

# The Whitepine Grange Dinner Bell

*Our bell is ringing . . . Can you hear it?*

## *Do you know us?*

Whitepine Grange is the little white building on the corner of Hwy 200 and Faro Lane. **We're your neighbor.**

Whitepine Grange is your local branch of the National Grange, which was founded in 1867. The Grange's purpose has always been to advance the political, economic and social interests of the nation's farmers. Whitepine

Grange was chartered in 1938 and has been a major influence in the development of western Sanders County. The grange hall, built in 1961, is a community meeting place that hosts social get-togethers, various classes and bazaars, fund-raising events, potluck suppers,



and monthly educational programs. This little white building has seen and influenced the lives of thousands of local folks over the decades. It is busy nearly seven days a week and is available at little or no cost for Grange members and the general public to use for a variety of activities.

## *We are here for you.*

While times have changed, with fewer families supporting themselves on agriculture, the Grange's goals remain the same. We support the lifestyle of rural families, whether they're farmers, ranchers, real estate agents or remotely employed IT specialists.

The Grange has something to enrich the lives of all family members, from youth programs like Junior Grange and tumbling classes to senior exercise classes and sewing retreats. As a Grange member you'll network with your neighbors, forming supportive bonds and strategies that provide physical and emotional support in good times and crises. The concept of "neighbors helping neighbors" is alive and well at the Grange.

*"If these old walls could talk,  
oh, the stories they would tell..."*

Whitepine Grange has been the scene of so much neighborhood history, from weddings to funerals and plenty of Saturday night dances in between! Best of all, this historic building—and the Grange organization itself—are still here for you and your family to utilize, make memories, and cherish.

## *It hasn't all been easy.*

When the Whitepine Grange hall was built with volunteer labor in 1961, there wasn't enough money for windows or proper insulation. The exterior walls were bare, weathered plywood until the '80s when more volunteers covered it with vinyl siding that, unfortunately, deteriorated all too quickly. The old corrugated roof rusted and came loose too, and the parking area in front of the building turned into a mud hole.

In 2019 a few community activists formed a nonprofit 501.c.3 called "*Friends of Whitepine Grange*," whose sole purpose was to raise funds for repairs and maintenance of the historic Whitepine Grange building. ***With nothing but PRIVATE DONATIONS, here's what's been accomplished already!***

- **New energy-saving LED interior lights installed for \$360 (2020)**
- **New metal roof installed for \$7,400 (2021)**
- **New metal siding and five windows installed for \$12,800 (2022)**

As proud as we are of our refurbished walls, roof, windows and lights, we now face several equally large challenges.

**The attic needs new insulation.** Our heat source is a propane furnace. With fuel now so expensive, we can't afford to have our indoor heat rise and disappear through the roof.

### **New attic insulation will cost \$3,200**

**The meeting room floor** is still the original pressboard sub-flooring. This stained and pitted old surface desperately deserves to be covered with modern, adequate flooring material.

### **New floor will cost \$6,500**

Then there's the muddy, pot-holed driveway and parking area out front.

### **Parking lot improvement will cost \$3,300**

## *Can you help?*

In a very large nutshell, we need:

- **\$3,200 for new attic insulation.**
- **\$6,500 for new flooring in the large meeting room.**
- **\$3,300 for parking lot and driveway repair**

Once again, we are counting primarily on private contributions from local folks to cover these expenses. Whitepine Grange's working revenue comes mainly from facility rentals. Because the Grange's rental fees are kept so low and affordable to all, the Grange barely nets enough to pay its utility bills and insurance premiums. Membership fees contribute very little, since Whitepine Grange is required to forward most of these funds to State and National Grange. **Hence, capital projects must be funded by private donations and/or grants.** We're trying . . . And we're succeeding . . . With your help.

*No contribution is too small. All contributions, either monetary or in-kind, are tax deductible.*

In these days of serious belt tightening, many Sanders County residents are cutting back on their travel and costly recreational activities. Whitepine Grange offers you an alternative: **keep the fun at home**, in your own backyard, at the little white building on Faro Lane. Let's return to neighborly activities and family fun—not by necessity, but by choice. Whitepine Grange will be there for you and future generations, with a little help from our friends. Send donations to:

**"Friends of Whitepine Grange"**

**PO Box 1313**

**Trout Creek, MT 59874**

**Email: [whitepinegrange@gmail.com](mailto:whitepinegrange@gmail.com)**

**Call 406-827-6385 for more information. See our website at:**

**[www.whitepinegrange.com](http://www.whitepinegrange.com)**







## Let's keep improving Whitepine Grange for future generations!

- ◆ Let's fix up the parking lot! (\$3,300)
- ◆ Let's insulate the attic! (\$3,200)
- ◆ Let's put new flooring in the meeting room! (\$6,500)

## Here's how you can help

### With Paypal

(click this hyperlink to go to our Paypal donation page):

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=78WUDSJHZ9W5Y](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=78WUDSJHZ9W5Y)



### With a check:

Make your check payable to "Friends of Whitepine Grange" and mail to this address:

**Friends of Whitepine Grange**

**PO Box 1313**

**Trout Creek, MT 59874**

A receipt for your tax deductible donation will be mailed to you.

*Thank you!!*

