



The Dictionary Project



Support Our Veterans

Community Service

2025 – 2026



Fill an Empty Plate

*"Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success."*

Henry Ford



join

Membership



Helping Our Four-Legged Friends



Community Service

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

2025-2026

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COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKBOOK REPORT

DUE DATE: SEPTEMBER 1st

Submit reports to: the RISG Community Service Director

Describe what work your Grange did for the community.

CHAIRPERSON:

As the Chairperson, you should write the report for the benefit of people outside your own Grange who will read and, in some instances, judge the report. Judges are learning for the first time about your projects, and possibly even about the Grange itself and the Community in which it's located. Judges need enough information so that they understand as much as possible about your chosen project(s)! *This is not a chronicle of everything your Grange did in a year, it should represent just the Community Service Projects.*

COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKBOOK REPORT GUIDELINES

The Community Service Work Report and all other Rhode Island State Grange sponsored projects like the Dictionary Project, Fill an Empty Plate Project, etc., will be submitted in one binder. DO NOT submit in individual folders – in other words, one big book. The first page of the Community Service Work Report will be the form on page 4, followed by information on new and on-going projects, and this will be followed by Rhode Island State Grange sponsored projects. All of these projects/categories should be separated by title pages and/or tabs.

IN ORDER, your Grange Community Service Work Report (Binder) should include:

1. **SECTION 1:** RI State Grange Community Service Work Report Form found on page 4.
2. **NEXT SECTION:** Your Grange's new project(s), if applicable. This project, if any, should be reported at the beginning of your service work report. NOTE: Judging of your book will not be affected by your having or not having a new project.
3. **NEXT SECTION:** Your Grange's on-going projects.
4. **NEXT SECTION:** Your Grange's work on Rhode Island State Grange sponsored projects.

Judging Criteria: 1) All required forms accurately completed; 2) Contents separated by title pages and/or tabs; 3) Activity and involvement, AND 4) Neatness.

DESCRIBE YOUR ACTIVITIES IN DETAIL.

- A detailed summary should explain your project(s), whether it is a new or continuing project, plans that were made to accomplish them, how financed (if applicable), problems, if any, that were overcome, cooperation received from members and community members, recognition and any other helpful information.
- Include newspaper articles, letters and evidence of publicity, if available.
- Pictures are helpful, especially "before the project(s) began, during and after completion."

Suggestions for Grange Community Service Workbook Reports

- It is important that the name of your Grange is on the front of the book.
- Limit pages to no more than 4 (front and back) for larger projects and 2 (front and back) for smaller projects.
- Include 2 or 3 photos that demonstrate members' (non-members if applicable) participation and items collected. If it is a cleanup type project submit before and after photos.
- Include 1 or 2 Thank You cards/letters, newspaper article, or flyer about the event.
- When holding a fundraiser dinner/event, it is important to include where the monies were donated.
- Work with your grange Information Director to keep the press informed. It is important that only one person be considered the press contact for each subordinate Grange. It reduces the confusion of who to contact and will increase your Information Director's visibility level among the press.
- Report form: Please use form on Page 4 as the first page of your report. Reports must be submitted to the Rhode Island State Grange Community Service Director by September 1.
- Also remember All community service work or projects that are done by any members of your Grange for other departments can be included in your report.

Good organization is important. Keep information short, precise, and organized on all projects. More pages (fluff) or larger books are not always better. This is not a history book of everything your Grange did in a year – it should represent just the Community Service projects.

Helping a Sister Grange

Jo-ann Lemaire, of Exeter Grange, and a member of the Community Service Group, collects card fronts and cancel stamps for Orca Island Senior Center, Eastsound, WA. If you choose, extend a kindness, and encourage Grange members to collect card fronts and cancel stamps, (just tear the stamp off, leave at least ½ inch around the stamp, do not trim,) and forward to Jo-ann Lemaire at Exeter Grange, or Howard Paster, or Marie Robidoux. Mark the front of your contribution with your Grange name and the number of stamps.

COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK REPORT FORM

2025 - 2026

Please complete this form and make it the first page of your report.

Grange Name _____ Grange No. _____

City, County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Chairperson's Name _____

Chairperson's Address: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone # _____

Email: _____

Number of Grange Members: _____

Did your Grange receive help from outside organizations or individuals? Yes ___ No ___

Master's Name: _____

Signature of Community Service Chairperson: _____

The judges are not familiar with your Grange, membership, or community. On a separate sheet please write a brief paragraph that best describes your Grange. Pictures would be helpful, if available. This information will assist the judges in understanding your projects.

**The report must be received by RISG Community Service Director by:
September 1st.**

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARD GUIDELINES

The categories are:

- Law-Enforcement Officer
- Firefighter
- School Teacher (person with degree in Education – 4 years or more)
- Citizen
- Group
- Patron Membership Recognition (See page 17)

GUIDELINES:

- Each Grange is asked to submit candidates to be honored in this Recognition Award Program.
- Nominees can be a Grange Member or a non-member for all categories. School Teacher may not be a Teacher's Aide, unless they meet the education requirement.
"Citizen" – this can be a neighbor or someone that does not fall into the above categories such as a scout, paper carrier, letter carrier, nurse, doctor, etc.
- If you wish to recognize a Group, in any category, please be specific and make sure it services the entire community, not one or two particular segments of the population. One award will be presented to no more than two representatives of the group. There can be only one Group entry per year. **Note:** A Grange cannot nominate a Grange group for a Grange project.

Seek out and submit the best candidate from the community. The person you honor should excel in their position, **but are primarily judged for the work they do in their community above and beyond their respective positions for community service.**

(For example: A firefighter may go to a school and teach about fire safety when this is not a requirement of his position as a firefighter. Or, he may coordinate suppers to raise money for a scholarship fund.)

If you choose someone to receive an award from another community that is served by a local grange, please check with that grange first as a courtesy.

An application is on the next page. Make copies so you can enter all categories.

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.
(401) 568-4219 or dwrobidoux44@gmail.com**

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARDS

INDIVIDUAL NOMINATION FORM 2025 - 2026

Please indicate category – note: Only one person in each category per Grange.

Law Enforcement Officer _____ Teacher _____

Firefighter _____ Citizen _____

Name of Grange submitting the nominee _____

Name of nominee being submitted _____

Address _____

City/Town/County _____

State/Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Cell phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Family information: _____

Include Education, Grange, Church, School and other Community Activities, etc. _____

Please attach a report on why this person should be honored. Include as much information as you would like about this person. ***Remember, the judges do not know the candidate.***
Use a separate sheet of paper for additional information.

Please submit a photograph of the person being submitted, if possible.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARDS GROUP NOMINATION FORM 2025 - 2026

Name of Grange submitting the Group _____

Name of Group being submitted _____

If you wish to recognize a Group, in any category, please be specific and make sure it services the entire community not one or two particular segments of the population.

Name of Group contact person _____

Address _____

City/Town/County _____

State/Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Cell phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Please attach a report on why this Group should be honored. Include as much information as you would like about the Group. ***Remember, the judges do not know the candidates. Use a separate sheet of paper for additional information.***

Please submit a photograph of the Group being submitted, if possible.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARDS

Patron Membership Recognition Award for New Members

Awarded for service to your Grange with distinction to those new grangers that exemplify a true Patron of Husbandry. The Patron Membership Recognition Award program is designed for new members of your Grange to engage in and maintain an active level of participation in Grange programs and activities. (Note: This award may take up to one year to complete and new members, obligated starting December 1st, may apply.)

Name of Grange submitting the nominee _____

Name of nominee being submitted _____

Address _____

City/Town/County _____

State/Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Cell phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Eligibility Requirements: All must be checked.

- ☐ Has been a Grange member for one full year: Date joined _____
- ☐ Has received the first four degrees: Date received _____
- ☐ Recruited at least one new member: Name of member _____
- ☐ Has visited another Subordinate Grange: Name of Grange _____
- ☐ Has attended a Pomona meeting: Name of Pomona _____
- ☐ Has attended at least 10 meetings of their Grange
- ☐ Participated in three Subordinate Grange Activities - list the three activities:

Subordinate Master

Subordinate Membership Chair

Patrons completing this award will receive a Patron Membership Recognition certificate and a one-year subscription to Good Day, the National; Grange's magazine.

NOTE: This form should be given to all new members for them to keep track of their progress. After completing all the requirements, this form should be given to the Subordinate Community Service Chair who will forward it to Marie A. Robidoux, Rhode Island State Grange Community Service Director. The award will be presented at the individual's Grange by the State Director.

RHODE ISLAND STATE GRANGE
Veterans Administration Volunteer Services Project Information and
Report Form 2025 - 2026

This on-going Rhode Island State Grange Veterans Administration Project is helping the Veterans Administration Volunteer Services (VAVS) collect items for male and female hospitalized, homeless, and nursing home veterans. (This is a year-round, not just for Christmas project.)

Items needed vary from time to time. Toiletries are good. At present, they **do** need \$5.00 or \$10.00 gift cards to McDonalds, Burger King, Dunkin Donuts, CVS, and Stop & Shop. Also activity books, backpacks, sweatpants, light gloves, tee and sweatshirts, good clean coats (large sizes are good), socks. Lady vets especially need housecoats and night gowns (not see through).

Please call Marie at (401) 568-4219 or email her at dwrobidoux44@gmail.com as soon as your items are collected so arrangements can be made for pickup.

Please include the report below for the VA project in your Community Service Work Report.

If you need additional space, please use additional pages.

Name of Grange: _____

Name of Chair: _____

Total Number of Items Collected _____

Please list some of the items collected:

Was your Grange able to involve other organizations in this project? If so, who and how did they help? _____

THIS FORM IS FOR VAVS PROJECTS ONLY.

This project is not judged. All will receive a Certificate of Participation.



WORDS FOR THIRDS DICTIONARY PROJECT

We would like to encourage all Granges to participate in this worthwhile project again this year.

The idea of this project is to purchase dictionaries for third-grade students. Each student gets to keep their own personal dictionary. The dictionaries come in case lots of 24 and shipping is free. Most third-grade classrooms consist of 20 – 25 students. You should check with the school you wish to help for the number of dictionaries you will need and home-schooling organizations. Don't forget to purchase a dictionary for the teacher and room aide.

If your Grange cannot afford them, this is a perfect opportunity to get other civic organizations involved with this project. The school or schools that you wish to work with is that of your choosing.

We would like to point out that we do not have Granges in every community. This year we are asking your assistance for the Rhode Island State Grange (RISG) Dictionary Project Fund. This fund will be used to purchase dictionaries in the name of the Rhode Island State Grange and will be donated to communities where there is need.

No donation is too small. Checks should be made payable to:

RI STATE GRANGE FOUNDATION and sent to Marie at 750 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI 02814-1459. Personal donations, which are tax-deductible, can be counted in your report.

If you are looking for more general information about the **Words for Thirds Dictionary Project** or to order dictionaries, you can call 843-388-8375 or go to their web site:

www/dictionaryproject/org. There are some great resources on the "Get Involved" page.



PAPA GINO FUNDRAISERS: The first fundraiser will be held on March 27th in Warwick. See the Beacon for other Papa Gino dates.

DICTIONARY POOL

You can also help by donating your excess dictionaries to the Dictionary Pool. After making your school distributions, the RISG will be glad to accept any leftover dictionaries you may have. If we collect a few dictionaries from several Granges this could possibly give us enough to donate to an unserved school. Even one left-over is acceptable. This pool would allow us to earmark each dictionary with a label that identifies the Rhode Island State Grange to the recipient.

WORDS FOR THIRDS

THE DICTIONARY PROJECT REPORT FORM 2025 - 2026



If you need additional space please use additional pages.

Name of Chairman _____

Name of Grange _____

Name of School (s) receiving dictionaries:

<u>Name of School</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>No. of Dictionaries</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Total number of Dictionaries donated: _____

How did you raise the necessary funds? _____

Did your Grange make a monetary donation to the Rhode Island State Grange Dictionary Project Fund? _____ If so, how much? _____
(Personal donations can be included here.)

PLEASE: A donation of any extra dictionaries you may have to the Rhode Island State Grange Dictionary Pool would be appreciated. If so, how many? _____

Please tell us how the dictionaries were distributed. Were they dropped off at a school?
Did Grange members hand them out? Was a presentation made?
Please attach another page to this form for these details.

If your Grange has donated dictionaries and would like to be included on the National Grange Web Site, please e-mail sales@nationalgrange.org.
Please be sure to include a brief write up and any pictures or sample thank you notes from the students.

This project is judged.

EMPTY PLATE PROJECT
Feeding the Hungry!
REPORT FORM 2025 - 2026

The **Empty Plate Project** gives grangers the opportunity to help those less fortunate. Each month the Community Service Chairperson should ask the members to bring in non-perishable food items or have special fundraisers to fill an EMPTY PLATE, to be donated to Soup Kitchens, Shelters, R I Community Food Bank, Neighbors, Food Baskets, or where there is a need. Food collected and donated should be reported in pounds.

If you need additional space please use additional pages.

Name of Chairman _____

Name of Grange _____

Total Number of Pounds _____

Where food was distributed _____

Was money donated to the R. I. Food Bank? If so, how much? _____ (Please send donation to Marie Robidoux and make the check out to the Rhode Island State Grange Foundation, Inc.

List other ways you helped along with any monetary contributions. _____

Did Grange members volunteer at a food bank, St. Vincent de Paul organization, soup kitchen, other? Please list the Grange member and hours volunteered.

Did your Grange work with other organizations, schools, churches, to help with food distribution? If so, who participated and what was done?

Awards will be based on Granges whose members are involved with food banks and other organizations that bring community awareness about the need of donating food, and by the total number of pounds of food collected by the Grange.

This project is judged.

HELPING OUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

During the year, ask your members to bring in Pet Food (canned or dry) to be donated to your local animal pound or shelter. Other items that are welcomed are kitty litter, old blankets, towels, sheets, etc. Please record poundage on animal food items and litter on the report form below.

If you are not sure what your local shelter or pound could use, just give them a call. They are always in need of some kind of help especially members who are animal lovers that may be willing to donate some of their time at a shelter or pound.

HELPING OUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS REPORT FORM 2025 - 2026

If you need additional space please use additional pages.

Name of Chairman _____

Name of Grange _____

Name of Shelter or Pound you helped:

- _____
- _____
- What did you donate? Include food & litter poundage.

- _____

List any other ways you helped them (use an additional page if necessary)?

This program is not judged.
All will receive a Certificate of Participation.

JUNIOR GRANGES OR INDIVIDUAL JUNIORS
RED SNEAKER STEP-UP

2025 - 2026

Grangers of all ages are always helping the community. This competition is for Junior Grange members to submit their best efforts for a Community Service project. Only one project can be submitted by a Junior Grange. Individuals Juniors may also submit one project. Projects must all be different.

The project can be new or an existing project. For example: Coordinating a coat drive, cleaning a cemetery, making favors for a nursing home, etc. But, remember, it is for an outside organization's need – not the Grange. Cancelled Stamps project is not eligible.

Please write a paragraph explain your project. Include pictures or documentation, thank-yous (if you have them), news clippings to help detail your project.



ENTRY FORM

Junior Grange Entry ____

OR Individual Junior Entry ____

Junior Grange Name: _____

Name: _____ Age _____

Contact Person: _____

Junior Grange Name: _____

This project will be judged. Winning Junior Grange will receive a Pizza Party
and the winning Individual Junior will receive a monetary award.



Junior Grange Members



VETS



Very Enthusiastic Thanks for Service People



Community Service and other Grange Departments work closely with veteran organizations. A veteran is a person, male or female, that served in the U. S. military: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, or Merchant Marines. There are probably veterans in your family: Grandparents, Parents, Uncle or Aunt. Take time to ask them about their military experience and the stories they share with you.

This project is for you to write a short thank you for their service in the form of a saying or poem to a veteran. One entry will be selected in each age bracket. The saying or poem will be incorporated into a card which will be given to Grange members to pass on to veterans for Veteran's Day.

Juniors age 5-7: Saying or poem minimum of two lines.

Juniors age 8-11: Saying or poem minimum of eight lines.

Juniors age 12-14: Poem minimum of 12 lines.

One winner selected per age bracket.

Deadline September 1.

Please have your entry computer printed (ask an adult for help with the computer if needed).

On the top of your entry mark VETS, your name, age and Grange.

Patriot Program – Veterans Certificate

The idea is that each year we celebrate and honor veterans from different wars. Potomac Grange #1 is sponsoring this entire program which allows us to send you free certificates and other information to help you create unique programs for your community. We encourage all Granges to honor their veterans. We are able to create a Veterans Certificate for any Conflict, even one for the “Cold War Era.”

To order your Patriots Program Veteran certificates, please call 888-4-GRANGE or email the National Grange at: lwashington@nationalgrange.org. Please provide the following information: 1) Name of recipients; 2) Branch of Service and conflicts or wars during their service; 3) Presenting Grange name and number; 4) Name of local Grange Master (President) and Lecturer; 5) Date of presentation; and 6) Contact person to whom the certificates should be mailed to.