

2021-2022 REPORT OF INFORMATION DIRECTOR

Worthy Master, Worthy National Officer, Officers & Members of the Rhode Island State Grange,

I am submitting my report as Information Director. There were many more State Grange events this past year than the previous year. It was my wish that the Granges would have Awards Night of Community Service and Membership Night to honor people in their respective communities and their members. My wish was granted as many of the Granges had Awards Nights. I attended most of the Awards Nights and will mention them with this report. I was also responsible for sending news to Granges around the State at the request of Granges and State Grange Officers & Committees. It was either to announce special Grange meetings or to postpone or cancel meetings, due to weather or illness at the request of others. I would also transport items to others at the request of Grange members and Granges.

After State Grange Session was held at Oaklawn Grange Hall this past October, a Department Heads meeting was held at the end of November at Slocum Grange Hall to collect books for Granges. Then deliver books to Granges. Then a week later on the first Sunday in December, there was a zoom Statewide Meeting with Department Heads presenting their programs and contests for the 2021-2022 Grange year.

On Thursday February 3, 2022, I attended a special meeting of Portsmouth Grange. A special award was presented to Jim Rebello with military awards for 32 years as a military veteran, 28 of the years with the National Guard. Sent photo to the Grange Beacon and to the newspapers. The photo was printed in the Portsmouth Times.

During the month of February on Sunday February 6, 2022, I supported the Lecturer's Department by attending the Annual Family Game Night and Pizza Party at Slocum Grange Hall.

On Saturday March 5, 2022, I made the rounds with both Junior Granges to promote contests and programs in the Information Department. Visited Moosup Valley Juniors to watch their Juniors perform the Junior Lip Sync Contest. Later on the same day, traveled with State Grange Lecturer Valerie Richard to Newport County Juniors to help them provide information for contests with all departments.

On Saturday March 12, 2022, I was among 15 to 20 people that participated with bowling sponsored by the State Grange Youth Department at Old Mountain Lanes in Wakefield.

On Sunday March 27, 2022, I was of many people that attended a Memorial Service at Summit Baptist Church in Greene RI to pay respects for Past State Grange Pianist Evie Mann.

During the month of April were the following meetings and events that I attended. On Saturday April 2, 2022, Exeter Grange had a Membership Table on display in conjunction with a craft show at Exeter Grange Hall. As the result of this event, I was made responsible for bringing one of the candidates to State Grange Degree Day later in the month, until finding out that Degree Day was postponed until a later date.

Wednesday April 6, 2022 was Perryville Grange Awards Night in which they honored the Jonnycake Center of Westerly with presenting the award to the Executive Director of the Jonnycake Center. Took photos, printed in newspapers and Grange Beacon.

Sunday April 10, 2022, was a Bowling event sponsored by the State Grange Deaf & Health at Dudek's Bowling Lanes in Warren, followed by refreshments at Kickemuit Grange Hall. The proceeds for Mental Health. The next night on Monday April 11th was Kickemuit Grange 130th Anniversary with Awards Night with many Membership Awards honoring their Past Masters and one Community Service Award presented to a local policewoman. Did double duty as I filled in at one of the offices and took pictures. Printed in the Warren Times-Gazette and sent to Grange Beacon.

On Thursday April 28, 2022 was the first of three Papa Gino Fundraisers at Papa Gino's in West Warwick with the proceeds for the Dictionary Fund. The second Papa Gino Fundraiser was Thursday May 26th in Warren. The third fundraiser was in Greenville on Thursday June 23rd.

There were many special events and meetings that I was present to be at during the month of May. On Saturday May 7th was State Grange Women's Activity Day at Exeter Grange Hall the Women's Activity Committee in conjunction with the State Grange Agriculture Committee. Took pictures of different items worked on by members present from around the state. Also took picture of baking contest winners with judges. Printed in newspapers and Grange Beacon.

On Friday May 13th and Tuesday May 24th were two separate days of Slocum Grange Membership and Community Service Awards Nights. I was among others that received awards. I was honored for 50 years in the Grange. Photos were taken. Photos printed in newspapers and Grange Beacon.

Tuesday May 17th was Awards Night at Chepachet Grange. Took pictures for local newspapers with photos printed and Grange Beacon. Wednesday May 18th was Community Service Night at Roger Williams-Rumford Grange honoring someone very special in East Providence. Took pictures for local newspapers and Grange Beacon.

In June there were three events and meetings that I attended. On Friday June 3rd, Richmond Grange held their Community Service and Membership Night. Took pictures for newspapers and Grange Beacon with photos printed.

On Tuesday June 21st, Chepachet Grange held an indoor picnic. During that evening, awards were presented to members for Grangers of the Year. Took pictures for newspapers and Grange Beacon with photos printed.

On Monday July 11th, Hope Valley Grange held their Community Service Awards Night. Also on this night, took pictures with photos printed in newspapers and Grange Beacon.

On Sunday August 14th, I attended the judging of the Washington County Fair Royalty at Richmond Grange Hall and took pictures. On Wednesday August 17th, was the announcement of Fair Royalty winners at Fairgrounds stage on the first night of the Fair and took pictures for newspapers.

For the Washington County Fair from August 17th to August 21st, I worked part of all 5 days of the Fair.

3 shifts-State Grange Corn Dog Booth

3 shifts-State Grange Membership Booth

2 shifts-Exeter Grange French Fry Booth

On Friday August 26th, supported the Lecturer's Department by attending State Grange Movie Night and Ice Cream Social at Chepachet Grange Hall

On Sunday September 11th, State Grange Degree Day at Washington County Fairgrounds in Richmond, rescheduled from being postponed in April.

I was able to attend a number of Grange meetings this past year, thanks to Mary Petrarca, Master of Newport County Pomona Grange. She was willing to be my driver going to a number of meetings and events to Granges that were not close by, when she was able to.

Outside the Grange, Exeter Grange, teaming with St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Charlestown to collect winter coats and other warm clothing items to be donated to Camp Street Ministries in Providence. Assisted in bringing over 540 items to them. This also includes organizing a coat drive for 3 Sundays at in November at St. Andrew Lutheran Church. Over 100 coats were collected from the churchgoers.

Also helped during December with Gift Wrapping for Christmas at the Wakefield Mall for part of 2 days. The proceeds were to benefit Moosup Valley Junior Grange and Friends of Exeter Animals.

On Sunday September 11th, State Grange Degree Day was held at Washington County Fairgrounds in Richmond. Due to absences among some of the State Grange Officers, I was asked to fill in as Overseer for opening and closing the meeting, Gatekeeper for the 1st Degree and one of the Harvest Marchers for the 3rd Degree.

Also prior to Degree Day, I was made responsible for providing members for the Washington County Degree Team in the 4th Degree with the advice from two other members. I was able to have a full slate of officers for the Degree and were all present for the Degree. I filled in as Overseer for the 4th Degree.

The Juniors had a Bookmark Contest, bookmarks made out of card stock. The Junior Grange Leaders were supplied with card stock for their Junior Grangers to participate. Unfortunately there were just two entries, one from each Junior Grange.

The awards to the Juniors for the Bookmark Contest was:

12-14 years old 2nd Place-Nettie Hartley-Moosup Valley Junior

4 1/2-7 years old 2nd Place- Penelope Troiano-Newport County Junior

Juniors Essay Contest "My Animal and Me":

1st Place 12-14 age group

Nettie Hartley-Moosup Valley Junior Grange

Subordinate Grange Entries-Newspaper Photo Contest

1st Place Matt (Switch) Ullucci-Hope Valley Grange

2nd Place Peggy Fish-Exeter Grange

3rd Place Mary Petrarca-Portsmouth Grange

Subordinate Grange Entries-Single Article Contest

1st Place Kathy Stedman-Perryville Grange

2nd Place Carol Gafford-Kickemuit Grange

3rd Place Louise Roberts-Chepachet Grange

Newspaper Photo-State Grange Entry

1st Place Joyce Bastien

There was another contest in the Information Department for Subordinate Grange members to enter. It is called "Paint the Rock to Promote Grange." There were 5 rocks entered in this contest. All received ribbons.

1st Place Kathy Stedman

2nd Place Celeste Spencer

Participant Ribbons

Mary Petrarca

Michelle Andrews

Christine Andrews

I would like to thank all Grange members for your entries for the Information Department. I appreciate it very much.

In closing, I would like to thank part of the committee of Peggy Fish, Barbara Rush and Cathy Kamowski for any assistance with the department. Hope and prayers go out to Lillian Kruszyna and my wife Carole and thank them for their assistance prior to their illnesses.

Fraternally,

Howard Paster Information Director

Information Department FINANCIAL REPORT 2021-2022

Income

State Grange Allotment	705.00
Carried Forward	26.42
1st Allotment	208.58
2nd Allotment	235.00
3rd Allotment	235.00
Total	705.00

Expenses

Photos developed from camera	158.79
Ribbons purchased for Awards	69.28
Copies and Folders made for Granges	114.62
Gift Cards for Judges	20.00
Junior Grange Awards	13.00
Awards to Subordinate Grangers	276.00

Total Expenses **\$651.69**

Balance left in budget **\$53.31**