwanted plants. The word "contribution" comes to mind.

This is certainly not to say that the low-hanging fruit has no value. Even the drops (fruit that falls to the ground) serve a purpose. But most know how "one rotten apple will spoil the barrel."

I worked with a management team years ago that had a team member affectionately referred to as "good ole number 32." In football terms, John got the ball when the team needed a yard because the team could count on him to get it. Sometimes, you win by a yard.

But the players who can advance the ball further down the field are just as important and can't be overlooked.

In our drives to increase membership, we must remember it's not just about increasing membership, it's really about increasing the reach, relevance, and resilience of our organization. Find some members who can make an end run or go up the middle. We also need and want some number 32's.

Whether we use the lessons of farming or a sports analogy, we must remember the goal of membership is not simply increasing the roster. Remember: we are increasing our reach, relevance, and resilience.

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.

Some years ago, Heather and I were asked to teach a portion of a class for beginning farmers. A portion of our presentation included listing a few ideal skill sets for a small farmer. We had a little fun with this. The list was usually long and included diesel mechanics, carpentry, electrical knowledge, plumbing, heavy equipment operating, chainsaw proficiency, butchery, basic veterinary skills, welding, computer skills, etc... Mind you, I didn't even get to the "farming" part!

One could spend a lifetime learning any one of these trades well, let alone being able to demonstrate a passing level of proficiency in all of them. So most of us get by. We hire out what we can afford and either dispense with the need or find a workaround for the rest.

I've been meaning to take a welding class for decades. Somehow, the time to do it has eluded me. Thankfully, we have seldom needed welding skills as we have not owned much equipment.

This is all changing as Carolyn and Benjamin are amassing tillage, cultivating, forage, and woods equipment for their team of horses. A lot of this equipment has been hanging out on rock walls or in barns around the peninsula for decades and requires maintenance and repair.

For Christmas, I gifted the farm and family an arc welder and an acetylene torch, two important components of metal working. The arc welder came to us from a dear friend whose husband has passed and, until now, has sat in our shop awaiting a 240v outlet. A store is still holding on to 'our' acetylene torch unaware of my plans to purchase it.

Necessity is a good motivator. Last week, after cracking the loader frame on the tractor *again*, Benjamin and I decided to try and fix the issue. The professional welder we hired a few months ago had declared our problem fixed, emphasizing, "You can't break that."

We snaked the required heavy duty wire through an underground chase to the barn and found the correct outlet for the machine, wired it, and blew no fuses in the process. Thankfully for us, Benjamin has taken a welding class. Two days post-repair, the farm weld is holding!

We hope this will continue.

Meanwhile, Benjamin is practicing on other projects. Our '96 Tacoma is on the short list for repair. Exciting.

It is apparent that more trade skills will need practicing in the near future as needs arise here. I read somewhere, "Maine only has one plumber (fill in the blank for other tradespeople), and he is not answering his phone."

On to fence-mending this week so the cows can be turned out of the barn for the season.

Now, that *is* a skill in which I'm well practiced.



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 Convention Registration Available

Registration for the 158th Annual National Grange Convention is now available. [Register and submit your payment](#) by July 31 and save \$5 on registration

Take the National Grange Survey

National Grange has announced a goal of increasing overall member satisfaction by 20% within the next year, as measured by an annual member feedback survey. They are asking members to complete a survey (about ten minutes of your time) regarding current feelings and attitudes toward the Grange. [Please take the survey by June 30](#). Link is available on the MSG website.

Website Outages

We are getting reports of brief outages of the Maine State Grange Website. These usually only last a minute or two and are caused by the host server. We are monitoring their frequency and will request action if the situation doesn't improve soon.

Ideas for Granges

Raise money on your anniversary? If you're having an anniversary celebration, could you do a fundraiser and raise money based on the number of years?

Thought for you:

"We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty." – Maya Angelou

But Wait! There's More!

Here are some posts you may have missed.

- Quick Tip – Community Events
 - Danville Junction Grange Yard Sale
 - Flowers in Your Garden?
 - Quick Tip – What if?
 - Valley Grange to Honor Community
 - Grange Heirloom – May, 2024
 - Maine State Grange Anniversary Celebration
 - Maine State Grange Outdoor Yard Sale
 - Fairview Grange Success
 - UMaine Offers Free Summer Courses
 - St George Grange Community Suppers
 - Parkman Grange to Award Scholarships
 - Introducing Grange Hall Podcasts
 - Another Scam Alert
-

Grange Events

Please note that events scheduled in advance are always subject to change. Sorry, but space does not permit us to include regular local meetings, but we do include local Grange Special Events. Additional information is usually available on the MSG website.

June 2024

- June 2, 2024, MSG Outdoor Yard Sale at Manchester Grange, 9 am until 2 pm.
- June 2, 2024, The Spring Faire will be a lovely craft, art, and spring-themed fair and makers market from 10 am - 3 pm at East Madison Grange Hall.
- 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, 2024, St George Grange Community Supper at 5 pm. Adults \$10, Children \$5, under 10 free. For more information [see this post](#).
- 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.
- June 29, 2024, MSG 150th Anniversary Celebration, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm at headquarters. [FMI see this post](#) or contact Master Sherry.

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 12, 2024, Parkman Grange's Minnie Bridge Scholarship Deadline. [See this post](#).
- July 13, 2024, St George Grange Community Supper at 5 pm. Adults \$10, Children \$5, under 10 free.
- July 14, 2024, Deadline for the MSG Bulletin
- July 19-21, 2024, NE Youth Conference in New York.
- 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 10, 2024, St George Grange Community Supper at 5 pm. Adults \$10, Children \$5, under 10 free.
- 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 12, 2024, St George Grange Community Supper at 5 pm. Adults \$10, Children \$5, under 10 free.
- 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



SCAM ALERT!

An email recently came through to the website containing the following:

“I am having my party in May, I want it to be held at your venue, with 50 guests invited. I’m flexible with the date. Before we proceed with our request, please answer the following question below:

1. *Do you accept credit cards or check payment?*
2. *Can you work with our official band performing for the event regarding payment to them?”*

Those with a dose of caution will immediately note several red flags:

- No venue is given? Where do they intend to have it?
- No information is offered about the host or nature of the party.
- The only questions are regarding payment. No questions regarding the facilities.
- While I didn't include it, the end of the email suggested urgency due to the fast-approaching date. (This seems to contradict the earlier “flexible with the date.”)

Mostly out of curiosity, I replied to the email requesting more information and noting that the Grange does not assume financial responsibility for providers at events.

I'm not surprised that I've not heard from “Kirk” again.

I've shared this to alert Granges who are renting their halls to be cautious when making financial arrangements with renters. Doing your diligence is the mark of a good steward!

WB