

Town of Mount Vernon Community Newsletter

www.mtvernonme.org

April 2023 Edition

TOWN OFFICE STAFF

Town Office

Phone: 207-293-2379

Fax: 207-293-3507 clerk@mtvernonme.org

Mon 8am-6pm

Tue, Wed, & Thu 7am-3pm

Fri, Sat & Sun - Closed

Town Clerk & Tax Collector

Heather Wheeler @ 207-293-2379

clerk@mtvernonme.org

Deputy Clerk

Rachel Meader @ 207-293-2379

deputyclerk@mtvernonme.org

Treasurer

Kerry Casey @ 207-293-1103

treasurer@mtvernonme.org

Mon, Wed 10-12

Select Board

selectboard@mtvernonme.org

Anna Libby @ 207-951-2385

anna@mtvernonme.org

Robert Grenier @ 207-293-2783

bob@mtvernonme.org

Carl Rogers @ 207-200-8058

carl@mtvernonme.org

Select Board Admin. Assistant

Tina Cagle @ 207-293-1105

tina@mtvernonme.org

*Select Board Meetings are held every other
Monday at the Town Hall Office @ 1997 North
Road*

*Warrant @ 6:30 pm
Regular Town Business @ 7:00pm*

TOWN DEPARTMENT STAFF

Animal Control Officer

Eric Johnson 207-931-7684

dogs, cats and other domesticated
animals only.

Cemetery Sexton

Bob Grenier @ 207-293-2783

bob@mtvernonme.org

Code Enforcement Officer and Plumbing

Inspector

Bill Butler Work: @ 207-293-2636

Cell: 207-446-6541

CEO@mtvernonme.org

Tuesdays 8am-4pm

Fire Chief

Jason Beckler @ 207-293-2114

(non-emergencies)

General Assistance

Anna Libby @ 207-951-2385

anna@mtvernonme.org

Health Officer

Rachel Criswell, MD

Rescue Director

Pat Rawson @ 207-293-2597

(non-emergencies)

Road Commissioner

Lee Dunn @ 207-242-5828

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library

207-293-2565

Website: drshawlibrary.org

Email: librarian@drshawlibrary.org

Mon 3pm-6pm,

Wed 9am-12pm & 3pm-7pm

Sat 10am-3pm

Masks appreciated.

Curbside always available.

Mt. Vernon Post Office Hours Retail Window

Mon-Fri 7am-10am, 11am-2pm

Newsletter

**All articles to be submitted by 25th
of each month to:**

newsletter@mtvernonme.org

Paid Business Advertisements

◇ Business Card Size \$15/month

◇ 1/4 page \$25/month

◇ 1/2 page \$45/month

◇ Full page \$90/month

Select Board Meetings are now live streamed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3UCAtx3K5rgMCNAcBCqnLQ/live>

Important Announcements :

ELECTIONS!

June 13th

12 pm—8 pm for in-person voting

No State Election



Greetings Neighbors,

It's beginning to feel like we've made it through another winter albeit with a late onset and some temperature and snowfall fluctuations along the way. As Anna noted earlier this year, Lee and his crew have been going all out to keep our roads passable and clear. The latest undertaking was the Dunn's Corner Rd culvert which gave way resulting in the road being closed for a few days while the new culvert was put into place. Kudos to Lee's team for getting the road back in operation quickly! Thank you team!

The Selectboard, budget committee and Treasurer Kerry have begun working on the new fiscal year budget. It's too soon to say how the budget is looking but we've reached out to the respective groups for their input and are now collating that information.

The Ordinance Review Committee completed their preliminary updates to our Land Use Ordinances to support the changes mandated by LD2003. The updates were submitted to our town attorney for review. There is a fair amount of uncertainty regarding the deadline to get our ordinances amended with talk about a possible extension. We are well ahead of our neighboring communities.

There was a call for establishing a Road Maintenance Review Committee to provide citizen input to planning for road repair and maintenance. If you are interested in joining a committee to assist with reviewing our roads and weighing in on the maintenance priorities, please send an email to selectboard@mtvernonme.org. Your assistance is appreciated.

The broadband committee is currently working to implement the town's digital equity and digital inclusion (DEDI) plan. The goal is to assist town residents with obtaining access to the internet and to learn to use their computer, tablet (such as an iPad) or phone. In addition to helping low-income residents obtain free or low-cost internet access, the instruction provided will include how to have a video call with one's doctor, do genealogy searches, stay in touch with family wherever they are and to address general or specific questions about how to use devices or applications. As the committee better understands resident needs, the plan will adjust to the requests and feedback received.

With the spring season approaching, a plea was made to encourage "pollinators." Pollinators include bees, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, and hummingbirds in Maine. These critters are critical to plants flowering, honey making, fruits and vegetables producing and generally for us to enjoy "nature" as we know it. Pollinators are being stressed by temperature changes, non-native plants, insecticides, and changes in the local ecosystems. One important suggestion was that we **refrain from mowing select areas in our yards in May** to give plants already in our lawns extra time to grow and flower and, in turn, for pollinators to have an expanded food source. Monarch butterflies need milkweed plants to thrive. Please consider planting pollinator friendly gardens in your yard. Every little bit helps.

Please feel free to let us know your suggestions and concerns.

Carl and the Selectboard



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MOUNT VERNON FOOD BANK

The First Baptist Church Mount Vernon Food Bank serves the communities of Mount Vernon, Vienna, Readfield and Fayette. We are located at the First Baptist Church, 321 Pond Road, Mount Vernon. You can reach us on Saturday mornings at 293-2141. Our hours are from 9:30 to 11:30 Saturday mornings.

If your SNAP benefits are being reduced starting March 1 and you need help meeting your food needs, please feel free to come see us at the food bank.

We now have a Facebook page (Mount Vernon Food Bank), please check us out on Facebook.

In case of inclement weather, please call us at 293-2141 before heading out to see if we are open or check our Facebook page.

We offer full pantry items, eggs, meats, meals and toiletry items on the first and third Saturdays of the month; however, customers may come in every Saturday for fresh fruits, vegetables, bread, pastry items and deli items.

We also have a small supply of clothing and miscellaneous items.

If you are a new customer, you may come in any Saturday and we will provide you with enough food to get by until your next scheduled visit.

If you would like to support the food bank, a fundraiser is coming up. The Maine State Credit Union is having their annual 5K Walk to End Hunger on Saturday, April 22 from 9 am-11 am at Capitol Park in Augusta (The Kennebec River Trail, YMCA Entrance). If you are interested in walking, register at:

RUNSIGNUP.COM/RACE/ME/AUGUSTA/FEEDME5K

You can also donate on-line or drop off your donation at the food bank. And if you do participate in this event, please let them know that you are walking for the Mount Vernon Food Bank and then we will get the proceeds. It's a fun and fairly easy walk to do with your friends and for a good cause.



Mount Vernon Community Partnership Corporation, Inc. (CPC)

DO YOU LIVE IN MOUNT VERNON AND NEED FUEL ASSISTANCE?

The Community Partnership has a fund that **may** be able to help. Do the following first:

- Contact Anna Libby, General Assistance Manager for the Mount Vernon Select Board, at 293-2532. Make an appointment to meet with her and apply for town assistance. She'll determine if the town can help or she'll contact the CPC and request our help.
- If you qualify to get food at the Food Bank, when you go there to get your weekly food, let them know you need fuel assistance. They will contact the CPC.

SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	3	4	5 <i>Community Center Café</i> <i>Knitting, Crochet & Crafting - Library 1-3 pm</i>	6	7	8 <i>Mt Vernon Food Bank</i> <i>9:30 - 11:30 am</i>
9	10 <i>Select Board</i> <i>Mtg @ Town</i> <i>Office—6:30 pm</i>	11	12 <i>Kids Create</i> <i>Library 4 - 5:15 pm</i>	13	14	15 <i>Mt Vernon Food Bank</i> <i>9:30 - 11:30 am</i>
16	17	18	19 <i>Planning Board</i> <i>Library @ 7</i> <i>Knitting, Crochet & Crafting</i> <i>Library 1 -3 pm</i>	20	21	22 <i>Mt Vernon Food Bank</i> <i>9:30 - 11:30 am</i>
23	24 <i>Select Board</i> <i>Mtg @ Town</i> <i>Office—6:30 pm</i>	25	26 <i>Kids Create</i> <i>Library 4 - 5:15 pm</i>	27	28	29 <i>Mt Vernon Food Bank</i> <i>9:30 - 11:30 am</i>

Select Board Minutes

03/13/2023

Members Present: Bob Grenier, Anna Libby, Carl Rogers (via Zoom)

Members Absent:

Member of the Public: Tina Cagle - Administrative Assistant, Kerry Casey – Treasurer, Barry Skilling, Ona Fast, Ingrid Gunox, Alice Counts, Bill Rosenberg, Denise Sprague, Lidie Robbins, Doug Stevens

Meeting called to order at: 7:03pm 03/13/2023.

Motion by Selectman Grenier to accept the meeting minutes from 02/27/2023 as written.
Seconded by Selectman Libby. Motion passes 3-0.

Appointment to Community Center Board

Motion by Selectman Grenier to appoint Amy Jajliardo to the Community Center Board
Seconded by Selectman Libby. Motion passes 3-0.

Request for support from 30 Mile River Association for a grant

- Building project for the future home of the 30 Mile River Association, water quality lab, meeting and teaching rooms.
- The purpose is to protect the lakes and watersheds.
- Applying for grants & funding for renovations of the new building.
- Requesting a letter of support.

Update from the Broadband Committee

- The Broadband committee is looking at new grants that are coming out.
- There will be an engineering study happening with young adults looking at the area.
- ARPA funds left is \$58,090.74.
- D. Stevens brought up the question of ...Why are we not fixing our roads and bridges rather than spending taxpayer dollars on broadband, which was voted down once.
- Select Board will look into forming a Road Committee.

Androscoggin County Communications Center

- Selectman Grenier signed the PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) contract for E911 services for the period of 07/01/2023 - 12/31/2023

Annual Safety Training – Rescheduled for 04/04/23 @ 6pm @ the Community Center

Audit Status

- The requested documents were sent to the auditor, and the town should see the audit by month's end.

Spirit of America

- Keep it in the back of your minds...Coming up soon!

OTHER BUSINESS

- Hovey Luce Road has an ongoing dispute with a resident who is blocking a right of way access.
 - The CEO (Code Enforcement Officer) is aware of the situation.
 - Selectman Grenier has also written a letter to the resident to have him remove the barrier.
 - The resident has applied for building permits, so he has a stake in the dispute.
- A resident wrote a letter to the Plow Drivers thanking them for keeping our roads safe and clean!

Motion by Selectman Grenier to adjourn at 7:58 pm.
Seconded by Selectman Libby. Motion passes: 3-0



Neighbors Driving Neighbors Expanding to Readfield

MT. VERNON, ME (January 19, 2023) – Neighbors Driving Neighbors will soon provide free transportation to residents of Readfield who don't drive. In announcing this expansion of NDN's service area, Harald Bredesen, NDN's President, said, "Readfield and we have had each other in our sights for over a year and are thrilled that this collaboration is now being realized." Readfield Town Manager Eric Dyer echoed Bredesen, noting, "We've been admiring the value NDN delivers to its service-area communities and look forward to a successful launch over the next several months. This is an important piece of the puzzle for communities like ours with close proximity to service centers but limited transportation options."

A working group made up of representatives of NDN and Readfield is now recruiting an initial group of drivers and riders with a plan to initiate service provision in the Spring. "We'll be scheduling training sessions for prospective drivers and conducting intake interviews of residents who are looking for rides," said Joe Austin, NDN's Executive Director.

Bredesen added that NDN volunteer drivers have now driven more than 100,000 miles to help over 180 different riders get to where they need to go. "The heart of NDN is the volunteer driver. It is that community spirit that makes NDN possible and that makes Readfield a natural next step. What better way to mark the 100,000th mile than to invite the neighbors."

About Neighbors Driving Neighbors: NDN is a non-profit organization founded in 2015 to enrich participating communities by matching volunteer drivers with those who do not drive. NDN's current service area comprises Belgrade, Fayette, Mt. Vernon, Readfield, Rome, and Vienna, and 40 volunteer drivers provide rides to 58 registered riders. For more information including FAQs, visit neighborsdrivingneighbors.org.

FREE INCOME TAX SERVICES

The AARP Tax-Aide program provides free Federal and State tax return services. Tax-Aide volunteers are trained, tested and certified by the IRS to prepare returns for low- and moderate-income taxpayers, with particular focus on those over 50, but all are welcome!

Vienna Union Hall Summer 2023 Line-up.

The Vienna Union Hall Association is pleased to announce our line-up for this coming year. For more information or to order tickets, please visit us on our website; viennaunionhall.org. Please also visit and “friend” us on Face Book: Vienna Union Hall.

Thank you for your support of our efforts to offer quality entertainment in our communities.

April 8th, 7 PM A Nod to Jenny Lois Hinkley featuring local artists honoring one of our own.

April 28th, 7 PM The Gawler Family Band

May 13th, 7 PM The Katahdin Valley Boys

June 9th, 7 PM Greg Boardman, Elsie Gawler, and Steve Muise

July 1st, 7 PM The Oshima Brothers

July 20-22 (4 shows). The Vienna Historical Society - 2 plays by Beverly Smith

August 4th, 7 PM Kyle Knuppel and Matt Davis

August 10-12 The Vienna Woods Players - “Blithe Spirit” by Noel Coward

August 25, 7 PM Porch Party Mama’s

August 26, 7 PM Bearnstow Dancers (for info and tickets go to bearnstow.org)

September 16th, 4 PM The Pihcintu Multinational Girls Chorus - “The Spirit of Christmas”

December (TBD) The Vienna Winter Revels



Infrastructure. The Maine Connectivity Authority (MCA) announced that the next “Connect the Ready” grant application window will open in August. In anticipation of applying, we expect to review options for building fiber connectivity with Consolidated Communications (CCI) and Matrix Design Group (Matrix), the latter through extension of its arrangement with Fayette. Both CCI and Matrix are completing cost analyses for their approaches and we hope to have more details in May. In the event that the Broadband Committee selects an alternative that requires a financial contribution from the Town, a warrant for same would be presented to a Town Meeting for approval.

Digital Equity and Digital Inclusion. The DEDI Subcommittee and Broadband Committee have planned a combined meeting for March 29 – too late for details to be included in this newsletter. The goal of the meeting is to review developments in Mount Vernon’s DEDI plans and to chart a path forward. One component of all such paths is a need for volunteers to provide basic internet and computer support to those in our Town who need help crossing the digital divide.

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER!

If you would like to volunteer periodically for an hour or two at Dr. Shaw Memorial Library to help your neighbors learn to: use a computer, participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)*, safely access the internet, send and receive emails and obtain other basic digital skills, please send an email with your contact information to mtvbrdbnd@gmail.com.

*All Internet Service Providers (ISPs) obtaining infrastructure grants are required to offer high-speed internet service for \$30/mo., which means that those eligible for the ACP will have internet access at no cost. If you currently have internet access and want to find out if you qualify for ACP, click [here](#).

The Maine Connectivity Authority is preparing a Broadband Action Plan (BAP) in anticipation of \$100s of millions of federal funding headed our way. You can help develop that plan by [clicking here to take the Maine Broadband Survey](#).

You are also invited to a Kennebec County Community Meeting to share your input for the state’s BAP:
Tuesday, April 11, 2023 - 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Capital Area New Mainers Project
70 State Street, Augusta

Hearty refreshments provided! For more information: HLipson@growsmartmaine.org

Upcoming Book Talk and Reading

by
Readfield Historian



Dale Potter-Clark

On her latest book about the Underground Railroad

Escape from Bunker Hill

Sunday, April 16 – 2pm

at

Mill Stream Grange

Hwy. 41 in Vienna

Potter-Clark will take questions after her talk and reading. Copies of Escape from Bunker Hill will be available for purchase and signing during the event. Refreshments will be served.

Dr. Shaw Memorial Library

April, 2023

293-2565

librarian@drshawlibrary.org

Open Mondays 3-6, Wednesdays 9-12 and 3-7, Saturdays 10-3

“The library is an arena of possibility, opening both a window into the soul and a door onto the world.”

Rita Dove

Kids Create! This group for our young patrons, put together by our wonderful, creative volunteer, Bobbi Jo Weeks, happens on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, from 4:00 – 5:15pm, for a couple more months (till we begin the Summer Reading Program). There are art supplies, Playdoh, Legos, and other games for the kids to try together. Join us!

Knit & Crochet: This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, from 1-3pm. Bring whatever yarn project you are working on, come ask for help on getting started, or bring a different craft to work on while you sit with this lovely group. Amy always makes sure there are knitting needles, crochet hooks, and some spare yarn available!

Alice's **Take & Make** kits will still be available through April and May. Usually they are ready for you to grab for your young ones during the second week of the month. Come see what she comes up with, and take home a small, simple craft for your child to put together/

Improv Theater! Saturday, April 15th, 4PM at Mt. Vernon Community Center. The Marti Stevens Interactive Improv Theater group is returning this year. They have been awarded an AARP grant to present scenarios & discussions about challenges Maine's elder citizens encounter as they live & age in their communities. Each scenario will be followed by a chance for audience members to ask questions of the players, and come up with possible solutions to topics presented. This program can be helpful for all community members, as well as family, friends, & neighbors of aging citizens. Join us! Sponsored by the Mt. Vernon Aging In Place committee and by the Dr. Shaw Memorial Library.

And then, on **Sunday, April 16th, 2PM at the Vienna Grange Hall**, we and the Vienna Historical Society folks will host an **author talk by the wonderful local historian and author, Dale Potter-Clark**. She will discuss her new novel, [Escape From Bunker Hill](#), about the Underground Railroad and how it led folks into Maine, including Hallowell, Manchester, and Winthrop. After the talk, Dale and members of the historical society will be glad to answer questions. Copies of the book will be on sale at the talk (and we have a copy in our collection at the library). Potter-Clark has been speaking all over central Maine about this book, and the Mainers who helped enslaved people escape to freedom – this will be a great program!

We are still testing out how to help local citizens with tech assistance through the library, as part of the goals of the town Digital Equity/Digital Inclusion work. We have set up a few sessions for folks with our wonderful tech volunteers, so they could learn about their devices (phone, laptop, tablet), various programs or apps, email, or other topics. We'll let you know what assistance we can offer as soon as we can!

Once again, many thanks to our tax gurus David and Christine, for helping so many local people with their federal & state taxes this year! This is such a fundamental, greatly needed service offered by these two, through the Spectrum group at the Cohen Center in Hallowell. The clients are so grateful for your flexibility and knowledge!

Spring is coming. We have lots of helpful, inspiring gardening books in our collection, both for adults and children. And, regarding another sign of Spring – don't forget you can visit the Cornell Lab of Ornithology website to learn about bird life and learn to identify some of the birdsong you hear in your yard and out in the woods!

<https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/>

I am reading [The Librarian of Burned Books](#), by Brianna Labuskes. It is a great novel to pair with two nonfiction books: 1) Molly Manning's [When Books Went to War: the Stories that Helped Us Win World War II](#) (our call number is 028.9 MAN), and 2) Kathy Peiss' [Information Hunters: When Librarians, Soldiers, and Spies Banded Together in World War II Europe](#) (our call number 940.54 PEI). All 3 are excellent reads. What are you reading as you watch the perennials popping up through the diminishing snow, and listen to all of the songbirds returning to us?

MOUNT AVERION, JENNY LOIS HINCKLEY, HOMETOWN

On Saturday, April 8, 7:00 pm, an evening of singer/songwriters at the Vienna Union Hall will honor the joy, wit, and musical talent of "Jenny" Lois Hinckley, recently deceased. Elsie Gawler, Ruth Hill, Stan Keach, Steve Richardson, Wayne Reynolds, and Sagittarius Rising will each share their unique songwriting talents. Check out their individual websites and FB pages and follow Vienna Union Hall on Facebook. As seating is limited, advance tickets are recommended, available for \$15 at <https://www.viennaunionhall.org/arts-and-events>



"Helping my neighbors buy and sell Real Estate in this town is not just my job, it is my passion. I know what it means to live here and love to help others in my community."

<https://www.viennaunionhall.org/arts-and-events>

I AM PROUD TO CONDUCT MY REAL ESTATE BUSINESS WITH LAKEPOINT REAL ESTATE

#1 LISTING AND SELLING AGENCY IN THE BELGRADE LAKES REGION FOR 17 YEARS IN A ROW

Commemorating "Jenny" Lois Hinckley 1943-2022

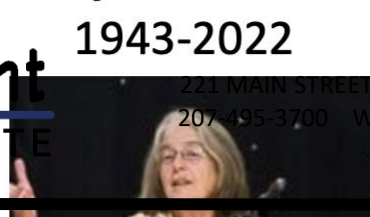
221 MAIN STREET BELGRADE LAKES, MAINE 04018
207-495-3700 WWW.BELGRADELAKEPOINT.COM



Stan Keach



Elsie Gawler



Ruth Hill



Steve Richardson



We are your premier vacation rental company in the Belgrade Lakes Region proudly serving our community for over 36 years. We have over 40 beautiful cottage rentals for the 2023 season to choose from. Visit our web-site to see our selection of rentals and to check availability.

WEB-SITE: WWW.BELGRADELAKESRENTAL.COM

TELEPHONE: (207) 495-2104 | EMAIL: BELGRADELAKESRENTME@GMAIL.COM

Sagittarius Rising

Where summer memories are made!
Tickets @ <https://www.viennaunionhall.org/arts-and-events>

Dear Maranacook School Community,

RSU #38 is beginning the process of developing a 5-year Strategic Plan for 2024-2029. The current plan is due to expire in January 2024. We are seeking a group of community members, staff and students, who want to participate in this important work. Please review the following information and use the link at the end of the document if you want to be a part of this process.

Sincerely,

Jay Charette

Superintendent of Schools



RSU #38/ Maranacook Area Schools

5 year Strategic Planning Process

Plan term 2024 - 2029



March 6, 2023

Scope and timeline of work

Meeting Dates (4th Tuesday of Month except where noted*) 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm	Work to be Completed at each meeting
Mar 29, 2023 *	Identify Needs, Process - Self-Directed, Agenda Planning, Prepare Current Data, Look at sample plans
Apr 26, 2023 *	Set norms, review time and process, Review current data and sample plans
May 24, 2023 *	Identified preferred Components, Plan Staff Feedback loop, Review Current mission/vision
Jun 19, 2023 *	Community Forum planning
July - No meeting	
Aug 22, 2023	Staff Feedback loop - SWOT Loop 1 Review input from Community Form, Develop draft 1 of Mission/vision/beliefs, Confirm preferred components
Sep 26, 2023	Draft 2 Mission/Vision, Draft 1 additional components, Identify 3 - 5 Focus areas, Member select focus area to work (subcommittee), Focus area set work schedule expectations
Oct 24, 2023	Draft 3 Vision/Mission, Draft 2 additional components, Draft 1 focus area, Begin discussion of performance targets
Nov 28, 2023	Draft 3 additional components, Peer Review of Draft 2 focus area work, Draft 1 performance indicators, Develop Table of Contents
Dec 19, 2023 *	Staff Feedback loop 2, Review staff feedback, Draft 3 Focus Areas, Draft 2 Table of Contents, Prepare for community Forum 2
January 23, 2024	Review Components from Community Forum 2, Edit as needed, Draft 3 Table of Contents, Draft 2 of Performance indicators
February 27, 2024	Finalize Core Components, Drafts 3 Performance Indicators
March 26, 2024	Final edits, prepare for School Board Presentation
April - TBA	Board Approval - Public Release

March 6, 2023

Team Makeup and Responsibilities

Stakeholder Groups	
<i>District Leadership (Leading)</i>	2
<i>Staff</i>	6 one representative per building
<i>Administration</i>	3 one Representative per level (Elem, Mid, High)
<i>Board Members</i>	4 one Representative per town
<i>Community</i>	8 Two representatives per community
<i>At large students</i>	3
Total	26

Participant Commitments:

- 1) Attend all meetings
- 2) Meaningful contribution to all discussions in the process
- 3) Participate in subcommittee work as necessary
- 4) Ability to stay task focused
- 5) Meet timelines for deliverables
- 6) Be prepared for meetings by reading, researching and studying provided documents
- 7) Have a future focused mindset

All interested individuals should go to this [link](#) and submit your information. If necessary all names will be entered into a random drawing for the available seats on the work committee. Please respond no later than March 24, 2023 if interested in serving on this committee.

March 6, 2023