

REPORT OF SECRETARY

Worthy Master, Officers and Members of the R.I. State Grange:

It is with pleasure that I submit my report as Rhode Island State Grange Secretary.

I am glad that we are once again able to gather together for our annual session this year, after the craziness of the past 2 years. I also can not believe that it has already been a year since our last session. I remember as a child people telling me not to rush getting older, and I know understand why – time seems to fly faster and faster as the years go by.

First off I wish to once again thank Sister Shirley Lawson for filling in for me during part of last years session. I had inadvertently booked a vacation during the session, and while I was sad to have missed the end of session, I was grateful that Shirley was willing and able to fill in for me. Also, I highly recommend a trip to Iceland for anyone who is interested in seeing the Northern Lights.

Following the close of last years session, I began the task of completing both the Directory and Journal of Proceedings. Thank you to everyone for sending in your reports electronically prior to the start of the session. It was very helpful, and as a result I was pleased to distribute both the Directories and the Journal of Proceedings at the statewide meeting.

On June 30, 2022, I reported to National Grange that we again had the same 17 Subordinate Granges as last year at this time. Our total membership at this time was 622 members which includes 132 Golden Sheaf members and 31 members making up 9 family plans. This is a loss of 24 members from last year, which is 16 members less than 2021; however, it is still a loss in overall membership. Over the last year 9 Subordinate Granges or 53% reported that they had lost at least one member. 4 Subordinate Granges maintained the same membership and 4 Subordinate Granges gained in membership this year.

We currently have 7 Subordinate Granges with membership below 25 members; 8 Subordinate Granges with membership between 26 and 50 members; and 2 Subordinate Granges with membership over 50 members. Of those Subordinate Granges with members below 25 members, 5 Granges are approaching a point where their membership levels may fall below the point of being recognized as a Subordinate Grange and they may be forced to close.

Again, this year, I am sad to report that a few Granges has failed to report their quarterly dues on time, and we had to charge Granges a \$25 late fee for not getting their quarterly reports in on time. The late fee is only charged when a Grange has not submitted their quarterly report within 30 days of the end of the quarter.

Our two Junior Granges, Moosup Valley and Newport County Pomona, continue to be active with a total junior membership of 49 plus 1 member in the Junior +1 category of Richmond Grange. The total junior membership has decreased from last year, and we hope that these juniors will continue their Grange journey by joining a Subordinate Grange if they have not already.

This year we only had 6 Granges request a total of 35 membership awards. The following are the recipients:

- **40 years**
 - Claire Logan – Richmond #6
 - Stephen Logan – Richmond #6
 - Melissa Smith – Slocum #36
 - Craig Swain – Perryville #14
- **50 years – Golden Sheaf**
 - James Auckerman – Richmond #6
 - Clyde (Pete) Fish – Richmond #6
 - Carol Perry – Slocum #36
 - Howard Paster – Slocum #36
 - Anne Gardner – Slocum #36
- **55 years**
 - Lorraine Corr – Perryville #14
 - Dianne Brule – Kickemuit #24
 - Carol Boudreau – Slocum #36
 - Jan Almy – Slocum #36
 - Chalene Bapties – Slocum #36
 - Beverly Hurd – Chepachet #38
 - Eileen Hebert – Chepachet #38
- **60 years**
 - W Clark Peckham – Richmond #6
 - Phyllis Manchester-Masteka – Kickemuit #24
 - Gene Gardner III – Slocum #36
 - Kathy Motter – Slocum #36
 - Shirley Lawson - Roger Williams Rumford #52
 - Robert Howard - Roger Williams Rumford #52
- **65 years**
 - John J Cottrell III – Richmond #6
 - John Sousa – Kickemuit #24
 - Patricia Hayes - Slocum #36
 - Jean Lynch - Slocum #36
 - Hugh Martin - Slocum #36
 - Doris Whitaker - Slocum #36
 - Ethel Corbin – Chepachet #38
 - Richard Lawson - Roger Williams Rumford #52
 - Robert Howard - Roger Williams Rumford #52
- **75 years – Diamond Certificate**
 - Marjorie Casbarro – Chepachet #38
 - Louise Roberts - Roger Williams-Rumford #52
- **80 years – Special Award**
 - Russell Allen - Slocum #36
 - Herbert Dyer, Jr - Slocum #36

Congratulations to everyone! I hope that the drop in requesting Granges is due to the lack of meeting over the past year. Hopefully, I will be able to report more Granges and awards being presented next year.

This year we had five members receive their Life Membership card. I have requested that all 5 members attend State Session for the presentation of their Life Membership cards. If they are unable to attend, I will mail out their Life Membership card following the close of the session, along with the congratulations and best wishes from the Rhode Island State Grange.

In the coming year, I am happy to assist all Grange Secretaries with any questions they might have. If there is interest, I would also be happy to conduct a Secretary workshop to give examples on completing member award form, quarterly dues form, and to answer any questions.

Earlier in 2022, I was promoted at work to Chief People Office, and this has taken much of them time, which made it difficult for me to visit Granges during the week. I was pleased to attend the State Grange Church Service, Washington County Fair, Degree Day, and Junior Awards Day. I was also happy to enter several contests and assist my Subordinate and Pomona Granges in many of their projects. Thank you to everyone who took part in any of these events or project to make them successful and enjoyable events.

This year, I was pleased to attend all of the State Grange Executive Committee and Foundation meetings that were held both in person and virtually as necessary. At our last joint meeting of the Executive Committee and Foundation in August, our books were reviewed by the Executive Committee and Foundation Board and found to be in good order.

In closing, I would like to thank:

- Dennis Robidoux who is always available to answer questions and help keep me on track – no matter how strange or confusing the questions may get.
- Shirley Lawson who is always willing to step in and help when asked.
- All of the Pomona and Subordinate Secretaries in Rhode Island for turning in their quarterly reports on time and for submitting membership award forms.
- All of the State Officers, Department Heads, Deputies, and Subordinate & Pomona Masters for providing their reports digitally and in a timely manner.
- The delegates and members of the Rhode Island State Grange for continuing to have faith in my abilities to do this job well.

I am looking forward to all of the events planned for the upcoming Grange year, and I hope to see you all at an event soon.

Fraternally submitted,

Roxanne Nelson

Secretary Financial Report

Allotment		\$2,625.00
Expenses		
Postage	\$116.00	
Awards (Membership Seals)	\$246.00	
Printing (Directories & Journals)	\$1,909.14	
Office Supplies (Folders, Order Books, Etc.)	\$134.57	
Remembrance (Floral Arrangement)	\$204.36	
Total Expenses		\$2,610.07
Balance of Allotment		\$14.93