



The State Grange News

The official publication of the Massachusetts State Grange

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8 Pages

2020 MA State Grange Showcase Extravaganza

Come join us for Grange family fun and enter the contests! Some enjoy competing, others have fun watching the performers on the stage, buying a raffle ticket or bidding on the delicious baked goods. We hope you will support all the contests at our Extravaganza to "Cultivate Connections" with your fellow Grange members.

This year's Showcase Extravaganza will be held at the Boylston Town House, 599 Main St. (Rt. 70), Boylston, on Sunday, March 22. The show begins at 2 p.m. Entries for the Bake-Off should arrive between Noon and 1 p.m. Sign-ups for the Talent, Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song Contests start at 1 p.m.

Compete to win ribbons and prize money! The following is some basic information about all the contests. For more information check the new 2020 program book or contact the different committee members.

TALENT CONTEST – sponsored by the MA State Lecturer and Lecturer's Committee

4 Categories – Vocal, Instrumental, Variety Acts, and Vocal/Instrumental Combo.

The Talent Contest is open to all, however, the Best of Show winner must be a Grange member and will represent Massachusetts at the 2020 National Grange Evening of Excellence. There are 3 age groups: Adults, Juniors ages 5-9 and 10-14. There is no restriction on the number of persons taking part. Taped accompaniment for vocal acts must be instrumental with only minor additional background voice. No taped accompaniment for instrumental acts. Adult may accompany a Junior vocal act.

BAKE-OFF CONTEST – sponsored by the MA State Home & Community Service Committee

2 Adult Categories – Pumpkin Based Dessert and 10 pieces of Homemade Candy.

1 Junior Category – 7 Cookies "Turkey Shape or Design"

Entry must include the recipe with a detailed list of

ingredients (with amounts) and instructions on how to prepare it (no package mixes allowed). Also make sure to attach an entry form to the bottom of your entry that includes your name, category entered, Grange entered through and date of birth for Junior and Youth entries. Entries are judged in disposable containers and will be auctioned off at the end of the contest.

PUBLIC SPEAKING & SIGN-A-SONG CONTESTS – sponsored by the MA State Youth Committee

Categories – Prepared Speech (3-7 min.), Impromptu Speech (1-7 min.), Grange Commercial-Ad, Sign-a-Song.

Age Divisions: Youth 14-21, Young Adult 22-35, Youth Alumni 36+.

Rules: **Prepared Speech** - Provide 3 outline copies to youth@massgrange.org by March 8. Judges will ask questions on your topic. No props allowed. State winners must agree to represent the state at the Northeast Regional Youth Conference. **Impromptu Speech** - Choice of 2 drawn topics to speak about. **Grange Commercial-Ad** - 30-60 seconds promoting the Grange. Up to 5 participants, must film and edit themselves doing a commercial

See **EXTRAVAGANZA** Page 5

Inside this issue

From the Master's Desk.....	Page 2
Upcoming Events.....	Page 2
Membership Recognition	Page 3
In Memoriam	Page 3
Chaplain's Message	Page 3
From the Ag & the Environment Committee	Page 4
Hello from the Youth Committee.....	Page 4
From the Home & Community Service Committee.....	Page 5

From the Master's Desk

Brothers and Sisters,

In February, I attended the State Master's Conference in Maryland. I got to talk to other State Masters about issues that they have in their states and remedies that they have tried and also found out that many states have similar issues. The conference was informative and opened an avenue of new ideas that we may be able to use in our own state.

We had a State Officer's/General Deputy's meeting where there was a lot of discussion about where the Grange is at, where we are going, and how we will get there. Some of the topics were: communication between Subordinates and the State Grange, the mission of the State Grange, the public image of the Grange, and working together as a team. We had a positive discussion and plans are being made to address issues that are concerning most Granges. I would like to thank all the State Officers and General Deputies who participated and for their commitment to the future of the Grange.

At State Session, I had made the recommendation that the General Deputies continue to provide the Exemplification of the first 4 Degrees of the Order. Some areas have Degree Days already planned in April. I also recommended that the General Deputies organize a Deputy School with guidelines for Deputies duties and instruction. This too is being worked on.

In an effort to improve communication between our State Officers, Deputies and Committees, we have a program in place called "Zoom" where they can hold online meetings. This will allow meetings to be held on a regular basis while cutting down on travel time. Contact me for more information.

I'm looking forward to attending the next MSGYLA which will be in Shelburne and includes a trip to a local maple sugar house on March 15th and also the State Grange "Extravaganza" on March 22nd in Boylston. "Ag Day at the State House" is on Wednesday, March 25th where you can obtain information from other agricultural groups and meet your local legislators. The N.E. Leaders Conference will be held the last weekend of March in NY. Feel free to contact me or

See **MASTER** Page 3

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 3, 7:30 p.m. — Joint meeting of Worcester Central Pomona and Petersham Grange, Orthodox Congregational Church, 21 North Main St., Petersham. "Name That Grange Tune" program.

Wednesday, March 4, 6:30 p.m. — Williamstown Grange "Plastic Crisis" at Sheep Hill, 671 Cold Spring Rd. (Rt. 7), Williamstown. Potluck supper at 6:30. The presentation and business meeting to follow. Berkshire Zero-Waste Initiative Program Manager Mary Stucklen will present a program that will focus on what to do with plastic and will enable those who attend to focus on ideas and tools to analyze everyone's plastic footprint and how to make an impact in the community with respect to pervasive plastic. For information contact Nancy Lescarbeau at 413-663-6083.

Monday, March 9, 7:30 p.m. — Hinsdale Grange "Deaf Awareness Program" at The First Congregational Church, Maple Street, Hinsdale. Refreshments and Country Store Auction to follow the meeting. For more information contact Linda Smith at 413-961-9228.

Thursday, March 12, 6:30 p.m. — Berkshire North Pomona "We're Seeing Green" at The First Congregational Church, Maple Street, Hinsdale. Potluck supper at 6:30. Business meeting and program to follow. For more information contact Peter Martin at 413-443-4352.

Sunday, March 15 — MSGYLA Meeting and Tour of the Brookledge Sugarhouse. **Reservations necessary by Sunday, March 8th to Mary Jordan** at mjordan713@verizon.net. Tour of the sugar house is at Noon at 158 Haydenville Rd., Whately. Pizza lunch is at 1:15 p.m. followed by the meeting at 2 p.m., both held at Shelburne Grange Fellowship Hall, 17 Little Mohawk Rd., Shelburne Center (opposite Fire Station 1).

See **EVENTS** Page 6

MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE NEWS

Massachusetts State Grange Inc.

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Chaplain's Message

Basically from the very beginning of my membership in the Grange (which I openly admit is short compared to many of you), the most prominent value I learned was Service. As an adolescent, I automatically came to the aid of the older members of my Grange. At all our subordinate meetings, I walked each person up the stairs, which involved running down the stairs and slowly walking up them 5 times at least. Within the first year, my automatic response "I'd be delighted" became my mantra.

For most Grangers, serving others is instinctual, as the framers intended. We see the inspiration for our ritual throughout the inspired scriptures. As we approach Easter in a few weeks, this value is magnified when we think about Jesus' sacrifice. During Mass, when the priest says "this is my body given up for you" it reminds me of Christ's unimaginable sacrifice by taking on the burden for MY sins. It is the least I can do to help others who are struggling by helping to relieve some of their burden.

Whether you are Catholic (as I am), Protestant, or any other belief system, the value "do unto others as you would want them to do unto you" is universal. If you think about the lessons gleaned from our ritual, you can see the theme: Faith, Hope, Charity, Fidelity, and Perseverance

Fraternally & Blessed
Karlena Henry
MA State Grange Chaplain

MASTER From Page 2

the corresponding committees for more information regarding any of these events.

Fraternally, Glenn



Photos from the President's Day meeting of Connecticut Valley Pomona.



Membership Recognition

Welcome to our New Members

Kelsey Jacobsen Westport #181
Sherry Spencer Westport #181

50 years

Wayne Cox North Orange #86

70 years

Nancy J. Blackmer North Orange #86

In Memoriam

Frederick Warren Holden #78



Congratulations to Lieutenant Bill Gordon. He received the Massachusetts State Grange Public Service Recognition Award. He is here with his dog, retired comfort dog Officer Clarence. Bill's hard work has not only started the Comfort Dog program in Greenfield, but also others around the country. It has become one of the biggest new things in policing. To follow their work visit: www.facebook.com/DonutSaintBernard/

Hello from the Youth Committee

Spring is in the air and the Youth Committee has lots of activities planned for the upcoming season.

Massachusetts State Grange Youth Leadership Association

The next **MSGYLA Meeting** will Sunday, March 15 in conjunction with a visit to a maple sugar house. Please join us at 12:00 p.m. for a visit and tour of the Brookledge Sugarhouse, 158 Haydenville Road, Whately, MA for more details visit <http://www.brookledgesugarhouse.com>. Owner and member of Whately Grange, Keith Bardwell and his family will give a tour from start to finish of the maple operation. Maple syrup will be available for purchase. After the visit to the sugarhouse, a pizza lunch will be provided by Shelburne Grange at Fellowship Hall, 17 Little Mohawk Road, Shelburne Center. Following lunch at 2:00 p.m., the MA State Grange Youth Leadership Association (MSGYLA) meeting will be held. Reservations are necessary to attend the tour and/or pizza lunch **no later than Sunday, March 8** to Mary Jordan at mjordan713@verizon.net.

State Grange Extravaganza

Reminder to please join us at the State Grange Extravaganza - **Sunday, March 22nd**, at the Boylston Town House, Boylston. We invite you to participate in the Public Speaking and/or Sign-A-Song Contest. Please refer to the contest rules found in the new State Grange Program Book in the Youth Program section which can also be found on the State Grange website. Those members wishing to participate must inform the State Youth Directors (youth@massgrange.org) of their intention to participate in the contest **at least two weeks prior – March 8th**.

State Grange Bowling Tournament

The State Grange Bowling Tournament will be held on **Sunday, April 26, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** sharp at Mohegan Bowl, 51 Thompson Road, Webster, MA 01570. For more information, please refer to the State Grange Website. **Deadline is April 17, 2020.** We look forward to seeing you there! Forms are located at the end of this newsletter and you can also download from the youth page.

See **YOUTH** Page 6

From the Ag & the Environment Committee

Hello Everyone! The Agriculture and the Environment Committee has put together some great programs this year. Take a look at the program book and feel free to discuss any of them with us. Our programs only succeed with your participation. We would like to highlight two of them this month.

The State Grange Agriculture Education Grant Program is available to assist Subordinate and Pomona Granges with funding to implement and conduct programs that promote agriculture education in the community(s) the Grange serves.

There are two application periods annually. The first application deadline is April 15th and the second application deadline is July 15th. Any Grange in good standing has the opportunity to apply once per year. Grange proposals must be postmarked or emailed before the application deadline. All Subordinate and Pomona Granges received the details of this program in the Secretary's packet from the 2019 State Session. If you can't find the paperwork, just contact the committee and one will be sent to your Grange.

Remember to contact the Communications Committee for ideas and suggestions in promoting your program or project. This includes before the program, on the day of the program and following the program. You can also have it added to the calendar on the website so that everyone can see what you have planned.

Our Grange Roots started in agriculture and by returning to that focus, we've opened the doors to some great projects and partnerships. We look forward to working with your Grange.

The second program we want to highlight this month is our new program for the Juniors and it is a Plant Growing Contest. This contest is open to all Juniors and is intended to work in conjunction with the Juniors' Gardening Badge. The rules are listed in the program book or you can contact any members of the committee with questions. The plant that we have chosen for 2020 is PUMPKINS! Seeds can be

See **AG** Page 5

AG From Page 4

obtained from the members of the Ag Committee. Only the pumpkins grown from these seeds are eligible. We wanted to limit the pumpkin variety so that we wouldn't have 1 pound pumpkins from one contestant and a 1,500 pound pumpkin from another.

Another big change in our contests this year, is we have doubled the prize money! First place brings home a whopping \$40, \$20 for second, and \$10 for third. Make sure you see a member of the committee and GET GROWING!

SAVE THE DATE! Ag Day at the State House will be March 25th. We welcome all Grangers to come that day, meet your representatives, and engage with other agricultural groups who have similar goals. We hope to see you there.

Get the garden tools ready, it's almost spring!

Matt, Kathy, Ann, Jessica, Peter, Warren, & Sam

EXTRAVAGANZA From Page 1

for the Grange. **Sign-a-Song** - 4 divisions: Novice, Hobbyist, Group, Expert. All participants must sign their own name and song title, tell type of sign language used (ASL, ESL, etc.) and must provide 3 copies of the song's words by March 8 to youth@massgrange.org. Participants must furnish their own music and are judged on total communication techniques. Top winners may be asked to compete on the Regional and National Levels.

MA State Junior Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song Contests – open to Junior Grange Members 5-14

4 Categories – Short Story or Poem, Impromptu Speech, Sign-a-Song, Prepared Speech.

Rules: **Short Story or Poem (1-3 min.)** - The Junior may present on stage a short story or poem. **Impromptu Speech (1-3 min.)** - Draw 2 topics from a bag and give a speech on one. **Sign-a-Song** - Categories: Novice, Hobbyist, and Group. **Prepared Speech (3-7 min.)** - Deliver a speech using the National Junior Grange theme topic: "How does being a Junior Granger Impact My Community" or a topic of your choice. Please send your name, age and a copy of your Prepared Speech outline by March 8 to lehmann9@yahoo.com. 1st place winner of the Prepared Speech and Sign-a-Song Contests will represent MA at National Convention.

From the Home & Community Service Committee

REMINDER - HOME & COMMUNITY SERVICE BAKE-OFF 2020

As you have heard, the Bake-Off contest to be held at the Extravaganza March 22nd at the Boylston Town House. Entries will be accepted from Noon to 1:00, 1:15 at the latest with judging beginning at 1:30. This year we are celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims in the "New World." For those wishing to enter the categories are as follows:

Adults

1 – Pumpkin based dessert

2 – 10 pcs. Handmade Candy

Juniors – 7 Turkey cookies. Turkey shaped, decorated or not or regular cookies decorated as turkeys.

Group categories are:

Group A – Juniors ages 5 – 8

Group B – Juniors ages 9 – 13

Group C – Adults ages 14 – 19

Group D – Adults ages 20 & up

Be sure to have an entry form filled out with your Group, name, address, Grange # and if a member or non-member. Forms will be available there. No package mixes. Complete rules can be found in the Program Books that all Granges should now have. If you have questions, contact your Home & Community representative.

Hope to see many interesting entries on the 22nd. Don't forget, there will also be an auction of all the entries, so even if you don't bake there is a chance you could go home with something tasty.

Also, anyone who has purchased a hearing aide during the year can send a request for funds along with a copy of your bill at anytime to me. These requests must be in by Sept. 15th to be eligible for reimbursement this year.

Sue LaFleur, Co-director H & C Service Committee

Mission Statement: "The Massachusetts State Grange creates opportunities for leadership and community improvement through its commitment to expand agricultural education in order to raise the quality of life for all."

Massachusetts State Grange Youth Drill Team

The Youth Drill will once again start practicing soon and we encourage any Grange youth within the ages of 14–35 (have not reached their 36th birthday to consider participating. The drill team will compete at the Northeast Youth Conference in July and will also have an opportunity to present the drill at State Grange Session in October. Those interested should contact Kristina E. Tully at: kristina.e.tully@gmail.com.

Camp Putnam – location of this year’s MA State Grange Youth Leadership Experience

May 30th & May 31st Camp Putnam, Oakham/ New Braintree, MA

We are very pleased to announce that ‘Youth School’ will be held this year with a new name! Youth will arrive Saturday morning, May 30th and fun-filled activities will be continuing through mid-day Sunday, May 31st! Stay tuned for details including agenda and registration information for this two day/one overnight experience in central Massachusetts.

“Extra.....Extra!.....”

Shortly your Grange Secretary will be receiving the annual appeal letter for the State Grange Travel Fund. If you would like to receive youth communications for upcoming information via email, please send your email address, name & Grange # to youth@massgrange.org.

On February 12, 2020 a packet of information was sent to all secretaries about upcoming meetings, a Grange questionnaire and details on the State Grange Bowling Tournament. Please return the questionnaire to Theresa Kane by March 27, 2020. If you need a copy of the packet, please let us know.

Have a great month – hope to see you at some of the upcoming activities!

Fraternally, Mary Jordan & Theresa Kane
Co-Directors of the MA State Youth Committee

Follow Massachusetts State Grange Online!
Keep current with events and information between issues of the State Grange News by following the Massachusetts State Grange online:
Website: www.massgrange.org
Facebook: Massachusetts State Grange

Sunday, March 22, 2 p.m. — Grange Showcase Extravaganza, Boylston Town House, 599 Main St., Boylston. Please bring Bake-off Contest entries between Noon and 1 p.m.

Monday, March 23, 7 p.m. — Holden Grange “Tick Talk” at Holden Senior Center, 1130 Main St. Dan Wolff, a.k.a. Tick Man Dan, founder of Tick-Ease, Inc., will speak on the behavior and life-cycles of ticks and how they relate to the environment. Darlene O’Connor, co-founder of the Northeast Lyme and Associated Diseases Resource Foundation, will provide information on Lyme and related diseases.

Wednesday, March 25 — Ag Day at the State House, Boston.

March 27-29 — Northeast Leaders Conference, NY.

Saturday, March 28, 5:30 p.m. — Sterling Grange Swedish Meatball Dinner at Sterling Senior Center, 36 Muddy Pond Rd. Irish Step Dancers to entertain. Cost for dinner and entertainment: \$15/adults, \$8/children 6-12, free/5 and under. For reservations: call 508-886-2341 or email name and number of tickets to sterlinggrange53@gmail.com.

Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m. — Central Area Degree Day at Charlton Grange Hall, 10 Main St., Charlton. 9:30 – coffee and goodies, 10:00 – 1st & 2nd degrees, followed by lunch for \$5, free for new candidates, then 3rd & 4th degrees. For information, call 508-886-2341 or email: donaldsegur@gmail.com.

Saturday, April 18, 1 p.m. — Northeast Area Degree Day at Laurel Grange Hall, 21 Garden St., West Newbury.

Sunday, April 26, 10 a.m. — State Grange Bowling Tournament, Mohegan Bowl, 51 Thompson Rd., Webster. **Deadline is April 17.**

Sunday, April 26, 4 p.m. — Annual Big 3 and State Officers Day at Pittsfield Grange, downstairs at the Masonic Temple, 116 South St. This will be an open meeting, so bring your family and friends for an afternoon of fun, fellowship and refreshments. A musical program will be provided by Tommy T and Black Velvet.

Please submit information about your Grange’s upcoming special events by emailing the date, time, place and brief description to: stategrangenews@massgrange.org

Submissions will appear in this section as well as on the Massachusetts State Grange website’s calendar.



Massachusetts State Grange Bowling Tournament Sunday, April 26th, 2020

The State Grange Youth Committee is pleased to sponsor the State Grange Bowling Tournament. **This year's content will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2020 at 10:00 am sharp at Mohegan Bowl, 51 Thompson Road, Webster, MA 01570.**

At the Tournament, donations of items (or monetary contributions) to be donate to Camp Putnam, New Braintree, MA. More information on this great cause in noted on attached Pledge Sheet. Even if your Grange is not sending a team, please consider sending a donation.

Team Rules/Registration:

1. Each team must have five (5) players.
 - **JUNIOR:** Two (2) players must be female. Junior players must not be over fourteen (14) years of age as of the day of the competition. Junior Granges that are large enough will be allowed to enter two (2) teams. Each Junior player will receive a medal for participation. Junior teams will bowl only 2 strings.
 - **SUBORDINATE:** Players must consist of at least one (1) male and (1) female. Each team must be composed of Subordinate Grange members belonging to not more than two (2) Subordinate Granges in on one Pomona area. Teams should have a designated captain. **Note:** There is no age limitations on the team members; **youth members** are encouraged to participate but are not necessary for the formation of a team.
 - **POMONA:** Players must consist of at least one (1) male and one (1) female. Each player must be a member of that Pomona Grange. Team should have a designated captain.
2. Each player can play for only one (1) team. Affiliate members may bowl with their affiliate team.
3. One (1) male and one (1) female alternate will be allowed for each team. If a member is unable to finish the content, the alternate is then able to bowl the next during and must finish. **Note:** Junior teams may rotate their players at any time **between** strings, so that alternates have the opportunity to bowl.
4. Matches begin promptly at **10:00 am**. Any players arriving after the sixth box must wait until the next string to bowl. A regular may not replace an alternate after the string has started.
5. If a team member is absent and no alternates are available, the absentee score will be equivalent to the lowest score of the same sex on the opposing team.
6. **Each Pomona and Subordinate team should have a score keeper.** This score keeper does not have to be a Grange member. **Each Junior Grange must have an adult score keeper. The score keeper and team captain must report for instruction and registration by 9:30 am.**
7. The match is decided by total pin fall of three (3) strings. **Junior teams will only bowl two (2) strings.**
8. NBA rules will be observed. Pick up a rule nook where you bowl.
9. Even if your Grange is not sending a team, please consider sending a donation to Camp Putnam.

You can register your team by mailing the registration form no later than **April 17, 2020** to:

Theresa Kane, Co-Director of the Youth Committee
108 Berlin Road
Marlboro, MA 01752

<http://massgrange.org/youth.html>
youth@massgrange.org

