



The Granite State Granger

Volume 51

Number 1

2021

March

Richard (Dick) Patten was a resident of Concord Heights his entire life. Born July 17, 1952, the son of Clinton and Maxrene Patten, he attended Concord Schools and graduated from Concord High School in 1970.

After graduation he worked at Beede Electric and Towle's Market and then made a career as a Dispatcher for Merrimack County Sheriff's Department for 15 years. He then worked as a Driver Licensing Officer for the State of NH, then started a dispatch center for Pittsfield Police Department and lastly Concord Hospital Security dispatch.

Dick was a lifelong member of Concord Grange #322. He joined the Junior Grange at the age of 5 and moved on to the Subordinate Grange at the age of 14. He has served as Master (President) of Concord Grange for many years.

He was a very active member of the NH State Grange, serving in multiple officer roles. In 1994 he was elected as the NH State Grange Master (President) and served in that position for 4 years.

He has served as the State Historian for NH State Grange since 1998 and has written some books on the history of the Grange.

He held a position as National Grange Community Service Director, as well as serving as the NH State Grange Community Service Director.



Richard W. Patten
July 17, 1952 - January 27, 2021
NH State Grange Master
1994-1998

He is also a 3rd and 4th degree member of the Concord Council of Knights of Columbus, and an honorary member of the Concord Kiwanis Club.

He served 3 terms as City Councilor for Ward 8 as well as 4 terms as State Representative for Ward 8. He served as Chairman for the Supervisors of the Checklist for Ward 8 for 29 years.

He had an enormous passion for the City of Concord community. He served as chairman of the Concord Christmas Parade for 49 years working tirelessly on funding and planning. He also took on the responsibility of planning and preparing the festivities for the Concord Christmas Tree Lighting for 49 years.

He has been a volunteer host and producer for Around Town television show on Concord TV for over 20 years, and for the past 4 years hosted and produced a Catholic Radio Show, Faith Speaks.

He was a huge fan of University of Michigan Wolverines, going to Ann Arbor once a year to a game and sporting or collecting almost every piece of memorabilia ever made.

He was a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

He leaves his sister, Miss Debra Patten, Concord; his former wife Debra Fournier Patten, several cousins, an Uncle Dennis Patten and many special friends. Tyler Martel and Juan Aceros were like sons to Dick. He loved his family and friends unconditionally.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on February 1 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church 180 Loudon Rd. Concord.

Burial will be in the Blossom Hill Cemetery, Concord.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Concord Grange #322, c/o Esther Herrick, 99 Clinton St. F10, Concord, NH 03301 or Concord Christmas Parade, c/o Brian Blackden, 488 No. State St., Concord NH 03301

(Published in Concord Monitor on January 30, 2021.)

Support the ELF!
Please send your Educational Loan Fund donations to:
Patrice Lawlor
PO Box 386
Pelham NH 03076



Map out your future – but do it in pencil. Jon Bon Jovi

State Grange Bowling Day
Sunday, March 14, 2021
12 noon
Lakeside Lanes
2171 Candia Road
Manchester, NH 03109
Cost for 3 strings and shoes
\$14.00 for Adults, \$10.00 for Juniors
** Per the bowling alley, masks are required when not actively bowling. **
Registrations due March 10th

SAVE THE DATE!
148th New Hampshire State Grange Session
October 21–24, 2021
Best Western ~ Plus
Keene, NH
We are hoping to return to a full session this year with Memorial Service, Reports, Banquet, 6th Degree Conferral, Displays and Hospitality Room.



*From the
Driver's Seat*

**Robert Trombi
State Master**

[The following Manchester Union Leader Oped published about opioid concerns was written by our State Master, Robert Trombi]

The tragic hurt brought on by the opioid epidemic has only intensified for many in New Hampshire amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Both public health crises have taken the lives of family and friends and left the health of others more vulnerable. Behind the emotional pain that many are grappling with during the pandemic, patients across our state are still searching for answers to persistent, long-term physical pain.

Caught in the middle of efforts to control the opioid epidemic in our state, veterans, farmers, seniors, and others with chronic pain desperately need innovation — and an urgency from lawmakers and health care leaders to bring more effective clinical treatments to market that allow them to live and work without pain.

In 2019, an estimated one in five Americans experienced chronic pain, and the prevalence of chronic pain increased for people who live in rural areas. Pain disproportionately impacts seniors and veterans, and can negatively impact all aspects of a person's life: their work, their emotional health, and their family connections.

But for too long, opioids have been one of the only answers to treat pain at the pharmacy counter. And we know how devastating the epidemic has been in New Hampshire. More than 450 people in New Hampshire died from an opioid overdose in 2018, and there has been a 30 percent increase in overdose deaths in the state as a result of the pandemic.

In 2018, the CDC released new guidelines for the prescribing of opioids for pain to create a safer model for the treatment of pain, but it didn't answer a question many patients continue to ask: what else, besides opioids, is available?

Today, there remain limited non-opioid options that are safe and effective

in treating chronic pain. Compounding the challenges in New Hampshire, rural residents who are farther away from a doctor's office often don't have immediate access to physical therapy and other non-clinical options.

But we know innovation is possible. The same medical breakthroughs that brought COVID-19 vaccines to patients within mere months can give hope to those in pain. And our federal and state leaders have taken action to drive this innovation.

In 2018, the federal SUPPORT Act became law, creating resources to discover new treatment approaches for chronic pain — including non-opioid therapies.

In January of this year, New Hampshire Attorney General Gordon MacDonald joined the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) and 47 other state attorneys general in delivering a letter to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that called on FDA to convene a public meeting to address the challenges in discovering new, non-addictive medicines to treat chronic pain.

The letter also called on FDA to issue formal guidance to help address the challenges in developing non-addictive pain medications and urges the FDA to clarify to stakeholders the process by which it will speed the review and approval process for safe, non-opioid pain medications.

For those in our state who are struggling to cope with pain, who feel stigmatized by the opioid epidemic, and who fear opioids are not a safe option, innovation provides hope that we can discover new therapies that will go a long way in helping more people manage pain and live a life that's not defined by it.

THE GRANITE STATE GRANGER
This is a free* publication to keep
Grange members informed of past and
up-coming events.
*(However, donations are accepted.)
This paper is printed quarterly.
Postmaster or anyone else:
Please send all related
correspondence to
Hannah West
3 Depot Road
Chichester, NH 03258

Tuftonborough Grange #142 What We Did During the Pandemic

This past year has been anything but "regular" for our Grange members. We started out with our planning meeting which forecast a fun filled year of activities and renewing Grange friendships. In March we were inundated with the realities of Self-Quarantine with the Covid-19 pandemic. Governor Sununu declared "Stay at Home" rule thus suspending any meetings until "further notice".

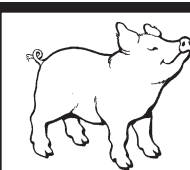
Unfortunately, the pandemic did not cease, and we continued following through with Governor Sununu's and the CDC guidelines. We did not hold any regular meetings. Our Penny Sales were cancelled and we didn't open the Grange Hall.

We did, however, get some things accomplished: The Grange Hall did get a much-needed coat of paint. John Baldwin did a beautiful job and completed it in an astonishing time.

The annual practice of giving dictionaries to the third graders at Tuftonboro Central School continued. An anonymous donor ordered and paid for the dictionaries from The Dictionary Project and made sure we got them before school began in September. The Grange delivered the dictionaries to Mr. Brian Bloomer for distribution to his third-grade students as social distancing requirements were still in effect.

We did get to socialize with each other on a few occasions this past year. On July 10 we gathered at the home of Florence Perkins for an evening picnic and ice cream social. Members brought their favorite sandwich fillings such as ham salad, egg salad, cold cuts, deviled eggs and watermelon. This was followed up by making our own ice cream sundaes. A good time was had by all, even while practicing social distancing.

On a Mystery Ride to the Tuftonboro Historical Society in Melvin Village. We spent time checking out the local history of Tuftonboro and reviewing several books of photographs and stories. There was even a book with history of the Tuftonboro Grange. Everyone found something special to see and review. We all had a good time.



*Agriculture
Department*

**Norman Brandt and
Adam Terrell, Co-Directors**

Part 1 - Norman

As you are reading this, I can only assume, the Ground is starting to wake up. The Garden is whispering to give you a heads up it is time to start seeds or start transferring seedlings. This leads us to wonder, will it be a hot dry summer or cool wet summer or just a mixture of it all? Do I need to plant plants more tolerant of drought or disease? What will I do with any left over scraps? All the great notions of a farmer this time of year.

At work this year we got a smart TV (after a fire) to replace an old one. I've been spending my lunches watching (interesting to me, my boss and coworkers find them dry) TV shows and movies I had not known were made, or that I had only seen bits and pieces of over the years. One of these shows I watched was called **Food, Inc.** I know that our organization tends to support the Farm Bills that are made each year but at times I wonder how much some of these bills tend to do more harm than good. After watching **Food, Inc.** and some personal experiences that I have had over the past couple of years I am really starting to get concerned how Agriculture is going here in the USA.

In Europe they allow and promote chickens to be treated for Salmonella (when they are chicks in the shells) allowing eggs to be sold unwashed and not refrigerated. For those people that have kept chickens and look back to the past, we know that in washing the egg you remove 1 of the 3 coatings that chickens put on the egg. This allows bacteria and air into the shell at faster rates, drastically shortening the life span of our eggs. As you refrigerate an egg the albumin and yoke shrink causing anything growing on the shell of the egg to be pulled into the egg through microscopic pores normally filled by the outer membrane. Think, if we could use the same vaccine that is used in other countries to stop salmonella from infecting our egg and meat birds, we

in the US would not have to test for it and we wouldn't have to worry about our vaccinated birds passing on such nasty bugs to us as we eat their eggs and meat.

One of the things that was talked about in **Food, Inc** is the fact that our current way of packing building and feed lots with animals and feeding for just growth is causing bacteria to mutate (kind of like having a pandemic and trying to get as many people into a building as possible). The more infected with the virus or bacteria the more likely we will get unfriendly mutations that will harm more and more of us, not to mention the ecological problems. When you have so many animals on such a small area you get an increase of waste, in Pig facilities it is pumped out into liquid holding ponds that sometimes leak, sometimes over flow and sometimes just fill up. When this happens. into the rivers and ground water it goes causing the environmental problems that we are seeing.

Instead of going after these large facilities that hold so much money and legal backing, the government goes after small farmers that try their hardest to work with the environment and land. They start saying the cow grazing in a field is contributing to the pollution of the water shed, so animals cannot be within X feet of the water. Yet the small amount of waste produced by these small farms that are greatly being regulated will most likely be broken down and used by the plants on, in and around the water. That is how it works with wild ducks, geese, deer, moose, and fish. But sadly, the way the government has been working for a long time is to regulate the small that can not afford to fight with lobbyists, lawyers and public opinion. Oh well this is just my Rant and Rave of the Quarter.

Part 2 - Adam

As we stay cooped up this winter with little to do but shovel snow or the occasional craft project, let me remind you that even though our everyday lives are ever-changing, agriculture remains true and steady. As wild animals search for food, and farm animals with their fluffy winter coats herd together, plants wait for the warm spring sun to melt away in thawed soil.

We understand not everyone has the capability to fully "devote themselves to the plow or herd" whether it be an active life or apartment living. Even though these may be true, that doesn't mean you can't still appreciate and experience agriculture with your own hands, starting from little more than cooking scraps.

Last year we grew our own chives/green onions and didn't have to hunt around to find seeds either. What you do is take the ones you have already bought that are in the refridge and when you cut off the bottom roots leave about 1.5 inches and instead of throwing it away, place in a small container of water with roots down and mostly submerged (say about 2 of them to a shot glass). Leave in a sunny place, and after a few days you should see the roots growing longer. A couple more days and you will start to see a new sprout growing from the center of where you had cut. When the new sprout is 4-5 inches, then it is time to remove from the water and plant in soil.

There is no need to wait till spring to start this either. A little thought and planning now, and you have the satisfaction of a little something for your salads all summer long. Green onions are not the only plant you can regrow from scraps. You can also grow celery, fennel, and ginger through basically the same process. All of these take up very little room and are great for window planters.

If you have a small section of land then you might also consider onions and potatoes. If you like to season your food, then garlic is a great one, but from my experience garlic is a two-year process most of the time because of our colder temps.

Horseradish is another easy one. If you drop any piece of the root with skin attached, it will grow. Simply dig up, cut in half, replant the lower half and use the rest. Word of advice, horseradish tends to start to take over if not properly harvested over the years.

I highly recommend you consider trying one or all of these as we look forward to longer days. If you would like more information, don't hesitate to contact the Ag Committee, we will jump at the chance to help you.

NH Legislative Bills You Might Want to Watch

by Norman Brandt Co-chair of the NH State Grange Agriculture Committee

[Ed. Note: This is an opinion piece. The views stated here are not necessarily Grange legislative policy.]

There are things going on that we should be watching as Agricultural and animal people and thinking about what type of problems they will bring. Here in New Hampshire we have some legislative bills coming up. These are the bills I found and my opinion on them.

HB532 is to create an animal records database. On the face of it, it sounds great. If someone loses their dog or cat or ferret, the database can be used to match the animal with the owner. But the fact of it is, as we saw last year when it was first put in, that it is really to track anyone selling an animal. (Yes, this year it only lists cats, dogs and ferrets, but last year it was including reptiles, fish and birds.) Once the door is open it seems like it doesn't get closed. It is really a crack to the door that the animal rights activists (and now the Agriculture Department *weekly Market bulletin Feb 3, 2021*) are looking for to build on for upcoming years.

HB366 makes a Definition of Animal Hoarding and allows animals to be removed from the custody of their owner on someone's split minute judgement call, then within 14 days having to go to trial to argue the facts. All for the protection of the animal, but I question how such a bill can be abused?

HB249, Relative to animal shelter facilities, I personally am in favor of this one. It will close one of many loopholes that currently exist that have allowed shelters to take animals and re-home them without trying to find their original owner. It also puts it on the shelter to have the vaccines given to the animals prior to being re-homed. (Meaning that they can't rehome it and require you to get it vaccinated within a certain amount of time.)

SB127, Adopting omnibus legislation on appropriations, this one is including HB532 with home schooling requirements and so on. This is a very interesting mixture of things making if

the HB doesn't pass, the SB when sent to the House can go into a different committee to be discussed.

HB431, Relative to the responsibilities of an elected animal control officer. Currently, if you have an elected position in your town be it police, fire or animal control officer they are equal to the Selectmen or governing body and can make their decisions on how they see the law and the situation. This bill will allow an official elected by the people to be controlled by the Selectmen or elected governing body. In this case if the animal control officer says the animals are fine and the Selectmen or Governing body disagrees, they can fire or terminate the contract made by the people electing them. That means if you have a problem with a Selectmen you may end up having a problem with the animal control officer as they will be ordered to object to how you are caring for your animals. In most towns the animal control officer is appointed by the Selectmen or Governing body, but in those towns where it is elected it is most likely set up that way because of such abuse of power.

SB110 Relative to Animals in motor vehicles, allows people to break into a car to rescue an animal in said car with the permission of a phone call to 911 or the local police, as long as the person has a witness at the time of the event. Even though it can be abused, I feel it may be worth the chance of abuse to help save the animal's life.

HB387 Relative to rabies vaccinations for dogs. This one is interesting as for years the argument for Rabies vaccination and registration of dogs has been because of the packs of dogs that used to damage livestock. Over the past few years Dr. Crawford has been selling it as a human health risk reason, not for the reason originally put in for registration. This curves the intent of the current law to follow the current reasons being sold by the Department of Agriculture, opening the door for an animal license for every mammal that is being kept under the Human Health Risk argument.

HB367, relative to animal health certificates and quarantine requirements for animals imported into the State. A few years back the State adopted a law mak-

ing it so that you cannot do off label medicating or vaccinating of animals, making vaccinating your own animals at some times less than 1/2 the price a vet charges illegal. This adjustment will make it so that you cannot even vaccinate your own animal for rabies even if it is on label as you will have to have a health certificate with the vet's name and address right on the paperwork, once again making it so that they can set up the animal record database.

If you would like my personal opinion on any other agricultural bills feel free to email or call me. If you want the State Grange's opinion, feel free to contact Leroy Watson, or bring it up in a resolution at State Session.

To follow the progress of bills in the New Hampshire Legislature go on line to legiscan.com/nh.

Park Grange

Park Grange received two wonderful donations from a patron of our Cornish Fair food booth. The person realizes this is the Grange's big fund raiser with the profits going back into the community and surrounding area where our members live. Knowing the Grange would not have the opportunity for fund raising this year, the person stepped forward.

With these donations the Grange was able to purchase items and do the following good works. At Thanksgiving three gift certificates for three separate families were purchased, as well as fifteen turkeys that were given to families in need. For Christmas the Grange purchased a Christmas tree for a family, who was overjoyed. A monetary donation was given to the Santa Helpers for gifts for children and adults. Nursing home residents received socks and other personal items, and the workers there on Christmas Day were treated to snacks in their lunchroom for all shifts to enjoy. The final purchase was a pair of gloves, hat, and warm socks, gifted to a person who rides a bike to work.

Park Grange was very blessed for these donations, and we wish to say "thank you" for your generosity.

**A little nonsense now and then
is cherished by the wisest men.**

~Roald Dahl



This has been a strange year, and I hope everyone is staying safe, using masks and staying at a distance. I wish we could have had our February Junior Fun Day, but we want to wait and hope that by March 14 Bowling we can meet with your family if you bring a mask.

I just mailed a packet to all Juniors I have on my list. If you have taken new Juniors in, please send me their name and address so I can include them in mailings.

In the envelope you will find the Junior booklet with the crafts and dates listed for the children to enter this year. Also I included the National Junior crafts they can review and make and get to me and I will be sure they get to National Grange this fall. The Big E contest will be the same as last year and needs to get to me by August 1. Let's hope we will get back to normal by then.

This is a great time to make photos. Think of the State Lecturer's Photo Contest when

Taking photos and let the Juniors take some too. Here are the categories;

A: Give it Your Best Shot - pick the best photo you've taken this year and submit it. to the State Lecturer.

B: Photo Caption - (This is a bit different. The caption, rather than the photo, will be judged, so pick whatever photo you want and give it your best caption!

C: Hometown Pride - What is your town known for? You pick what you like best about your hometown and boast about it by submitting your photo.

There is lots of time to think of what you want to take and have the Juniors get involved too. These photo entries will be due to the State Lecturer by October 1, 2021.

The State Lecturer's Art Contest has something for everyone, too. Ask your Grange Lecturer to give you some of the requirements and start trying as this is due October 1, 2021, too.

The Youth Department also has contests for Adults and Juniors: Paper Craft and T-Shirt decorating. Instructions for these can be found in the Youth Booklet.

How can I help any of the Juniors in New Hampshire? I always ask myself what can we do in these times, and now is the time to see what we all can do for the young people. I know they are having hard times as well as we are, and we need to find ways to help each other. That is important to help us grow. I was fortunate to have the Covid shot already and hope everyone will set this as a goal.

Keep your eyes and ears open for something in April or May if things are going better.



We hope you are staying warm and safe this winter. Spring will be here before you know it! We would like to dedicate this article to the memory of Dick Patten, past Community Services Director who passed away recently. One of his final recognitions came from National Grange Community Services Director Pete Pompper who announced the recipient of the 2020 Law Enforcement Officer as Detective Sgt Eric Shirley of the NH State Police, who was nominated by Dick.

While your Grange may still not be able to get out into your community to do your normal service projects here are some ideas of things you can do:

Send cards to residents in nursing homes or folks in your town who might need a kind word

Collect items or make a cash donation to a local food pantry. (You could pick a specific item to collect for each month, or contact the food pantry and ask what items they could really use).

Participate in a roadside trash cleanup

Give Night Night Hugs bags to a shelter (ask your Family & Community Service chairperson for details)

We hope you are still considering honoring your town volunteers with community service awards. Some granges are considering alternative ideas for their awards night, such as planning it for warmer weather and holding it outside in a public place.

Now is a great time to be working on your Family Services projects too. We're hoping to have the baking contest again this year and are repeating last year's Oatmeal Cookies. Pick your favorite recipe or try a new one.

Thinking of trying your hand at a new craft? JoAnn Fabrics has some great "how-to" videos on learning to crochet, knit, etc.

The needlework contest has added a new category - Sewn Garment, which can be for either an adult or child. A garment is considered an article of clothing worn on the body, i.e. a dress, shirt, slacks, coat or jacket, cape, vest, poncho, etc. These will be due to us by August 1st for judging.

We hope your Grange is staying active despite the pandemic. If you are meeting virtually your Family & Community chairperson should be able to keep you up to date with information about projects and programs. If your grange is unable to meet because of social distancing regulations then be sure to stay in touch with your fellow members - give them a call to check on their welfare, ask if they need anything or just to chat. You can share cookie recipes, needlework patterns or ideas for community service projects. Whatever the reason, try to **Stay Connected**. And stay healthy and safe.



In Memoriam

Edward Marion	Arlington
Norman Bowles	Chichester
Richard W. Patten	Concord
Past State Master	
Edna Hansen	Harmony
Glenn Penny, Sr.	Mohawk

Lower Intervale Grange

The Lower Intervale Grange Hall has been sold and the new owners are restoring it. The following article was printed in the **Plymouth Record Enterprise** on February 11, 2021.)

Register of Historic Places Commemorates Plymouth's Lower Intervale Grange

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources is pleased to announce that the State Historical Resources Council has added Plymouth's Lower Intervale Grange and five other properties to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places.

Plymouth's Lower Intervale Grange #321, built by local farmers in 1912, is part of the Grange movement that blossomed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Granges not only increased educational opportunities and economic profitability by fostering cooperation among local farmers, but they also served as important social centers for members and their families. Fifty-seven Granges still operate in New Hampshire, eight of them in Grafton County.

If you've driven along Route 3 between Plymouth and Ashland lately, you've seen lots of activity around the historic Lower Intervale Grange.

The Hall is graced with jaw-dropping historic features such as pressed tin ceilings, stunning bead board walls, and hardwood floors.

"The walls practically sing with memories of meetings, large dinners, dances, community gatherings, weddings, and parties," said Susan Mathison.

New caretakers and now-restorers Susan Mathison and Steve Rand began work on the Grange in November. They fell in love with the Grange and knew that it needed to be recognized for the treasure that it is. Mathison and Rand consider it a privilege to update the building's systems, make repairs, provide safe parking, bring this gem of a building back into year-round service, and to recapture and honor its rich history.

"People in Plymouth know I have a passion for our community and its history," said Rand. "We are so fortunate and grateful to have a chance to celebrate

and restore this building. Placing it on the State Register of Historic Places is just one more step to help recognize the importance of the Grange and our local agricultural community. With luck, we look forward to a public Grand Re-Welcoming sometime this summer!"

In the meantime, Mathison and Rand are working there most every day and ask that you use extra caution with the increased traffic near the Grange.

"Be sure to encourage us with a honk on your horn as you drive by!" said Rand.

In Need of a Scholarship?

This is the time of year to plan for educational funding. Applications require transcripts of grades and letters of recommendation, so don't wait until the last minute. Requirements and forms for the scholarships listed below may be found on the NH State Grange website www.nhgrange.org. Click on **Departments** and scroll down to Grange Services and/or Grange Foundation.

Grange Scholarship

(Forms; #201 & #202 may be found under Grange Services or contact [Lois Enman IIjen@myfairpoint.net](mailto:Lois.Enman.IIjen@myfairpoint.net).)

Scholarships may be awarded to first year college students, continuing college students, and students who are re-entering the educational process (GED and beyond).

The applicant must be a Grange member (minimum 1 year membership). Applicant must be enrolled to an accredited post secondary educational institution. The application must reflect the Importance of education to the applicant, Financial need, and Grange involvement. The application form must be completed and signed by the applicant.

You need two letters of recommendation, an essay, and transcripts of grades from the high school or college last attended. (This is not required if the applicant has been out of school for more than 5 years.) 7. The scholarship money will be provided for a future school term and will be assigned to the student and the school the student will be attending.

Support the Granite State Granger
with your donation.

Completed applications are due **July 1st, 2021**. Send completed forms, including all other other paperwork, to:

Lois Enman
9 Blake Street
Rochester, NH 033867

Clarence Sprague-John West Award
(Forms to be found at Grange Foundation)

New Hampshire residents pursuing an education related to agricultural production, economics or education, in that order of priority, are welcome to submit applications. You do not need to be a Grange member to apply, but preference is given to Grange members and their direct relatives.

Awards are available in five categories of Scholarships and grants:

- 1) Post-Secondary: student enrolled in an accredited institution of higher education leading to a degree
- 2) Continuing Re-certification: enrolled in a program to meet requirements of re-certification for a licensed position
- 3) General Equivalency Diploma: for the cost of classes or testing for a GED.
- 4) Adult Education Enrichment: course, seminar or program designed to improve skills
- 5) Farm Internship and Agricultural Program: an informal education program related to farming or agribusiness.

One application form may be used to apply for any of the five categories. The application may be submitted electronically, or printed and mailed. Awards will vary up to \$1000 each. **The application deadline is May 20th.** For more information contact the NH Grange Foundation at nhgrangefoundation@gmail.com.

Education Loan Fund

(Forms are under Grange Services)

Money awarded is a loan and must be repaid with interest. The applicant must be a member of the Grange or a member of a Grange family in good standing. 2. The signature of two (2) signers is required on the note: one signer (a parent is preferred) of the note must have financial security. 3. The applicant may borrow up to the sum of \$1,000.00 in one school year as needed to complete his or her education. The applicant may have up to a maximum of \$2,000.00 in loan amounts outstanding at any one time.



The new year has brought us new challenges. The biggest question is, How are you and your Grange adapting to stay strong and relevant? We all need to look beyond what we've always done to keep us all engaged in our Grange work.

For as long as I can remember, the first Saturday (usually) in February was February Youth Rally. While we weren't able to meet together this year, February Youth Rally is available to you at any time! A link to our Youth Rally Dashboard has been posted on the New Hampshire State Grange Website (nhgrange.org) and on the NH Grange Facebook Page.

Through that Dashboard, you can access many videos and tutorials for the paper craft and sign-a-song contest. Additionally, you can find the link for the annual Grange Knowledge Test. For those looking for a real challenge, try out the digital escape room that can also be found on the dashboard. The best part about this unique way of accessing activities is that you can participate for as long or as short a period of time as you wish. You can spend a few minutes multiple times, or several hours on a chilly afternoon.

As we move towards the spring, and hopefully the opportunity to gather together in fellowship, keep an eye out in your email for updates about June Youth Rally. Who knows, maybe there will be a few special virtual events that pop up in the next few months to pass the time. If you have any suggestions or feedback for how the Youth Department can help you, please send them to Rachel at rscanzani@nhgrange.org.

Lloyd Lessard will be 100 years old on April 29, 2021. Let's shower him with cards!
Lloyd Lessard
260 Main Street
Sandown, NH 03873



State Grange Building

There have been a few recent improvements at the State Grange Building in Hooksett which you would probably not easily notice. Kevin Belval built and installed custom screens to cover the peak vents in the attic. One screen was missing and the other bent when he began.

Other recent improvements include a new State of NH flag, a new valve seal on the toilet in the men's room, and two new smoke detectors. The Executive Committee is making progress on a basement intervention. A dead tree behind the building will also be taken down in the near future.



Chichester Grange #132

We had grand plans for 2020, with a fun speaker series that was going to entertain, educate, and hopefully bring in some new members. Clearly the Great Master of the Universe had other plans.

Our speaker series was canceled before it began and, with the Town Hall closed, we didn't meet at all between March and October. However, as we've all learned this past year, there are silver linings to be found on every cloud. After bemoaning our low attendance numbers for years, we found that our small group could socially distance quite easily. With that in mind, we resumed once-a-month meetings last fall. Our next scheduled meeting is in April, with hopes that some members will be vaccinated by then.

A Mystery at the Tuftonborough Grange Hall

by Joy Perkins

In the recent past the Building Committee informed us that we needed to perform maintenance on the Grange. The hall needed to be painted and the sign updated. The sign was in need of repainting and lettering. Discussions about the sign included, having it repainted and lettered, replaced entirely (and if so, what kind of design), and whom to approach for estimates for the work. No decisions had been made.

In the meantime, Mr. John Baldwin had won the bid to repaint the Grange Hall this past summer. In preparation to painting the hall, the sign was taken down. It was then that it was discovered that the sign had rotted and would have to be replaced in its entirety. Talk ensued about how to get the sign replaced.

The Building Committee resolved to get the necessary information to get it replaced. We would wait until after the hall was painted.

Now comes some information from a "Friend of the Grange." It seems that some 30 plus years ago, a sign had been taken off the Grange Hall and was never found. Two juveniles were suspected of taking the sign and running off with it, but nothing was ever proven. The old sign was replaced with the one that was on the hall most recently and the matter died.

Well... Recently, a conversation between "friends of the Grange" revealed that an old sign might be found in a barn in Melvin Village. Come to find out, an old sign had been found, and, in fact, was the one that had disappeared off the hall some 30 years ago. Much to the delight of our members, that which was gone has been returned thanks to some "friends of the Grange".

Deadline

The next issue of the Granite State Granger will be mailed in June 2021. Please send items for the paper to Hannah West on or before May 10, 2021. Report on events of March and April. Look ahead to events of July, August and September.

Grange Bulletin Board

Aurora Grange

Aurora Grange #235 in Pittsburg has been meeting with a few brothers and sisters on a regular basis. In December, their annual Christmas get-together was held at Ann and Lindsey Gray's new camp with a potluck dinner and a gift exchange. Everyone enjoyed the new camp and visiting with friends around the wood stove.

In January and February, the meetings were held at Chip and Eddie Evarts' home. The March meeting will feature a visit from one of the town selectmen who will be going over the upcoming warrant articles for the annual town meeting.

Aurora Grange distributed dictionaries to third graders in Stewartstown Community School and in Pittsburg School in January. The picture at the left shows the Pittsburg School third graders with their newly acquired dictionaries, all properly masked and maintaining physical distancing.



**Make Your Reservation!
Grange Family Weekend
August 6-8, 2021**

**Sandy Beach RV and Camping Resort
377 Clement Hill Road
Contoocook, NH
Tel. 603-746-3591**

RV sites with full hook-ups and tent sites as well. A military discount is offered. Call soon for reservations. Say you are with the Grange group reserved by Shawn Scanzani.

If you have questions call Shawn Scanzani at 603-318-5143.

Chocolate is the answer. Who cares what the question is.~Author Unknown

A Hearty Grange Welcome
to New Grange Member
Roberta Mason Watatic Grange

Card of Thanks

Thanks to my Grange Family for the cards. the thoughts and the prayers during this time. It has eased my sadness and made the days brighter. Thank you for caring.

Shelley Huntoon

Watatic Grange

Watatic Grange in Amherst "adopted" a small assisted living facility in Milford several years ago. At Christmas time this past year the three youth and junior members planned, purchased, filled and delivered gift bags for the residents.

Each bag included a Christmas themed mug, a package of hot chocolate, a pencil, a note pad, hand sanitizer, a packet of tissues, and various Christmas candies. The brown sandwich bags were prettily hand decorated with winter and Christmas symbols. The girls also made Christmas cards to place in the gift bags.



L to R-Kathe Wolf; Ava, Genevieve and Alayna Twiss

Official Publication of the
New Hampshire State Grange
Patrons of Husbandry
Managing Editor - Hannah West
3 Depot Road
Chichester, NH 03258
Tel. (603) 798-5783

THE GRANITE STATE GRANGER

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EPSOM, NH
PERMIT NO. 4