



The State Grange News

The official publication of the Massachusetts State Grange

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September 2020

7 Pages

From the Master's Desk

Dear Grange Family,

The Covid numbers went up a bit which resulted in the State of MA reducing the rule for outside gatherings from 100 to 50 people but the rule for inside gatherings remains the same: 8 people per 1000 square feet, up to 25 people maximum. If your Grange decides to meet, please make sure they are adhering to these numbers and also the "Guidelines for Granges in MA for Conducting Physical Meetings".

State Session will be very different this year. We will be holding a 1-day, business only, State Grange Session on Saturday, October 31st. Due to the State restrictions, we are only able to have up to 25 people in a room at one time. We have reserved a room at the Devens Hotel in which only the State Officers and a few extras will be able to attend. Delegates need to be registered (Credentials submitted) with the State Secretary by October 1st. Once registered, you will receive information including a link to log onto the State Session Zoom meeting. We are also looking into having the meeting (with exception of the opening and closing) live streamed virtually so everyone would have the opportunity to view what's going on.

If your Grange has not been able to meet to appoint delegates for State Session, remember that your Master and Executive Committee can do so. Remember that the State Grange Zoom account is available for use. Also, if your Grange is not up-to-date in sending your annual reports and

dues (if applicable) to the State Secretary, you will not be able to have delegates for State Session. This includes all Subordinate Quarterly Reports (reports through June 30th) Pomona Annual Reports and Junior Annual Reports. Please contact the State Secretary if you have questions.

State Officer and Committee Reports need to be submitted to the State Secretary by September 28th. The reports will be short this year, but are still required.

The next State Grange Zoom meeting is scheduled for September 23rd. We will make further announcements and updates regarding State Grange Session.

This past year has been "ground-breaking" when it comes to communicating using virtual platforms. I'd like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding with having to do things differently and working together to get things done.

Glenn

Inside this issue

Upcoming Events.....	Page 2
Membership Recognition	Page 2
In Memoriam.....	Page 2
From the Ag & the Environment Committee	Page 3
From the Home & Community Service Committee.....	Page 4
Lecturer's Corner.....	Page 4

Membership Recognition

Welcome to our New Members

Andrew Scott	Groton #7
Christopher Lambert	East Freetown #307
Cynthia Jeffrey	Westport #181
Judy Mulrockey	Westport #181
Jeffrey LaValley	Westport #181
Sarah LaValley	Westport #181
Ben LaValley	Westport #181
Peter LaValley	Westport #181
Julia LaValley	Westport #181
Christopher Gueli	Hanover #206

In Memoriam

George Noon	Hanover #206
Janet Laperle	Central Community #22
Mary Hubert	Ware #164
Keith Roemer	Dudley #163
Andy Johnston	Guiding Star#1
Dorothy E. McQuaide	Dracut #216
Russell Davenport	Shelburne #68
Charles Gueli	Hanover #206



**GRANGE BASEBALL
SIGN-UP**

Interested in playing Grange Baseball?
Sign-Up Today!

The virtual event will be held on
Sunday, September 20th.
6PM EDT/5PM CDT/ 4PM MDT/ 3PM PDT

Sign-up before Wednesday, September 16th
bit.ly/VirtualGrangeBaseball

SIGN-UP IS LIMITED TO JUNIORS (5- 13)
YOUTH (14- 21) AND YOUNG ADULTS (22- 35)




Upcoming Events

** Watch for e-mail updates from the State Master and Secretary in the event of changes due to COVID-19. **

Wednesday, September 23, 7 p.m. — State Grange Zoom Meeting, Discussion and Program. Watch for an email invitation with the link to log in and phone number to call in. If you haven't received an email invitation for the past Zoom meetings, please enter your email address in the Subscribe to the State Grange News box found at www.massgrange.org/state-grange-news.

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.

Looking for the dates and programs for all the Grange meetings this month?

Check out the State Grange Calendar! Your one stop location for all the events and meetings happening this month! <http://massgrange.org/calendar-of-events.html>

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 NEWS

Massachusetts State Grange Inc.

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Advertising from Grange affiliates, news items and photos solicited. Advertising rate: \$5 per column inch.

From the Ag & the Environment Committee

Hello Everyone! Thanks for coming back for another exciting Agriculture & the Environment column! The weather has been pretty hot, but fall is just around the corner.

Speaking of fall, the deadline for entry into our contests is September 15th and that date is coming up fast. Here is some quick contest info that you will need.

We are still holding the pumpkin growing contest. I know its been a hot year and that isn't always conducive to growing pumpkins but we didn't want to cancel in case there were Juniors who have worked hard to grow those orange beauties. If you know of a Junior that has worked on this project, please send an e-mail to mattjohnson9@verizon.net so that we can figure out how to get them judged.

Our Poster Contest is still in full swing. We have heard from some people that are working hard on them. Due to the many downsides of our current environment, we had to be creative on how the posters would get to us for judging. Here's what you need to do;

- Take a picture of your completed poster
- Send it in an e-mail to the above address along with your name, age, Grange, and poster dimensions. There are required dimensions in the program book

As you are e-mailing them to us, the September 15th deadline is an exact date. Please plan accordingly.

Our hope is that we are able to get participation in our contests even with everything going on. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the committee and we will be sure to help you out.

Stay well and stay safe!

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

HAPPY LABOR DAY

A Message from the Membership Committee

Dear Fellow Grangers:

The Massachusetts State Grange Membership Committee has decided to conduct a survey of Community Granges through telephone interviews and/or Zoom meetings with representatives of each Community Grange. The survey will consist of six primary questions with possible follow up questions to solicit input in the following areas:

- Member recruitment.
- Member retention.
- Grange promotion.
- Membership Resources.
- State Grange Assistance.

The survey will be initiated by either a member of the Membership Committee or a designee appointed by the State Grange Master. The Membership Committee expects that these surveys will take several months to complete. Results of the survey will be incorporated into a report for the State Grange Master with goals and objectives for the Membership Committee along with recommendations for the State Grange.

Community Granges who would like to volunteer to be early participants in the survey first should contact Roland Giguere at **(413) 475-0520** or via email to membership@massgrange.org. After completing a few initial surveys, our goal is to contact all remaining Community Granges to set up a time for an interview.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and participation and we look forward to working with each of the Community Granges in the upcoming months.

***Who in your Grange is your contact person for the Communications Committee?
Please send their email address to:
stategrangenews@massgrange.org***

From the Home & Community Service Committee

It's that time of year. Reports are due and even though there will be no State Session as we have known it in the past, these reports are important. I hope that Granges have been able to send in nominees for Recognition Awards. Applications can be found on the State Grange Website. These were due August 15th, if you have a nomination and have not sent it in check with committee co-director Barbara Giguere as there still may be time. Community Service reports are due September 15th to Dorothy Carr. These are also online. There are two ways to file reports. One is for those who would like to fill out and file online and the other is a printable form that can be mailed. It is very important that we get as many reports as possible. One-quarter of Granges must report to be able to receive prize money from National Grange. We know Granges have been closed since March and some are just beginning to open for business meetings and so have been unable to do anything. That is OK. Even if that is the case, PLEASE fill out the 1st page of the report with the Grange's name, address and etc. and send it to Sister Carr. Even that one page counts as a report from your Grange. Thank-you ahead of time to all for your help and support. Take care & continue to stay safe.

Susan LaFleur, Co-director State Home & Community Service Committee

Lecturer's Corner

One of this year's Lecturers Program Subjects is "Healthy Living/ Keeping our Health & Homes in good order." Provide programs on such topics as good nutrition, exercise, safety in our homes, fire safety, and other topics from the local board of Health or local police & fire departments. This could also include Covid-19 prevention tips or making & distributing masks to your community. Here is some pertinent information.

The three leading causes of US Deaths are 1] Heart Disease, 2] Cancer, & 3] Covid-19. September 29th is World Heart Day; here's a Heart Health Facts handout: https://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/docs/ConsumerEd_HeartDisease.pdf. We can't always change our health, but we can reduce the risk of getting the Covid-19 virus by using the 3 W's: Wear a mask, Wash your hands, & Watch your distance & stay 6 ft. apart. Here are some more tips to help you stay safe: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/materials-resources/prevent-and-protect-media-toolkit>. There's a lot of "How to make Masks" videos online at YouTube. Two simple no-sew masks are: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MaorozC4Tk> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uaPXRC588cY>.

Because we will not have the MA State Session at a Hotel with a Display Room, we will

See **LECTURER** Page 5



Grange Resource Binder now available

The Grange Resource Binder is a comprehensive tool for Community Granges that outlines important information on business procedures, Grange meeting procedures, Grange law, Grange officer resources, and program resources. Each Resource Binder is 434 pages that comes with a flash drive that contains certain documents in a digital format.

FREE BY DIGITAL DOWNLOAD ON NATIONALGRANGE.ORG
\$30* FOR BINDER & FLASH DRIVE; \$10* FOR FLASH DRIVE ONLY

*PLUS SHIPPING



LECTURER From Page 4

be announcing & showing a Slide-Show of the contest winners at a special virtual MA State "Lecturers Night" Zoom Meeting in the Fall. That's why we need you to send your entries in as soon as possible to MA Grange Lecturer:

Kristin Paulson
67 Ridge Rd.
Upton, MA 01568-1029

Please call or text me at 508-282-0769 if you have contest entries on their way to me, because the Post Office may be experiencing delays. You can also email any Writing Con-

test entries or Photography entries to Lecturer@massgrange.org or kep4grange@gmail.com. Please email me a digital picture if you would like to be entered into our "Peoples Choice" slide-show contest. The Lecturers Contests are listed in the program Book or in the August SGN at: <https://www.massgrange.org/state-grange-news>. Remember, all contest entries must be emailed or postmarked no later than September 15, 2020 to be eligible for prizes or awards.

Fraternally, Kristin Paulson
lecturer@massgrange.org



EVERYONE CAN ENTER OUR

2020 VIRTUAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



Get all details at bit.ly/ng20fotocon
Submit entries at bit.ly/grange20photo

NATIONAL GRANGE LECTURER

2020 PUBLICITY ITEM CONTEST

OPEN TO ALL GRANGES,
GRANGE COMMITTEES
OR GRANGE GROUPS

Two divisions:
Professional
or In-House

Eligible items include
anything you create to
promote Grange

All entries must be
received electronically
as a single file no larger
than 1GB via Google
Forms by Oct. 31, 2020.

For all details, visit
[nationalgrange.org/
lecturers-programming/](http://nationalgrange.org/lecturers-programming/)



ARE YOU A JUNIOR AT HEART?

WE'RE INVITING YOU TO BECOME A JUNIOR AGAIN BY TAKING PART IN OUR CONTESTS

The Junior at Heart division allows you to enter our contests and help support the Junior program you love. Submit an original piece created within the last year to our creative art, handicraft, creative writing or mini scrapbook divisions. (No more than one entry per person, per division, please.)

Entry fee of \$5 per submission may be sent by check or money order made out to Grange Foundation along with entries postmarked by Oct. 30 2020 to National Grange, ATTN: Junior Director, 1616 H St. NW, Washington, DC 20006.

FIND ALL CONTEST INFORMATION AT NATIONALJUNIORGRANGE.ORG



SEND ENTRIES TO:
NATIONAL GRANGE
SAMANTHA WILKINS
1616 H ST. NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

President's Message: Remember oath, Grange values when going social

By Betsy E. Huber, National Grange President

Taken from the August 7, 2020 The Patrons Chain

Today's world is becoming more and more polarized and partisan each day. Family members and Grange members are on opposite sides of current issues and feel compelled to promote their opinions strongly, especially on social media where the speaker is removed from face-to-face confrontation. We would never make these statements to someone's face, but we feel safe posting them on social media where we are protected from conflict.

Our Grange ritual and obligations are filled with specific expectations about how we are to act as Grangers – inside and outside our meetings and halls. In every meeting, the president is called to remind us during our opening ceremony that the purpose of the Grange is “for promoting the welfare of our country and of mankind.” In the closing ceremony, just before we go our separate ways, we are urged to be “quiet, peaceful citizens... keeping ourselves unspotted from the world.”

These words were written at a time similar to ours today – when there were deep and personal differences of opinion and experiences. Inflammatory posts and rhetoric do nothing to bring us together or promote peace.

When each of us joined the Grange we pledged to never “wrong or defraud a member of the Order or allow it to be done by another if within my power to prevent it.” Within our Order there has always been and will always be people of various diverse groups – of faith, race, ethnicity and political affiliation. Posting or sharing items that attack an entire party, race, or even generation of people blindly includes the Grangers among them and wrongs them. When your fellow members of that attacked group see their Brothers and Sisters spewing hate for them, how can they not feel a bit betrayed and deceived that the Grange lessons and oaths were not taken to heart. Your personal posts can easily make someone in your Grange feel as if you believe them to be inferior or that you are disrespectful of those they love – an easy way to pull apart an organization whose founding

documents have given us tried and true guidelines to avoid such a fate in an unsettled time.

For those who have been elected and installed into office, the pledge specifically prohibits using our position to influence the beliefs of our members: “I will not take advantage of my position to unfairly influence other members with my political or religious opinions.” Officers at any level have an extra responsibility to behave at all times as if they represent the Grange, and are held to a higher standard. To these individuals, a special reminder: there is a very fine line between expressing your personal opinion on your personal Facebook page, and speaking for the Grange you serve, because people know you are a Granger and may think you are voicing the general feelings of the Grange organization. Your generalized scorn for a class of people will make any task insurmountable when you try to work together for the good of the Grange.

Finally, and maybe most importantly, I urge you to remember our motto: “In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things charity.” Before you post something, take another look at it. Does it show charity (love) to all? Could someone we love take offense to what we are sharing? Sometimes it's better just to keep on scrolling and not repost an item or respond with a comment if it will not be beneficial.

While your personal accounts are just that, your Grange-oriented accounts are under even more scrutiny because the content on them reflects on our entire organization. Please remember whom you're representing and act accordingly. This means avoid cursing or unacceptable language, avoid posting inappropriate material, avoid misrepresenting the Grange by stating views that aren't in alignment with Grange policy. Always be welcoming and charitable.

These moral standards apply to posts made to a Grange page by you through your personal account as well. Avoid posting anything that contains inappropriate content or language. AGAIN REMEMBER: you are representing the Grange and everything you post to Facebook or any other site is FOREVER.

I hope that we as Grangers will try to do better and do our part to restore civility to our small area of the world.

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

SEPTEMBER 2020

1 Common Nighthawks are migrating along river valleys. Search above open fields near water and listen for their raspy peent calls as they hunt night-flying insects.

2 **Full Corn Moon.** All Eastern Woodland tribes grew and harvested corn as an important food source and late summer was the time to harvest. While some corn was eaten fresh most of it was dried and stored for winter.

4 **American Goldfinch** is almost exclusively a seedeater, even when feeding nestlings. They are also a late nester, which gives them access to the very nutritious seeds of thistle for their young. Look for thistle heads and other composites and watch for the goldfinch's acrobatic seed harvesting.

9 Mushrooms seem to pop up overnight with the first cooler rains—puffballs, stinkhorns, hen of the woods and more appear throughout the fall. Stinkhorns usually live up to their name, having a slimy, elongated body and vile smell.

11 On clear days with a northerly breeze look for kettles of **Broad-winged Hawks** circling high in the sky on their way to South America.

12 Moose are more frequently seen during fall rutting season as they seek out mates. Moose are well adapted to cold but suffer from heat stress when average summer temperatures are above 57°F. Climate change has already impacted moose survival because of rising temperatures and increased tick populations.

15 Blackpoll Warblers, along with many other warbler species, migrate south.

16 The last generation of **Monarch caterpillars** are feeding on milkweeds before they pupate. The adults that hatch out this month will fly to Mexico for the winter.

18 Not all migrating orange butterflies are monarchs; **Painted Ladies** also migrate this time of year. The dorsal surface of their wings is orange when open but when closed the wings are spotted gray-brown on their lower surface.



22 Autumnal equinox. Day and night are equal length today and fall begins.

23 Sugar maple leaves that look like they've been hole punched are evidence of Maple Leafcutter moth larvae that chew two circles and make themselves into a larva ravioli as protection from predators.

26 Look for fall sparrows (**White-throated Sparrow**) in thickets and field edges. Their plumage helps them blend in well, but careful observation will be rewarded with beautiful patterns of feathers.



27 Bumblebees are the most common pollinators seen when temperatures are 55°F or lower, as they not only have more insulation than other insects but they can also warm themselves by shivering their wing muscles.

28 **Dark-eyed Juncos** can be found year-round, but their population increases in the fall as many return from the north to overwinter here. Look for their distinctive white breast and dark hood plumage and listen for their sweet bell-like trills.



29 **Woodchucks** are out eating as much as they can to add fat equal to 30% to 40% of their body weight before they begin hibernation. If they can't accumulate enough fat reserves, they will not survive the winter.



30 Last day to enter the Mass Audubon Photo Contest. If you have taken photos of any of wonderful things listed in the almanac, enter them at massaudubon.org/picturethis.