



The State Grange News

The official publication of the Massachusetts State Grange

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August 2020

9 Pages

From the Master's Desk

Dear Grange Family

I hope this letter finds you all well and you are able to enjoy the summer.

The Covid numbers have been declining in our state and the Governor has been reducing some of the restrictions for gatherings. At this time, the rule for gatherings inside a building is 8 people per 1000 square feet, up to 25 people maximum. For gatherings outside, it's 25% of an open area and up to 100 people. 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" included in this issue of the State Grange News.

In regards to State Session, we are unable to meet physically with the numbers necessary to hold a State Session at the hotel so we are planning a virtual State Session. It will be a 1 day event to be held on Saturday, October 31st. We are still in the process of working out the details about how this virtual State Session will happen. We will keep you informed via State Grange Zoom meetings, State Grange News and mailings.

Some deadlines I'd like to bring up are that Delegates and State Officers will need to register for State Session by October 1st. Also the State Committee Reports will be due September 28th. The State Secretary will be sending out the necessary paperwork for State Session in August. Also, there will be election of 1 member of the Executive Committee and 1 member of the Educational Aid Committee. If you would like to nominate someone for either of these positions, please let a Delegate or State Officer

know to make the nomination for you.

The State Grange Zoom meetings have been a success. Grangers from across the state have been able to reconnect with other fellow Grangers, ask questions and enjoy a game or two. It's been great for me to connect with everyone as well. The next State Grange Zoom meeting will be August 26th. Also a reminder that the State Grange Zoom account is still available for your Grange to hold virtual meetings.

Please try to get your quarterly reports updated if you haven't already been able to do so.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can always contact me.

It's been a long and very different journey, but we've been able to "weather the storm" and hope the future can only get better. Continue to be safe and supportive of each other.

Glenn

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Big E Booth 2020 Big E Update

For the safety of the fairgoers, staff, vendors, entertainers, exhibitors, sponsors and the broader community the 2020 BIG E has been canceled. The decision to cancel was difficult but was the right thing to do for the health and safety of the 1.6 million people who support the Big E each year. Mark your calendars for the 2021 Big E to be held September 17 – October 3, 2021. You can view the Eastern State Exposition cancellation video statement at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J8lz99A41gg> The Massachusetts State Grange Lobster and Chowder booth is shown in the video. We would like to thank all of the volunteers who have contributed to the success of the booth and look forward to working with you in 2021.

Fraternally,

The Big E Booth Coordinating Team



David Ames
Roland Giguere
Louise Jordan
Terry Vaill



Deb and Brad Goodrich

Upcoming Events

Please see the guidelines for conducting physical meetings on page 8.

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

Wednesday, August 26, 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>

Congratulations to the Massachusetts winners!

2020 Virtual Regional Contest
Participants and Winners

PREPARED SPEECH JUNIORS

Northeast Region
David Lehmann - Massachusetts *

SHORT STORY JUNIORS

Northeast Region
Gregory Lehmann - Massachusetts *

Great Plains
Kimber Newman- Kansas *



*Indicates Best of Show and qualifies for National Grange Evening of Excellence

Thank You

On behalf of the family of Bill Tully we would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone for the cards and calls on the passing of Bill.

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! We hope that everyone is doing well. Now that the early harvests are coming in, how are you handling the influx of veggies streaming from your garden? Are you canning? Making a King's ransom of zucchini bread? Eating them straight from the ground? Heading to a local Farmer's Market? Donate your overage to a food shelter? It's always interesting to hear the different ways that people handle their harvests.

Once you have your harvests in and are looking for something to do during your downtime, feel free to open up your State Grange Program Book and see what contests that you want to participate in. Might we suggest the Poster Contest sponsored by the Agriculture & the Environment Committee? The rules are easy and the prizes are nice. The theme for this year is Farm to Table (Where Does Your Food Come From?). As mentioned in previous columns, we have doubled the prize money. Wouldn't a couple of crisp \$20 bills feel good in your hand? If so, read the complete rules for the contest and bring out your artsy side. The deadline for the contest is September 15th. Please feel free to contact any members of the committee if you have any questions.

Even though the status of State Session is up in the air, our contests will still be happening, so do not be deterred loyal Patron! 🍷

Stay cool and stay well!

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

State Grange Zoom Program

There was an informative discussion about this year's State Grange Session followed by a Scavenger Hunt.

July Scavenger Hunt Winners:

Overall winner: Evelyn LaRagione (3 rounds)

Single round winners: Lynne Martin, Christine Day, Kristen Paulson, Alicia Brazie and Theresa Kane

Congratulations!

We hope you join us again on August 26 at 7 p.m.

President's Message: Action needed on support of whole milk in schools

By Betsy E. Huber, National Grange President

Taken from the July 24, 2020 The Patrons Chain

I hope you all received our Action Alert last week about the national dietary guidelines report, when we asked you to request Congress to delay release of the 2020–25 Guidelines to allow more time to study updated scientific reports.

The Congress and the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee did not heed our requests and released their report last Wednesday. It includes good news and bad news —

Good news: Americans need more dairy in their diets. Regular dairy consumption offers essential nutrition throughout peoples' lives.

Bad news: 88% of all Americans and 79% of children fall short of dairy consumption recommendations. 🍷

Good news: The committee recognized milk as a nutrient-rich beverage that contributes positively to potassium, calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, vitamins A & D and others.

Bad news: Low-fat and nonfat dairy foods are recommended. The committee failed to recognize newer science that shows the benefits of dairy foods at all fat levels.

Good news: Yogurt and cheese and eggs are recognized as healthy options for infants and toddlers.

Bad news: consumption of red meat is still discouraged in favor of a plant-based diet.

The report of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee is a recommendation to the USDA and the Department of Health & Human Services. The agencies are accepting written public comment on the report through August 13, 2020, and will hold a virtual public meeting to hear comments August 11, 2020. USDA and HHS intend to release the 2020–2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans by the end of December 2020.

See **MESSAGE** Page 5

From the Home & Community Service Committee

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee has decided not to hold a Needlework and Craft Contest this year. Please save your Craft Contest entries for next year's contest. We are working to find out if entries made for this year's Needlework Contest will be able to be entered next year and we will let you know. If you plan to enter the items next year, please remember that items cannot be used or washed. 

You will find a Community Service Report form in this issue of the State Grange News that National Grange Community Service Director Pete Pompper has requested Grangers fill out and send in to him. We also request that you send a copy for our State Grange records to Sue LaFleur, 691 Marys Pond Rd., Rochester, MA 02770.

Recognition Awards are still being accepted until August 15th. Please send the [form](#) with a photo of the recipient to Barbara Giguere, 40 Little Mohawk Rd., Shelburne, MA 01370-9713. The form can be found on the State Grange website: <https://www.massgrange.org/home-community-service>.

A reminder that Grange Community Service Reports are due by September 15th to Dorothy Carr, 43 Crane Neck St., West Newbury, MA 01985-1819. Please send in the reports even if you do not want to have them judged. There are two versions available on the State Grange website, one for you to [print out and fill in by hand](#) and another to [fill in on the computer](#) and then print out. Please contact a member of the committee if you have questions.

We hope that you have a healthy and safe summer!

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."

Lecturer's Corner

The Massachusetts State Lecturers Department sponsors the following Awards and Contests for both Granges & individual members. We will be announcing the winners at a special virtual MA State "Lecturers Night" Zoom Meeting in the Fall.

Grange Recognition Awards:

- 1] Agriculture Education Honor Roll** (AG program described on Lecturer's Quarterly or Annual Reports).
- 2] Outstanding Grange** Subordinate & Pomona Granges that submit a **one page report with pictures** describing one of the following Programs: a] Agricultural Fair or Festival, b] Veteran of the Year Award, c] Citizen of the Year Award (Public Service).
- 3] Visitation Prize** (Virtual attendance counts & 1 or more can visit) Use Visitation Form at: <https://www.massgrange.org/lecturer-s-corner>.
- 4] Lecturers Annual Report** must be emailed or postmarked by September 15 to be considered for judging.
- 5] Certificates of Recognition** will be mailed out to qualified Subordinate & Pomona Lecturers.

Individual Recognition: Grange Hero Award: Use Documentation Form at: https://www.massgrange.org/lecturer-s-corner	
Grange attendance	Attend at least 75% of your Grange meetings (virtual counts for visits & attendance)
Recruit new member	Recruit at least one new or reinstated Grange member
Activities	Participate in at least 2 Grange-sponsored activities & 2 MA State Grange-sponsored contest
Networking	Inviting FFA, 4-H, Historical Society, or other organization to take part in your Grange meeting or event.
Grange participation	Become a Honorary Junior GRANGE member* (\$2. per year) & visit 2 subordinate Granges.
Education	Participate in Word for Thirds "Dictionary Project" or present an Agricultural Program & invite the Public.



See **LECTURER** Page 6

———— **MESSAGE** From Page 3 ————

You can still comment on the report by clicking on the comment link above and typing in the information. These Guidelines are very influential in the National School Lunch Program and the SNAP (food stamp) program, so please make your voice heard! National Grange policy strongly supports allowing whole milk to be served in schools.

Virtual Membership Workshops, open to all, to be held

By Joe Stefenoni, National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director

Taken from the July 24, 2020 The Patrons Chain

The first two virtual membership programs “Growth Through Action: Planning the Future for Your Community Grange” will be presented on Saturday, August 15 & Saturday, September 19.

Each program will be presented as a Zoom webinar and will begin at 12:30 p.m. eastern (11:30 a.m. central, 10:30 a.m. mountain, 9:30 a.m. pacific) and last approximately three hours including a short break in the middle.

Participants will be emailed the accompanying worksheet the day before. A feedback survey will be sent to participants after the webinar has concluded.

This program is excellent for Community Grange members and leaders who are interested in taking the first steps of strategic planning for their Grange and sparking new ideas for membership development. The material from this program has been developed based off previous internal strategic planning materials, information and recommendations from the Action Grange program and curriculums from external sources.

To register follow this link <https://form.jotform.com/202015073739147>.

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

Important Information from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

We are aware that residents in Massachusetts and across the country have received suspicious, unsolicited seed packages that appear to originate from China. We’ve been monitoring the situation in conjunction with USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) who is working closely with the Department of Homeland Security’s Customs and Border Protection, other federal agencies, and other state departments of agriculture to investigate.

If you have received such a package, please let us know by contacting our State Plant Regulatory Official, Taryn LaScola at taryn.lascola@mass.gov. For now, we ask that you hold onto the seeds and packaging, including the mailing label. USDA is currently collecting seed packages from recipients and will test their contents to determine if they contain anything that could be of concern to U.S. agriculture or the environment. Do not plant seeds from unknown origins.

At this time, we don’t have any evidence indicating this is something other than a “brushing scam” where people receive unsolicited items from a seller who then posts false customer reviews to boost sales. We will provide any updates and further instructions as they’re made available.

There is now an online form you can use to report your seeds here: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/receipt-of-unsolicited-seeds>.



Available to view live or anytime thereafter on either channel: facebook.com/NationalGrange or youtube.com/NationalGrange

Sponsored by the Grange Foundation
grangefoundation.org

LECTURER From Page 4

State Lecturers Contests for individuals will be held as usual, with 1st, 2nd, & 3rd prize ribbons and money awarded.

1] Art Contest: 1) Animals, 2) Flowers, 3) Landscape, 4) People [Artists may enter all the 4 categories using any medium: a) Oils/ Acrylics; b) Watercolors; c) Charcoal/ Pencil Drawing, d) Pastels], and 5) 3-D Sculpture: wood carving, papier-mâché, plaster, metal, glass, etc.

2] Create-a-Card: Categories: 1) Computer, 2) Hand-drawn, or 3) Stamped or crafted card. Subjects: Thank-you, Veteran, or Get Well.

3] Create a Recipe entitled "Recipe for Creating a Garden" [At least: 8 ingredients with 6 steps for preparation].

4] Create a Grange Program: a) Must be your original work, b) Give sources & credit to copyrights, c) 20 – 35 minutes in length, and d) Include all the following elements of **PRIME: Participation, Recreation, Inspiration, Music, & Education.**

5] Creative Writing: a) Poem entitled "My Hero" or "My Heroine" [4 to 8 stanzas of 4 lines] and/or b) Essay: "Downsizing" [up to 3 pages].

6] Photography Contest: Categories: A) Agricultural, B) Animals, C) Flowers; D) Landscape, E) Patriotic, & F) People. Only original, non-copyrighted prints or digital photos taken between 9.1.2019 and 8.31.2020 are accepted for judging.

All the above 6 contest are open to Juniors in two divisions: Ages 5-9 and Ages 10-14 with some having different themes or categories. 🎉

The detailed contest rules are online in the **Program Handbook** at: <https://www.massgrange.org/grange-info-documents>. Please mail all your contest entries to MA Grange Lecturer: Kristin Paulson, 67 Ridge Rd., Upton, MA 01568-1029. You can always send your entries in early, **but to be eligible for prizes or awards, all entries must be post-marked no later than September 15, 2020.** You can also email any Writing Contest entries or Photography entries to Lecturer@massgrange.org or kep4grange@gmail.com. **Remember to email me a digital picture if you would like to be entered**

into our "Peoples Choice" slide-show contest.

If you or your Grange or any members need help with entries or contest forms, please contact the State Lecturer or any committee member for assistance. **Northeast:** Clio Fisher (508) 517-9467, fisherclio@yahoo.com; **Southeast:** Elizabeth Newton (508) 717-2503, enewton1775@comcast.com; **Central:** Merryl Havens (508) 234-9220, merrylhavens@yahoo.com; **Western:** Ruth Ellen Henry (413) 773-7466, ruthieh@comcast.net & Barbara Giguere (413) 297-5700, barbara@dragonbrook-yarns.com.

Fraternally, Kristin Paulson
(508) 272-0769, lecturer@massgrange.org

From the Junior Committee

🎉 Good Day Grangers! I hope you are all enjoying these hot summer days! Although the days are hot and Covid-19 is lingering, there are plenty of projects that can be done to pass the time away! Projects are coming in slow and we want to make sure that Juniors from across the state get the chance to enter their projects. This month, I'd like to highlight the Future Invention project and the Duct Tape Project!

Future Invention:

Create a future invention. Design, build a model, and explain why the invention is useful to society. Models not to exceed 8" X 8" X 8"

Duct Tape project:

Create a project using duct tape. Size not to exceed 6" X 6" X 6"

I can't wait to see the creativity!

Please send all entries to me at:

Carrie Lehmann

40 Yale Ave

Athol, MA 01331

Save the Date: Sunday, August 23rd from 12-3 we are planning a Junior Grange Day! Details to follow! Information will be posted on the Massachusetts Junior Grange Leaders facebook page!

Junior Grange Hidden Sneaker Answer: 6

Greetings from the Membership Committee

We are responsible for developing programs and resources for our Subordinate Granges with the goals of promoting our Granges within our respective communities. For us to be effective, we need to get to know our Granges in Massachusetts. With this in mind, we will be asking each Grange to interview with our committee to discuss several areas of membership including: Advertising and Promotions, Recruitment, Member Retention, Information and Resources, and Ongoing support,

As well as other areas important to your individual Grange. This process will take some time and needs the participation of the Subordinates.

Once we gather the information, we will compile it and try to create a program that addresses the common needs among the Granges regarding membership. We ask for your patience and cooperation.

In the meantime, I will call your attention to our contests in the Program Handbook (pages 27-29). They are also included under the Membership Committee on the State Grange website.

Here they are again in hopes that you will be inspired to enter them. Submit all entries by August 31 to Roland Giguere, MA State Grange Membership Director, 40 Little Mohawk Road, Shelburne, MA 01370.

◆ GRANGE HALL PHOTO CONTEST

The Membership Committee would like to showcase all our beautiful Grange halls across the state of Massachusetts. We would like to do this by creating a calendar with photos submitted from Grange members of all ages. The photo must be original, taken by the person making the entry and must be of the exterior of the building. This contest is open to members and non-members alike. The photos will be judged in two age groups: Youth 18 & under and Adult. Prints can be made by the photographer or commercial lab. Photos must be taken between September 1st to August 31st of the current year. Size: Photos may be any size between 5" x 7" and up to 8" x 10" taken by the entrant personally. Simple mat board or firm backing is required for all photographs. **Submit photo releases as required.

◆ MEMBERSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

The Membership Committee will host a writing contest on the theme of "What Grange Membership Means to Me". Contest is open to youth, ages fourteen to seventeen and eighteen to thirty-five and adults over thirty-five.

Contestants may submit either an essay of five hundred (500) to a thousand (1,000) words or a poem of up to 200 words on the theme of the contest. Only one piece of writing can be submitted per person, they must also be family friendly and

not offensive. Entries must be typed double-spaced in Times New Roman font 12, must include a printed name, address, phone, email (if possible) and age and signature at the bottom of the entry verifying that the writing is original. Prizes will be awarded for each category. Poems and essays will be judged for originality, creativity and quality of the writing and composition.

◆ PROMOTIONAL FLIER CONTEST

Create and submit a promotional flier for an existing Subordinate/Community Grange. This could be submitted by an individual or group and does not need to be for your own Grange. It could include text, photos, artwork, etc., and must include current information and a contact. Consider size and format for best presentation. It will be judged on its ability to attract the attention of non-members and to entice them to want to know more about, and be a part of, that Grange. Submit five (5) physical copies by August 31. **Submit photo releases as required.

◆ PROMOTIONAL EVENT CONTEST

Plan and hold a promotional event for a Subordinate/Community Grange. This could be submitted by an individual or group and does not need to be for your own Grange. This could take many forms so be creative. The report should include any planning, advertising, setup, execution, and follow-up. Judging will consider the amount of non-member contact and any resulting new members. You must inform the MA State Grange Membership Director with enough notice of the date and place prior to the event to allow our representative to attend. Submit a final report in physical form by August 31. **Submit photo releases as required.

◆ STORY OR INTERVIEW CONTEST

Submit a story or interview that was published or aired about a Subordinate/Community Grange. This could be submitted by an individual or group and does not need to be your own Grange. You must have been instrumental in some way in the publication or airing of the story or interview. A newspaper article or magazine story can fall into this. A radio or television interview would also fall into this category. Perhaps a story or interview or feature on an on-line web site would qualify. Judging will consider the content, the format, the size of the readership or listening audience, and other considerations that promote the Grange at any level. Submit a copy of the publication, or a digital recording on a flash drive of the program or interview, along with when and where it was aired. **Submit photo releases as required.

The world has changed, and we must react to these changes. How we react will determine our fate. Let us work together to improve our situation by using these changes to our advantage.

Respectfully submitted,

Roland Giguere

MA State Grange Membership Director

Guidelines for Granges in Massachusetts for Conducting Physical Meetings

We encourage Granges to meet virtually during the pandemic. If a Grange decides to hold a physical meeting then the following guidelines must be followed. In addition, all government regulations or rules must be followed, including gathering limits. The health and safety of all our members and guests should be the first concern whenever conducting meetings or activities.

Masks:

- All participants should provide their own masks and wear them covering the mouth and nose during Grange functions.
- Granges should obtain a supply of extra masks for those who may forget to bring one. These should be disposable masks. If one of our talented members offers to make cloth masks for use by the Grange then provisions need to be made for those masks to be safely washed between every use.

Meeting Place:

- Proper hand washing facilities must be available for all attendees. Attendees should be directed to wash their hands upon arriving at the hall.
- Hand sanitizer should be provided for use by all as needed.
- The hall should be set up so that all attendees sit six feet apart from one another unless they are from the same household. This includes officers who normally sit very close, such as the Graces, Executive Committee or Secretary and Treasurer.
- Things that are touched frequently should be cleaned regularly during activities (such as door knobs, light switches, hand rails, sink faucets, toilet handles)

Conduct of meeting:

- Every effort should be made to limit contact between attendees and to limit movement around the floor.
- The password should not be taken and the flag should not be presented. Either of the Assistants should be allowed to approach the altar to open the Bible without carrying their stave.
- Materials should be placed in a central location and attendees encouraged to take their own.
- Communications should not be passed from person to person. Communications can be acted upon as they are read by the Secretary. Bills can be reviewed by the Executive Committee prior to and/or immediately after the meeting.
- A basket for the collection can be placed in a central location and members asked to place their donations in the basket. After the Secretary and Treasurer count collections they should wash their hand or use hand sanitizer.
- In the event of a paper ballot the ballot box should be placed in a central location and members asked to place their ballot in the basket without a formal march.

Refreshments/Suppers:

- There is an extra chance of spreading a virus during eating. Refreshments and suppers will not take place during the pandemic.

Community Service Report (Covid19)

(Individual Grange or Member)

Member name (if individual project) _____

Grange name & number _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

Type of project _____

made _____ # hours involved _____

Amount of food given away/collected _____

Was this a new project? _____ Covid 19 related? _____

IMPACT:

of people impacted _____ # of groups impacted* _____

*name of groups impacted _____

How were they impacted? _____

Monies spent for project _____

**Donations received for project money/inkind _____

Will this be an ongoing project _____

*Please attach any media coverage or photos of this project

Feel free to include any additional information

Return via email: Communityservice@nationalgrange.org

Mail to: Pete Pompper

1608 Culbertson Ave Myrtle Beach, SC 29577