

Maine State Grange 146 State Street Augusta Maine 04330

http://MaineStateGrange.org

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Walter Boomsma, Editor

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State Street, Augusta ME 04330

OCTOBER 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—Helping Southern Grange Families
- Agriculture Report—No Report
- Chaplain's View—Fall is upon us
- Communications Column— Mishmash of Reminders
- Community Service/FH&H Corner—No Report
- CWA Report— Items from Eastern States
- Educational Aid—No report.
- Fundraising Committee Report—No Report
- Junior Report—State Session Plans
- Lecturer's Column—No Report
- Legislative Report—No report.
- **Membership Moments** *Using Grange Lessons to recruit members*
- From the Secretary's Desk—No report.
- Youth Report—No report, position vacant.
- Exploring Traditions— The Fragments of Life
- View from the Farm— Apples!
- 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.
- Email From North Carolina State Grange
- Special Request!—We're looking for Granges interested or participating in the Words for Thirds Dictionary Program!

President's Perspective

By Sherry Harriman, MSG President/Master

Fellow Grangers, I would like to strongly encourage our Granges and Grangers to do whatever they can to help our southern Grange families and friends. The note below is from National Grange President Chris Hamp.



Brothers and Sisters,

In the past few days, I have received many emails, texts, and phone calls asking how Granges can help with recovery in North Carolina following the devastation left behind in the wake of Hurricane Helene over the weekend.

Please see the email (on the last page of the Bulletin) sent from Jimmy Gentry, President of NC State Grange, with information on

how to support their Granges.

I encourage Granges at all levels to support your Brothers and Sisters in their time of need, as they, in turn, help their communities recover.

In addition to North Carolina, we have also heard that Goodwill Grange, Virginia, and the surrounding communities received damage and are also in recovery. Goodwill Grange is known by its community for being an internet center, a vital need in rural southwestern Virginia.

We are working with the Virginia State Grange and will disseminate information on how to help Goodwill Grange as soon as it is available.

Please support these Granges and their communities in whatever ways you can. Thank you,

Chuthne? Harry

Chaplain's View

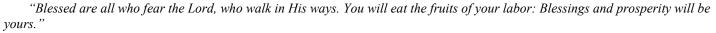
By Christine Herbert, MSG Chaplain

Fall is upon us...

Now that fall is upon us, it is time that we gather our winter flowers, apples, squashes, pumpkins etc., and put our gardens to bed. For the winter months are fast approaching, and there will soon be snow on the ground.

Let's remember that under the snow are tiny seeds that, with the sun's love in the spring, will become the flowers and plants to grace our homes and yards in the next summer.

How thankful we are to live in this glorious country. God Bless.



Psalm 128:1,2

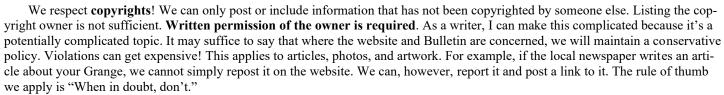
"Blessed is the man who trust in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream, It does not fear when the heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a fear of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

Communications Column

By Walter Boomsma, MSG Communications Director

A Mismash of Reminders

As we begin a new Grange Year, it seems fitting that we revisit a few critical points regarding posting news and events.



Photographs have implications as well. A general rule of thumb is that the photographer may use a photo taken at a public event, but this, too, can get complicated when we try to define a "public event." (I've had some interesting discussions with folks "in the know" who suggest that a Grange meeting might not be considered a public event.) As many know, I am particularly obsessive on this point when it comes to minors. The Communications Department will not accept photos of children (under 18 years of age) without **written** permission of a parent or guardian. Again, this can get complicated. There is some additional information in the MSG Communications Handbook.

For example, quite a few years ago, a mom submitted a photo of her daughter accepting an award, asking if we would publish it, and we did, identifying the child. Shortly after that, I received an email from the estranged child's father, objecting to the photograph primarily because the Mom had used her maiden name as the child's last name, which was incorrect. I resolved the issue by removing the post because I gently refused to get dragged into the argument.

Much of this can be avoided with common sense and common courtesy, but that's not always enough. Thanks to my work in schools, I have an appreciation for the fact that common sense may not be sufficient. I occasionally hear, "Oh, they're Grangers, so



it's okay." Grangers deserve the same treatment we give non-Grangers!

With all this said, it is certainly not my intention to discourage the submission of news, events, etc. Quite the contrary! **Approximately 400 people visit the website every week.** Those visitors to our site most often use "resources pages"—the program books and information page is consistently near the top of the pages visited. But directories are used, and the Grange Events Page is popular. **These pages are very dependent on Granges submitting the information.** We can't post what we don't know! Remember, we offer statewide publicity at no cost to you! It's extremely easy to share event posts on social media from the site. It doesn't work the other way around! Tell us what you're doing and keep information about your Grange current and accurate!

By the way, we increasingly depend on "AI" (artificial intelligence) for proofreading and editing, but it is far from perfect! One thing it doesn't handle well is the word "Grange." As a reminder, the word should always be capitalized! Note, too, that many visitors to our site are not Grangers, so we want to **beware of using Grange speak**—terms that non-members might not recognize. I remember a Dictionary Day with third-graders. I accidentally mentioned Grange deputies, and the hands went up with questions. "Do they carry a gun? What does their badge look like?" It did capture their interest, but I don't think I'll make that mistake again. Try to explain what a Grange Deputy is to a nine-year-old.

You know, that's not bad advice. More than half (54%) of Americans between the ages of 16 and 74 read below the equivalent of a sixth-grade level, according to a piece published in 2022 by **APM Research Lab**. Keep it simple and make sure it's complete. Some years ago, I was accosted by someone who insisted, "Everyone knows where the Grange Hall is..." I'm reasonably sure she wasn't right but I replied, "Well, it still doesn't hurt to remind them!"

► FACT: The most frequently visited page in the last 12 months was the Directory of Granges. People are looking for Granges!

CWA Report

By Margaret Henderson, CWA MSG Director

So thankful I am not in the Southern States. My younger sister is in Florida. She called me and said she is in a safe shelter and will call me when she is able to return to her home. Keep praying for everyone's safety.

I am hoping to get the entries back from Eastern States before State Grange so that I can return them to the ladies that entered them.

I look forward to seeing many of you at State Grange. Please stay safe and stay healthy.

Junior Report

By Betty Young & Terry LaCombe Stevens



It seems hard to believe that we have almost finished another year of Junior Grange. We look forward to seeing all of you at State Grange. We hope to meet our plus-one members. Stop by our table and purchase a ticket to win one of our fabulous prizes. Our Junior Grange Convention Schedule is:

Thursday, October 17TH

Rest/committee meeting for 2024/2025 to discuss Program Book. We are gathering national information, Big E, and state contests before we print them. We are in hopes of making a one-sheet page to follow throughout the year. We also are going to wait until after the Junior Director is appointed to finalize our 2025 year. Thursday night is not mandatory but we would be delighted if you would like to join us. Send Co-Director Terry dates your Grange would like to host Juniors. We will meet quarterly.

Friday, October 18TH

Breakfast, then head over to set up. PLEASE LET CO Director Terry know if you plan on helping set table and Junior items up. EARLY LUNCH- on our own together downstairs as we will need to take care of our table on shifts. Friday night banquet and late afternoon practice song if Kary feels it is needed. We may have time to rest late afternoon before dinner. Ages 5 to 14 wear red and Youth ages 14 up wear green. (Think about the drill we could do with our color scheme)

Saturday, October 19TH

Breakfast at hotel before our early birds open the table at convention. LUNCH, Ag Luncheon, resolutions continued, and 6th Degree. We will also draw 50/50 and announce Raffle prizes. I'm not sure of the exact time so we will be flexible. Bird House pickup and Art/Photos will need to be taken home. We will all have dinner and a swim party. As you know the swim will be on your own as we don't have a lifeguard so that we could make it a Junior Grange Event. Dinner will be whatever you all agree on and this will be decided. Friday night at banquet.

Sunday, October 20th

Breakfast and leave for home until our next Junior Grange adventure/meeting. Watch for an email in late November after National Grange Convention.

Banquet tickets closed on October 5th. If you would like to help at our Junior/Youth Grange table or join us for Saturday night's dinner, please let one of the committee members know. If you are interested in joining or being a Director, contact the State Grange Master/President for details.

Thank you all for the pleasure of being your 2023/2024 Junior Co-Directors.

Membership Moments

By Rick Grotton, MSG Membership Director

When we are encouraging the community to join the Grange we need to understand what we are "selling". How well do we know what the Grange stands for and how do we portray those images to others? What do others want to hear? Encourage them to ask specific questions to satisfy their individual needs. Knowing the needs of a prospective new member makes it easier to answer their questions without being too vague or generic. For example,



prospective new member makes it easier to answer their questions without being too vague or generic. For example, if someone is interested in the agricultural or community aspects of Grange, zero in on those areas, all the while gaining knowledge of the individual needs. Like a jigsaw puzzle, fit that piece into your plans for the growth of your Grange. Soon, your "puzzle" will show a picture and help you to make plans to steer the direction of your Grange. We have many Granges who focus on agriculture; others focus on community service and some balance the two. By listening to a prospective member, you will know how they fit into the "puzzle" and the growth of your Grange.

When seeking new members, use the lessons of the Grange to serve as a foundation upon which to build. Understanding these lessons will make your search for new members easier as they hold valuable information in how you present yourself to the new membership.

Have FAITH. Believe that you are going to be successful in your membership drive. Keep a positive attitude and show others that you believe in your presentation to get them to join. First impressions are vital to your success.

Have HOPE. Go with the impression that success in gaining members will happen, and don't give up. Of course, there will be rejections, but don't let it get you down or give up. You just haven't yet found the right "piece" of your "puzzle." Be vigilant in your search, encourage your fellow Patrons, or make it a friendly contest that can bring in and keep the most members. Fun? Yes, it can be if you let it be.

CHARITY is important. Give of yourself when telling others about the Grange. Incentives such as helping the community, growing your own food, and explaining how the Grange helped you become a better person are music to the ears of prospective members. Even a small gesture, such as paying for their first year's dues or a small welcome gift, is helpful.

FIDELITY is very important. The listener always notices your loyalty and devotion to your Grange. How you present yourself, your enthusiasm, and your positive energy are noticed and felt by the listener and will sway the decisions of many new members. Stay loyal in good times and not-so-good times. My pet peeve is when something doesn't go their way, a member will threaten to quit or not come back. Haven't we all heard this? If you love the Grange, then you will try to work out the problem, which leads to the last lesson, PERSEVERENCE.

There are always hurdles or problems we need to avoid or face to work out. Face them head-on, find a solution as a Grange, and respect everybody's opinions and ideas. It will make you and your Grange stronger. In order to succeed, don't we need to fail once in a while? PERSEVERE and overcome these challenges as a group. Keep the positive energy alive and smile.

With Faith and Hope I present these ideas with a Charitable attitude and showing my Fidelity to the organization. Certainly, these columns don't always produce results, but my Perseverance holds strong and I continue to present ideas and suggestions to increase your memberships.

Exploring Traditions--Meandering Around the Grange Way of Life By Walter Boomsma, Guest Columnist

Fragments of Life

"...reap for the mind as well as for the body. Natural history is replete with both the wonderful and beautiful, and its study enables us the better to carry out the principles we inculcate of Faith, Hope, and Charity. Cultivate an observing mind. It is delightful to acquire knowledge, and much more so to diffuse it. It is sad to think that any human soul should fail to perceive the beauty that everywhere abounds. Nature preaches to us forever in tones of love, and writes truth in all colors, on manuscripts illuminated with stars and flowers.



'Be faithful, be hopeful, be charitable,' is the constant song Nature sings, through warbling birds and whispering pines, through roaring waves and howling winds. As Harvesters and Gleaners of this wisdom, teach others how beautiful, how angelic, seems every fragment of life which is earnest and true."

Lecturer to candidates, Lessons of the First Degree

One of the joys of rural living is found in what the Lecturer describes as "fragments of life." We can often hear warbling birds, whispering pines, roaring waves, and howling winds.

Hearing those may be different than listening to them. Even in the country, we are often overwhelmed by the noise created by competing "fragments of life." We scroll through social media posts and hear the television or radio calling to us in the background. There is no shortage of things to give our attention.

A gleaner gathers crops or produce left behind after the harvest. As a child, I remember families occasionally being invited to a

local potato farm to "glean" potatoes the harvester had missed. The work was hard but enjoyable, and friendly competition was fostered. We came home dirty but bearing a sense of accomplishment.

The lecturer reminds the candidate to "reap for the mind as well as the body." Just prior to this lesson, the Master noted, "...gather only the good seed. Our associations in life are the fields in which we reap." A long-standing truism comes to mind: "You are known by the company you keep."

It's not a stretch to suggest the lecturer reminds the candidates to be mindful. "Nature preaches to us forever in tones of love, and writes truth in all colors, on manuscripts illuminated with stars and flowers." It's a lot harder to find love and truth on a computer or smartphone screen.

I'm not condemning technology, but the Grange Way of Life suggests we keep things in perspective. When we harvest for the mind, we must deliberately consider which fields we harvest and glean. If our purpose is to "inculcate" the principles of Faith, Hope, and Charity, nature is "replete with both the wonderful and beautiful."

Maybe it's time to sit in the yard or go for a walk. "Cultivate an observing mind." It might also be a good idea to take someone with you. Leave the phone at home. Let nature preach. Listen.

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

Apples!

Apple season presents special challenges at Quill's End Farm. For one, we all become less efficient at gettin' where we're goin'. The daily rituals of walking to the various animals to tend to them now require a detour for walking snacks.

Sometimes just for us.

Sometimes for our charges.

There aren't too many critters that don't love apples, and the mere sight of an opposable-thumbed climber triggers a doe-eyed, melting stare from all corners of the realm. The quadrupeds are really hard to resist, and the urgency they convey makes pity swell within us.

We must take care not to be too regular or too clever, or the melting stare's urgency can become a problem. Cows, goats, pigs, and horses all have nimble mouths. Their ability to check your pockets is uncanny. Goats will even undo a zipper.

We have learned that apple scent lingers, not only on your breath, but also on your hands. Convincing a cow that you are appleless is a special skill only practiced by a minutia of the population. It is a skill that must be learned by trial and error. Failure to convince can lead to slobbering searches.

Much like Klondike bars, there are differing levels of commitment to procuring an apple. I'm not sure that somersaults are off the table; we just don't want anyone to get injured in their tasty quest.

Apple season also brings extra milk from the late season forage and gives an extra creamy flavor to the milk, yogurt, and cheeses. Our cream separator is also turning out quart after quart of stand-up-in-your-spoon-cream. It is perfect for fall butter making and for whipped cream for apple or pumpkin pies. Carolyn and Ben have just the tasty pie pumpkins for you, with names to tempt your taste buds.

With all the apple trees about, take the detour and find some walking snacks. Bake a pie. Whip some cream to go on top. And just think about your good fortune that no goat will undo your pocket zipper to find your fall treat.

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.

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!

Scholarship Information Reminder

We've seen a recent uptick in visits to the Scholarship Information Page. If your Grange offers scholarships, please visit this page



and make sure the information is current and correct!!

Holiday Craft Fairs

Many Granges offer holiday craft fairs or "makers markets." Please submit information about yours! We offer statewide publicity and make it easy for you to share information on Social Media. If you submit it before November 15, it will be included in the November Bulletin!

Ideas for Granges

Plan some sort of simple gathering during the holidays. I wrote a "Special Report" last year about a community event we attended last year on Christmas Day. I was surprised at how many were there and what a great time it was.

Thought for you:

"Voting is the expression of our commitment to ourselves, one another, this country, and this world." -Sharon Salzberg

Submit Dates!

We're opening the 2025 Website Event Calendar. Don't forget to submit your dates!

But Wait! There's More!

Here are some posts you may have missed.

- Fifth Degree Recipients
- Grange Today!
- Coming Soon—Another Resource
- Witches' Faire at E. Madison Grange
- Helping in North Carolina
- Election Day Information
- Grange Heirloom October 2024
- National Bullying Prevention Month
- Androscoggin Grange Trunk or Treat

- Androscoggin Grange Hunters' Breakfast
- Androscoggin Grange Food Drive and Dinner
- Fifth Degree at Danville Junction Grange
- October Events in Maine
- November Ballot Questions
- Valley Grange Welcomes New Members
- Why the Grange
- Almost Got Me!
- Parkman Grange Scholarship Supper

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.

- 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, see this post or visit the Trenton Grange Website.
- November 2, 2024, Saco Grange 150th Anniversary Celebration. Pie, History, and Music starting at 5 pm. See this post for more information.
- November 2, 2024, Deputy School at Maine State Grange Headquarters starts at 10:00 am. Contact Master Sherry FMI.
- 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, see this post or visit the <u>Trenton Grange Website</u>.
- November 12-16, 2024, 158th National Grange Convention in Bettendorf, IA.
- November 14, 2024, Deadline for the MSG Bulletin
- November 16, 2024, Senior Circle at Victor Grange in Fairfield. Potluck lunch at 11 am for Seniors to get together with others for socializing, networking and a game or two. Held the 3rd Friday monthly. FMI Deb 207-453-4844 or Sherri 207-815-0615. No Charge.

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, see this post or 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, see this post or visit the <u>Trenton Grange Website</u>.
- December 14, 2024, Deadline for the MSG Bulletin
- **December 20, 2024, Senior Circle at Victor Grange** in Fairfield. Potluck lunch at 11 am for Seniors to get together with others for socializing, networking and a game or two. Held the 3rd Friday monthly. FMI Deb 207-453-4844 or Sherri 207-815-0615. No Charge.
- **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, see this post or visit the <u>Trenton Grange Website</u>.

Email from North Carolina President Jimmy Gentry

Grange Friends,

Edneyville Grange and the surrounding Hendersonville community was in the path of Hurricane Helene. The aftermath is devastating as many

families have lost everything. Clean-up crews have been working tirelessly to restore power, internet, and roads.

Grange members have been reaching out to the NC State Grange Office asking how they can help. We have been in touch with Wendy Henderson, President of Edneyville Grange. She informed us that she has reached out to a local school in Edneyville that is extremely concerned with the well-being of children and parents. They gave her a list of items that would benefit these families.

Jennie Gentry also spoke with high school teachers in Henderson County, friends associated with FFA and 4-H. Their main concern has been making sure students are accounted for and determining their families' needs. This has been very difficult without the ability to communicate or travel into areas to check on their students, some of whom live in other local hard-hit communities like Lake Lure, Chimney Rock, Bat Cave, and Gerton.

Wendy mentioned a great need for several items that schools will need for students and their families. Below is information on how you and your Grange can help.

Making Cash Donations:

Write a check to Edneyville Grange and mail to:

Wendy Henderson

29 Arabian Ln

Hendersonville, NC 28792

Or write a check to the NC State Grange Disaster Fund with "Edneyville Relief" on the memo line and send to:

NC Grange

1734 Wilkesboro Hwy

Statesville NC 28625

Thank you for your willingness to donate these items to support Edneyville and its surrounding communities in Henderson County. We are relieved that our Edneyville Grange members are safe and appreciate Wendy for the information so that we can join together to assist their community in this desperate time of need.

Please contact the Grange Office with any questions.

Sincerely, Jimmy Gentry

Special Request!

By Walter Boomsma, MSG Communications Director

For many Granges, the fall season includes a Words for Thirds Dictionary Program. ("Words for Thirds" is the phrase coined by

the Grange to represent participation in The Dictionary Project.)

Your Communications Department is working on some additional resources for Granges that are providing dictionaries to local schools. In anticipation of releasing these resources, it would be helpful to know which Granges in Maine plan on holding dictionary days during the Grange Year 2024-25.

So far, we've created a list based mainly on what the folks at the Dictionary Project have listed, supplemented by previous website submissions. I think (hope!) it's incomplete. Those Granges include:

- Chelsea Grange #215
- East Madison Grange #228
- Maple Grove Grange #148
- Mill Stream Grange #574
- Old Town Riverside Grange #273
- Valley Grange #144*

The Grange working together with The Dictionary Project, to provide individual dictionaries to third graders.

MAINE STATE GRANGES

Proud Sponsors

This logo is a preview of coming attractions! It will be customized and made available to local Granges participating in the program!

Words for Thirds was once a "signature" community service project for Granges. One of our resources is an <u>article by The Dictionary Project's Director, Mary French, explaining why it is still relevant today</u>—perhaps even more than it was in the past.

It's no secret that I'm a huge fan of this program. Valley Grange has reaped many benefits from providing dictionaries in our area for nearly two decades. This will be our twentieth year! We don't do it as a fundraiser, but it sure helps us with it!

Enthusiasm and communication are key elements. We'll help with communication resources! You can help by letting me know about your participation. That includes what challenges you are facing, ideas you may have, etc. Right now, I'm especially interested in learning who is participating or considering it! (We've since added Hollis Grange and Evening Start Grange to the list!)

Please send the name of your Grange and the best person to contact with information about the dictionary program. The easiest way to do this is to send an email to webmaster@mainestategrange.org. You may also submit through the website, or call 207 343-1842 and leave a message!

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 | |
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| | Page 8 of 8 |