

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

Once again, it is truly my honor to give this report on behalf of the Corn Dog Booth!

WHAT A GREAT YEAR!!

What can I say about this year's fair?

You couldn't have asked for better weather and HOLY CRAP, did we have some eaters!!

As you should already know by now, the fair is never just the 5-days of the actual event. There's clean up weekends, shopping trips, phone calls to place orders, multi trips picking up stuff and all fingers crossed, praying that all goes well with the lighting of the fryolators and hot water tank.

This year started with last year's water leaks. New "Pex-Pipe" was installed for both hot & cold water lines in the booth with double shut-offs for both sinks. We also discovered some broken pipes in the hot water closed that were replaced as well. The lines that Consumers installed last year were way too long for the area and left us with large loops that water could get trapped in. HUGE THANK YOU to Papa Tom for doing this project & teaching me how to use that new "Pex-Pipe". I swear it wouldn't be a fair season without some sort of water leak. Besides those water issues, this was the year that BOTH water faucets decided this was the year to be replaced.

Before any ordering or shopping gets done, it was off to the fair to do an inventory. Now, normally this is done at the very end of the season while we're down there draining the hot water tank, but I seem to have misplaced last years & had to do it again. No biggie, what's one more trip down to the fair, I mean, who doesn't like going to the fair, right?? After looking at last year's amounts of ordered products, we decided to increase this year's as well. So, that was

more oil, more Kenyon's Top Secret mix, more hot dogs and more onion rings. And speaking of oil, last year I reported that our oil increased by \$32 per jug, well, that price increased again this year by another \$30. I was in financial shock when told how much 12-jugs were going to cost. YIKES!! We had increases overall with our products and supplies. Our starting budget may need to be reviewed for discussion.

Staffing was problematic this year and we often struggled with shifts that ran at a 7-person minimum. Not an easy thing to do, but as usual, we get the job done. My anchor of support with running things, Mrs. Corn Dog, was only able to be with us on Wednesday & Friday night. With her work schedule and then getting sick, that's all she could do during the fair anyway, she was there with me for multi trips for weekend clean ups and the shopping excursions. And Nettie sure is my Super Trooper! Up at the butt crack of dawn heading down with me every morning and leaving after midnight most nights, not to mention helping wherever she's asked to, and not just by me, between Laura's Arts & Craft, Ashley's Kid's Activities as well as running the fair's un-official childcare center, she was all over it, everywhere!!

For all those that worked with us, we THANK YOU, for those that did multi shifts/days, YOU'RE the BEST, for those that were there every day, working doubles & triples, we can't THANK YOU enough for stepping up like you did and giving so much of you time. With the exception of Friday night's concert, our good friend worked every day, open to close, her 17-year old daughter worked a double on Friday & triples on Saturday & Sunday along with her Dad. 112 hours from that family, and they're not even Grangers, YET.... Rocky Hill's Christine Palmer worked 2 doubles & 3 triples. She's AWESOME!! And I can't forget Jamie Chase, who's pushing 70!! EVERY DAY, open to close on & off the onion rings, not to mention before & after the fair with setting things up with the fryolators & coming back down Monday morning to help drain & clean them. THANK YOU again to Joyce Chase for feeding the troops! It's nice to have some normal food when you're surrounded by all that "fair food".

THANK YOU for all the help and much needed support from Steve & Claire Logan, or should I say the LOGAN family! Steve, Claire, Tracey & Steven, Jr. for all my needs, weather is was me

or one of my fellow Corn Doggers. To Patty & Roxanne, thanks for all you do to keep me in line and with any guidance & support I need during the week.

With only one price increase to soda this year, that left us with no sales needing quarters! That was nice for once, although, we sure did go through a lot of \$1's. Thanks to Patty in the office along with Judi & my Mom for making trips to their banks and bringing in more \$1's on Friday & Saturday.

I'm very excited to report that there were no medical emergencies & no one passed out this year!! I'm very grateful to have so many caring friends that came in throughout the week to check in & keep an eye on me this year. I am truly BLESSED!!

Next year is the last year for any concessions or modifications to be done to the exhaust/suppression systems. We'll have ours inspected & updated as needed, to be reported to the Executive Committee. I will tell you this now, it's NOT GOING TO BE CHEAP! We'll also be doing some structure repair work to the exterior of the building to include the lower 2-3 feet of siding, redesign the front with new windows as well as replacing the counter. When that's all done, the entire exterior will be painted. I was thinking Ketchup red with Mustard yellow for the trim. We're still dealing with the eyesore of the concrete barriers, but that's another story for another day.

So again, thank you to all that helped make this year THEE BIGGEST DEPOSIT TO DATE!!

And that was.....

Respectfully Submitted to you all,

~Mr. Corn Dog..