



The State Grange News

The official publication of the Massachusetts State Grange

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5 Pages

From the Master's Desk

Dear Grange Family,

I'm looking forward to my first State Grange Session this month and yet, it's going to be a very different State Grange Session (just like my first year as State Master). Due to Covid-19, State Grange Session will be a 1-day, "business only" meeting to be held on Saturday, October 31st. Delegates will be attending through Zoom. The Communications Committee is working on possibly live streaming the Session on social media for those who cannot attend.

The next State Grange Zoom meeting is scheduled for October 28th. This will be a special Zoom meeting where the State Lecturer and State Committees will be presenting their contest winners that would have been announced at State Grange Session. If you haven't been getting the link for these meetings, please contact the Communications Committee. I'd like to thank the Communications Committee for working with the individual State Committees to make this presentation happen.

I'd also like to thank all of the State Committees for all their hard work in developing the new programs for this year. It's unfortunate that the turnout of entries is low this year due to the Pandemic, but here's hoping for a better and more productive next year.

On the prior Saturday (October 24th) to State Grange Session, we are planning a State Session "rehearsal" for the State Officers and Delegates so we can tryout the technical aspect for the actual State Session and work out the "kinks".

Lastly, some Granges have either met through Zoom or holding small group meetings to get business done and/or have special programs. If

your Grange is struggling with what to do about having a meeting, please contact me or any of the State Officers so we can work together to help each other to move forward in a positive direction for the new Grange year.

Persevere on....

Glenn

Fourth Quarter Report of the Executive Committee

To All:

The days are getting shorter and the nights are getting longer. The swamp maple trees and burning bushes on our front lawn are starting to turn red at the tips. Fall is here!

Due to the Covid-19 meeting restrictions, the Executive Committee had to cancel the State Session in Plymouth. The Session will be held virtually on October 31. This format necessitates several changes in procedures so please carefully read all communications from the State President and State Secretary. Details are being finalized. The State President, Communications Committee and others have worked tirelessly to ensure the success

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Fred Robinson



Fred Robinson passed away Aug 22, 2020 in his home with family by his side at the age of 88.

A member of Porter ME Grange, past Master of former Sudbury MA Grange, Member of Minuteman Pomona

and past Deputy of MA State Grange.

Fred served in the Coast Guard on the cutter Unimac. Married his wife Barbara in 1956. He was an electrical engineer at both Harvard & Smithsonian working on a mirror for the Hubble Space Telescope and having the honor to be in Florida to witness it's launch into space. He owned a fish store in Cambridge, MA.

Fred found enjoyment in RV travels, glad-iola society, bee keeping, square dancing, painting and building so many beautiful stone walls (when he left rocks in his pockets Barbara often found them later in the washing machine).

Fred loved his family and was so excited to meet and hold his first Great-Grandson born in July.

Barbara lives in their home in Brownfield, ME with children close by.

There will be no services. If you'd like to make a donation to your favorite charity or to Harvest Hill Humane Society Fryeburg, ME Fred's favorite.

Thank You

*Mass State Grange,
Thank you so very much for honoring my
mother's many, many years in the Grange.
The Grange was her passion.*

*Sincerely,
Family of Marion Wood*

Upcoming Events

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

Saturday, October 24 — State Session "Rehearsal" for State Officers and Delegates.

Wednesday, October 28, 7:00 p.m. — State Grange Zoom Meeting. State Lecturer and State Committees will present their contest winners. 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.

Saturday, October 31 — State Session for State Officers and Delegates.

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>

MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE NEWS

Massachusetts State Grange Inc.

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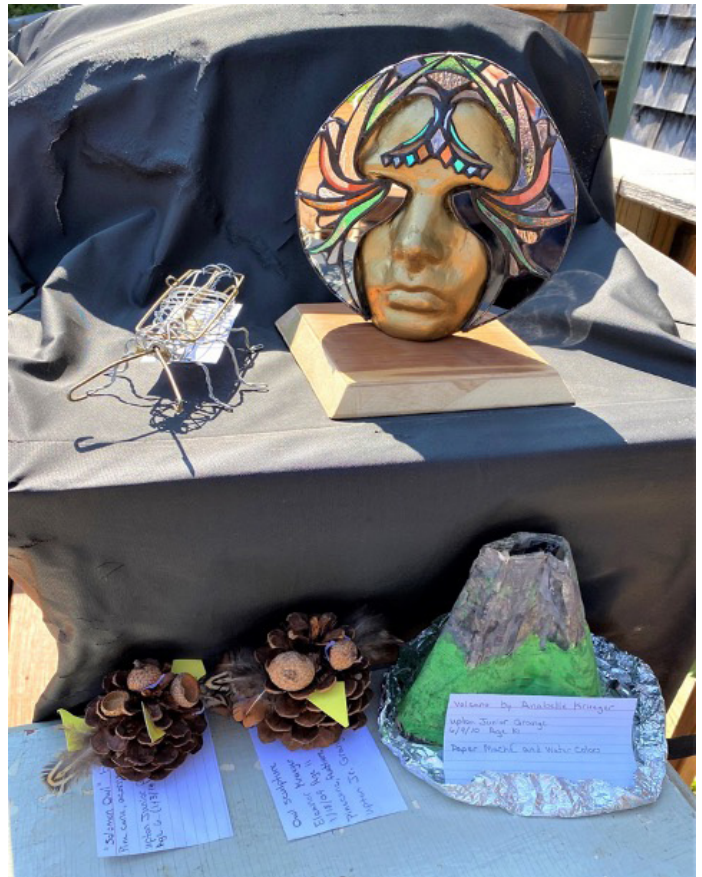
Lecturer's Corner

Thank you to all who entered the 2020 photography, art, and creative writing contests. I would like to thank our Art & Photo Division Judge, Christi Collari. She received her BA in Studio Art from Wellesley College in 2002 and she is the Director, Community Outreach at ValleyCast. You can learn about her and the Whitin Mill Cultural Center at: <https://www.openskycs.org/community/whitin-mill.html>



Christi Collari, Art Judge, presents a 1st Place ribbon to Stephen Paulson.

Our Judging has begun and we can announce the results of the art contest's *Adult Sculpture Division*. 1st: Stephen Paulson (Upton #125) for his Metal Car, 2nd: Lars Paulson (Upton #125) for his molded Acrylic & Stained Glass "Masked Face", and 3rd: Amanda Gibson (Central Community #22) for her metal "Firefly". Winners of the *Junior Sculpture Division*: Ages 5-9 1st: Jack Krueger (Ct. Valley Jr.) "Owl" & 2nd: Anabelle Krueger (Ct. Valley Jr.) "Volcano" and Ages 10-14 1st:



2020 Lecturer's Sculpture Contest Winners.

Eleanor Krueger (Ct. Valley Jr.) "Owl".

The results of all the Lecturer's contest and awards will be announced in a Special MA State Grange Zoom meeting, Wednesday night on October 28, 2020. We will also present a Slide Show of the winning Photographs and the First Place Art entries.

Fraternally, Kristin Paulson, Lecturer

Tips for submitting news & photos

1. The best way to submit your news items is to send us a document that is typed in a word processing program and attached to an email.
2. The best way to submit photos is to attach high resolution images individually and type the captions in the body of an email or attach a document that contains the captions.
3. Send your submissions to:
stategrangenews@massgrange.org

From the Agriculture and Environment Committee

Hello Everyone! As this article is being written, Autumn is finally upon us, but summer is still trying to hang on. Its that time of year where the leaves change colors, the shorts/jackets combos are out all over town, and the final harvests are coming in. It is no coincidence that the end of the harvest season is in line with the end of the Grange year. Once you can clean up your gardens and see everything as a fresh slate, it is a great time to start planning for the following year. What grew well? What didn't? What would you like to grow more of? Make plans to try a new variety of vegetable or flower. It is always fun and challenging to try something different.

Speaking of planning your gardens for next year. Juniors! Save a spot in your garden for next year's growing contest. Some responses were received that the reason the pumpkins didn't make it into the garden is because there was no space. Here is your advanced notification! It is never too early to start planning.

We plan to have more information about our contests and activities in future columns.

Stay safe and stay healthy!

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

Contact the Communications Committee

To submit news items, photographs and events for use on the Massachusetts State Grange social media pages, website and The State Grange News, please e-mail:

stategrangenews@massgrange.org

The deadline to submit content for publication in The State Grange News is the 20th of each month. If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to the committee via the above email.

Thank You

I'd like to reach out and thank my Grange Family for all the cards, phone calls, and prayers we received as well as the beautiful plant in memory of my father, Sonny.

Glenn Gibson

REPORT From Page 1

of the State Session. On a positive note, the 2022 State Session will be held in Plymouth.

The Executive Committee voted to lift the hold on Grange hall grants, Grange hall loans and withdrawals from trust funds and will continue to monitor our financial situation. The annual budget was reviewed and a draft budget was developed. Very shortly we will be meeting virtually with our financial advisors.

Until the virus eases, we urge Granges to meet virtually. Please remember that in order to hold a virtual meeting a Grange must have a quorum, take minutes and record votes. If there isn't a quorum, this is a great opportunity for your Grange to socialize and discuss plans for the future of your Grange. Contact the State President for the details. A virtual meeting allows members at home, students away at college and Florida "snow birds" to participate. If a member doesn't have access to a computer, the member can participate by calling in. The State President reports that many Granges using a virtual meeting platform have great attendance.

The Executive Committee continues to hold its meetings virtually. We have spent many hours discussing the effects of the Covid-19 on our Granges and State Grange. It appears that the coronavirus emergency will continue for a while. This year has presented many challenges and the Executive Committee is committed to assisting our Granges.

If your Grange has questions or concerns, please contact the Executive Committee.

Take care.

Kathy Peterson, Chairman

Massachusetts State Grange Executive Committee

Online Auction Held in Lieu of Agricultural Fair

Williamsburg Grange #225 usually holds their agricultural fair the 2nd Saturday in September but this year all fairs were shut down, so we decided to have an online auction. This auction would be similar to our auction after the fair with vegetables, flowers, baked items and crafts donated by the participants who entered items in the fair.

So we asked members to donate something, we asked businesses to give a gift card and we put it out to the town and former exhibitors to join in the fun of an online auction. We received many items and the fun began as we ran the auction for 5 days, bidding against our friends and neighbors trying to get a pie or cake, a jar of jam, a pint of maple syrup, a pumpkin, basket of vegetables, a flower arrangement and a craft item. The internet was a buzz on the first day and calmer for the next couple but on the last day when a bid was entered I heard a ding almost immediately as someone had out bid me. Back to the bidding I went and in the final minutes did win a few things.

This was a fun time and we raised \$2,932 to help replace the lack of use of the hall and it will cover most of our heating bill and electric for the winter.

Maybe some other Granges will also try something like this to keep their Grange going during these different times in our lives.

Candy Smith, Master of Williamsburg #225

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

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."

President's Message: Food Security is a major Grange priority

By Betsy E. Huber, National Grange President

Taken from the September 25, 2020 The Patrons Chain

One of the top issues for the National Grange is food security. Sometime in the next few weeks we will be hosting a panel discussion on this topic—watch for the announcement.

Wikipedia says food security "exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."

Food insecurity is the same thing as hunger, right? Not necessarily. First, food security is socio-economic (financial and cultural), while hunger is physiological (physical). Studies on food security attempt to measure reliable access to food, with questions that include anxiety over shopping, budgeting for healthy meals, and running out of food. Hunger, on the other hand, is a physical sensation. We could say that hunger is one potential consequence of food insecurity, but food insecurity does not always result in hunger. (Food Forward website)

It's obvious to all of us that food insecurity has increased as a result of the current pandemic. With so many people unemployed, even middle-class families find themselves with less or no income to buy the necessities of life such as food. Food banks have doubled and tripled their customer base in the last six months, and the USDA has distributed over 75 million food boxes so far. Free school lunches are being handed out or delivered to every school child via school buses or even the Postal Service.

Temple University professor Sara Goldrick-Rab conducted a recent study that showed 45% of college students experience hunger during their college years. In the U.S. with all our bounty of agriculture, this statistic is unbelievable and unacceptable. Often the cost of tuition is so high that students have little money left over to feed themselves.

Last year our National Grange Youth Department created the "Home Away from Home" program where Granges "adopt" students in their communities who are Grange members attending college away from their homes. This program becomes even more important in light of the above hunger statistic. As your Granges begin to meet and share meals again, remember to invite local Grange students to come. Or if you are still not comfortable meeting, make up a "care package" and deliver or send it to that student. You will not only make a friend for life; you may also stave off hunger for that person.