A Problem to be Solved

Time for Grass Roots Action?

Those who attended the State Session, heard of the dilemma that our Grange members of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester counties face: slow, dial up internet service which interferes with downloading and printing out the SGN.

In April, 2016 an article appeared online: The Hills Are Dead —Without the Sound of Internet Access. A new report about Western Mass’s fiber fiasco sheds light on the national failure to provide high-speed digital access to rural America, provides some facts on the matter. Written by Susan Crawford, co-author of the report from Harvard’s Berkman Center for Internet and Society, it provides information on the “dismal Internet access story for Western Mass.” For the complete article go to: https://backchannel.com/why-western-mass-doesn-t-have-the-internet-77922828048c#.ti4zrcvqt.

When looking at Grange history, we see that the organization played a role in a 19th century communication problem - Rural Free Delivery (door to door delivery of mail). The online USPS history states: “The backing of the National Grange, National Farmers’ Congress, and State Farmers’ Alliance was important to rural delivery’s establishment.....” Now, 123 years later, the rural areas, like the western part of Massachusetts, still face difficulties getting access to information using 21st century methods. Perhaps it is time to take a new look at the problem and see what Granges and Grangers can do.

Please see article on page 10.
From the Editor's Desk

This month’s front page story is very different from the usual. But it is important. Massachusetts is only one “home front” of an issue that the National Grange has advocating for a number of years: broadband access (fast internet service).

In a world that is increasingly digital, more and more newsletters and organizational information is being disbursed in a “paperless” manner. The cost savings allow these organizations to put the money previously spent on such communication, to a more important use. For some organizations, it actually allows them to have a newsletter!

State Session was a success with nearly 200 people attending during the course of the 3 day session. Sixteen resolutions were acted upon. Resolution results start on page 18.

For those members who have internet service that takes a long time to download and print the SGN, you have control of what pages you want to print. When your print box comes up there should be a choice of 3 items: Print all, current page, or pages. In the pages box, type the page number(s) you want to print. (Example: 1–10, 12, 14, 15. This tells the computer and the printer that you want pages 1 through 10, and individual pages of 12, 14, 15.) Then you click on print to start the action.

State Session informed me that many do not know what assembling of the news takes, standards used, and how it is done. Next SGN will tell you about it.
From the Master’s Desk

The 144th Session of the Massachusetts State Grange is over and the work of another year begins. Enlightening speeches, calm and thoughtful debate, and fellowship highlighted this year’s session. Informative presentations were given by the agricultural organizations on the successful programs that we support. Those in attendance witnessed the future of the Grange through the work of our Junior Grange and the Youth. The Junior Grange conducted the Junior Grange Memorial Service and the Junior Grange Graduation Ceremony. The Massachusetts State Grange Youth Leadership Assoc. opened the session on Saturday morning and conferred the Sixth Degree later that day. Both groups did an excellent job, congratulations!

I am pleased to announce that once again seven Massachusetts Community Granges have been designated as Distinguished Granges. Congratulations to Dunstable, Rowley, Dartmouth, Upton, Sterling, Uxbridge, and Holden. All Granges should be striving to attain this honor from the National Grange and I will have the requirements available to Granges after the National Convention.

In an effort to support, inform, and meet with Granges, the state officers will be visiting four Granges this coming year. We will be attending a regularly scheduled Grange meetings in each of the regions of the state. The first visitation will be to Uxbridge Grange on December 13, 2016. I encourage neighboring members to attend one of these meeting. More information will be available in the December issue of the State Grange News.

I thank the delegates and all patrons that attended the session for their dedication to our Order and for a great session. Now it’s off to the National Convention.

Happy Thanksgiving

George
Lecturer’s Column

International Drum Month is observed to encourage the understanding and enjoyment of drums and other percussion instruments. To be classified as percussion, the instrument must be played by hitting or shaking. Children become familiar with this area of music at an early age when they drum on pots and pans with a wooden spoon. A rainstick can be created with a paper towel or wrapping paper roll, some beads or beans, and some tape. Can you name these percussion instruments? 1) Often accompanying Spanish dancing, small wooden, plastic, or ivory parts, joined by a cord, and clicked together by the fingers; 2) type of drum which stands upright on its side and is struck with felt-padded sticks; 3) set of wooden bars of different lengths hit with a hammer; 4) small single-headed drums, usually played in pairs with the hands; 5) small frame with jiggling disks around the rim (Consider yourself a percussion expert if you know the term for the small metal jingles.)

Grange Family Challenge

And now let’s give a drumroll for the teams who participated in the Grange Family Challenge on Friday night at State Session. I challenged members of my Coordinating Committee to form teams with a wide representation from their respective regions. One of the criteria was to have a youth. Since there was no youth in attendance from the west, a member from an adjoining Grange volunteered.

Round one: Western Family (Candy Smith, Williamsburg; David Cantieni, Guiding Star; Martha Emerson, Chesterfield; Barbara Giguere, Shelburne; Niles Larson, North Orange) vs. Central Family (Al Randall, New Braintree; Doug Hall, Central Community; Carrie Lehman, North Orange; Sarah Jordan, Holden; and Randy Vaill, Ware)

Round two: Northeastern Family (Phyllis Campbell, Boxborough; Steven Tully, Dunstable; Linda McDonald, Bradford; Christopher Dean, Bedford; and Lisa Johnson, Laurel) vs. Southeastern Family (Richard Merrill, Weymouth; Christine Day, Ponkapoag; Jean Harmon, Anawan-Oakton; Patti Thomas, Easton; and Mary Day, Rochester)

The Central Family and Northeastern Family, winners of their games, will compete in the final round during the Grange Showcase Extravaganza on April 2nd in Boylston.
Visitation Program

Whether it is a surprise visit or a planned one, having neighboring Patrons at a meeting is always exciting. Benefit is noted to both the visited and the visiting Grange. Attendance is increased to share in the program and activities, reports of committees inspire others to try something new or a little different, and the fellowship is long-lasting. Eight Subordinates submitted their signed cards, each receiving an award for their efforts.

Most Visits:
Membership of 50 & over - Holden #78 (10 visits)
Membership of 25–49 - Stockbridge #295 (26 visits)
Membership of 24 or less - Chesterfield #83 (13 visits)

Highest Average Number of Members Visiting:
   Central Community #22 (6 members)

Honorable Mention:
Williamsburg #225 (5 visitations)
Hinsdale #19  (6 visitations)
Upton #125   (7 visitations)
Guiding Star #1  (9 visitations)

Lecturers, locate the bright orange cards in your packets and get your Grange started on visitations for this year.

Contest Winners

Congratulations to winners in the contests sponsored by the Lecturer’s Department! I hope everyone had a chance to see the 90 photography, 34 art, and 16 writing entries displayed
during State Session. The Best of Show photo of colorful cauliflower heads taken by Martha Emerson of Chesterfield Grange has been sent to the National Grange Convention. The fourth annual PATRON Awards were presented to Karlena Henry, Guiding Star #1; Rebecca Ingram, North Orange #86; Nancy Lescarbeau, Williamstown #366; Lynne Martin, Easton #196; Kristin Paulson, Upton #125; and Candace Smith, Williamsburg #225. They were able to complete and document all six criteria which demonstrate Grange Passion, Activity, Tradition, Recruitment, Originality, and Networking. Ask your Lecturer for the bright green form to begin your journey to qualify for the PATRON Award or look on page 17 of this issue of SGN for the form.

Win-A-Program

Muriel Antes, Lecturer of Shelburne Grange, is the latest winner of a program chosen from those submitting the September quarterly report within ten days. I look forward to presenting a program and visiting with the members.

Grange Quote of the Month: “Take heed, therefore, and be aware of covetousness; for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of things he possesseth, but in the right use of God’s blessings…… for our Heavenly Father placed us here to be ‘laborers together with Him,’ and raises up the ever-ripening harvest, that we may be the stewards of His bounty, and so partake of His blessedness in being beneficent. Therefore, be ye helpers one of another, for we are all brethren.” (Chaplain, Third Degree)

During this season, may we be thankful for the many blessings in our lives. As we gather with our families, friends, and co-workers in the Grange, let us appreciate our differences and revel in what has brought us together.

A final drumroll for you if you were able to identify the percussion instruments: 1) castanets; 2) bass; 3) xylophone (or marimba); 4) bongo; 5) tambourine (zils).

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families…..

Janet Segur
## LECTURER’S CONTESTS

### Photography

#### Adults

People:

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>2nd</td>
<td>Merryl Havens</td>
<td>Holden #78</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd(tie)</td>
<td>Rebecca Ingram</td>
<td>North Orange #86</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Martha Emerson</td>
<td>Chesterfield #83</td>
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#### Patriotic

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<td>Theresa Kane</td>
<td>Holden #78</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Rebecca Ingram</td>
<td>North Orange #86</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Alan Havens</td>
<td>Holden #78</td>
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#### Agricultural

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Martha Emerson</td>
<td>Chesterfield #83</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Best of Show</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Merryl Havens</td>
<td>Holden #78</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Theresa Kane</td>
<td>Holden #78</td>
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#### Animals

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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Robin Lazarow</td>
<td>non-member (Boxborough)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Martha Emerson</td>
<td>Chesterfield #83</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Nancy Lescarbeau</td>
<td>Williamstown #366</td>
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<td>Honorable Mention: Alan Havens</td>
<td>Holden #78</td>
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#### Flowers

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<td>3rd(tie)</td>
<td>Steven Emerson</td>
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### Juniors (ages 10 – 14)

#### Agricultural

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<td>1st</td>
<td>Michael Lupachini</td>
<td>Upton Jr. #39</td>
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<td>Gina Lupachini</td>
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#### Animals

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<td>Southeastern Area Jr. #137</td>
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<td>2nd</td>
<td>Gina Lupachini</td>
<td>Upton Jr. #39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Clayre Ames</td>
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#### Flowers

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<td>Sophia Garrepy</td>
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<td>2nd</td>
<td>Gina Lupachini</td>
<td>Upton Jr. #39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Kane Gray</td>
<td>North Orange Jr. #142</td>
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</tbody>
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*Continued next page*
Photography
Juniors (ages 5 – 9)
People
1st Gregory Lehman North Orange Jr. #142
Patriotic
1st Gregory Lehman North Orange Jr. #142
2nd David Lehman North Orange Jr. #142
Animals
1st Benjamin Metcalf New Braintree Jr. #143

Art
Adults
Oils and Acrylics (Landscape)
1st Jean Brunter Holden #78 Best of Show
Oils and Acrylics (Animals/People)
1st Aliza Luce Upton #125
Watercolors (Landscape)
1st Amanda Gibson Central Community #22
Charcoal or Pencil Drawing (Landscape)
1st Kristin Paulson Upton #125
Charcoal or Pencil Drawing (Animals/People)
1st Rebeckah Zora Rochester #257
2nd Paige Zora Rochester #257
Pastels
1st Ken Paulson Upton #125
Stained Glass
1st Kristin Paulson Upton #125
2nd Lars Paulson non-member
3rd Ken Paulson Upton #125

3-Dimensional Sculptures
1st Amanda Gibson Central Community #22

Juniors (ages 10 – 14)
Oils and Acrylics (Landscape)
1st Nicole Colaizzi Upton Jr. #39
Oils and Acrylics (Flowers)
1st Kane Gray North Orange Jr. #142

Continued next page
Oils and Acrylics (Animals/People)
1st  Liam Meyer  Upton Jr. #39

Watercolors (Landscape)
1st  Katerina LaCroix  Southeastern Area Jr. #137
2nd  Gina Lupachini  Upton Jr. #39
3rd  Will LaCroix  Southeastern Area Jr. #137

Watercolors (Flowers)
1st  Gina Lupachini  Upton Jr. #39

Watercolors (Animals/People)
1st  Katerina LaCroix  Southeastern Area Jr. #137

Charcoal or Pencil Drawing (Landscape)
1st  Katerina LaCroix  Southeastern Area Jr. #137

Charcoal or Pencil Drawing (Flowers)
1st  Katerina LaCroix  Southeastern Area Jr. #137

Charcoal or Pencil Drawing (Animals/People)
1st  Katerina LaCroix  Southeastern Area Jr. #137
2nd  Gina Lupachini  Upton Jr. #139

Pastels (Landscape)
1st  Katerina LaCroix  Southeastern Area Jr. #137

Pastels (Flowers)
1st  Gina Lupachini  Upton Jr. #139
2nd  Katerina LaCroix  Southeastern Area Jr. #137

Pastels (Animals/People)
1st  Katerina LaCroix  Southeastern Area Jr. #137
2nd  Landon Corriveau  Central Community Jr. #141
3rd  Will LaCroix  Southeastern Area Jr. #137

3-Dimensional Sculptures
1st  Liam Meyer  Upton Jr. #39
2nd  Sophia Garrepy  Upton Jr. #39

Juniors (ages 5 – 9)
Oils and Acrylics (flowers)
1st  Benjamin Metcalf  New Braintree Jr. #143

3-Dimensional Sculptures
1st  Benjamin Metcalf  New Braintree Jr. #143

Continued next page
Creative Writing
Adults
Poetry
1st Nancy Lescarbeau Williamstown #366
2nd Ruth Fairman-Leahey Whately #414
3rd Calvin Chase, Jr. Dunstable #31

Essay
1st Ruth Fairman-Leahey Whately #414
2nd Nancy Lescarbeau Williamstown #366
3rd Calvin Chase, Jr. Dunstable #31

Skit
1st Winniferd Gilchrest Dunstable #31
2nd Ruth Fairman-Leahey Whately #414
3rd Peter Martin Stockbridge #295

Juniors (ages 10 – 14)
Poetry
1st Landon Corriveau Central Community Jr. #141
2nd Gina Luppachini Upton Jr. #39

Juniors (ages 5 – 9)
Essay
1st Alexis Lovely Central Community Jr. #141

Time for Grass Roots Action?

Since 2012, the National Grange has had an action policy in regards to supporting the expansion of broadband services to rural areas throughout the U. S.

Chris Szkutak, Legislative Director of the MA State Grange, is aware of whatever legislative action that is or is not taking place regarding internet access in the western part of the state and at the National level (rural America). We must keep in mind that here in Massachusetts the problem is a “political quagmire.” His knowledge of the situation should guide us to whatever action we need to take.

Western area Granges need the support of all Granges in the state. Can we strengthen our “grass roots” and spread them beyond the halls of our Granges and communities? Can membership be increased in western area Granges using the internet issue as a call to action? Only time will tell.
Junior Grange Corner

State Session is over and now I can breathe a little bit. I spent a lot of extra time preparing this year since we decided to conduct the Junior Graduation Ceremony and the Junior Memorial Service in memory of George Carter who was a member of the MA State Junior Grange +1 Program. I cannot tell you how proud I am of the Juniors and how they performed. I am so grateful for my Junior Committee and the Junior Leaders who helped throughout the day as well. I couldn’t have done it all without you.

Congratulations to this year’s Junior Ambassador, David Lehmann from North Orange Junior Grange.

Following is a list of this year’s winners for the Junior Projects:

Junior Grange Awards 2015 - 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recycled Craft – Paper Towel Rolls</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 5 – 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Lilly Giguere</td>
<td>MA State Junior #84</td>
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<td>2nd Cory Tanner</td>
<td>North Orange Jr. #142</td>
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<td>3rd Malachi Kocou</td>
<td>Central Community Jr. #141</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age 8 – 10 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gregory Lehmann</td>
<td>North Orange Jr. #142</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd David Lehmann</td>
<td>North Orange Jr. #142</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Max Hall</td>
<td>Central Community #141</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Will LaCroix</td>
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<td>Southeastern Jr. #137</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age 11 – 14 1st</td>
<td>Odin Harmon</td>
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<td>Southeastern Jr. #137</td>
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<td>Liam Meyer</td>
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<td>Sophia Garrepy</td>
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<td>Age 8 – 10 1st</td>
<td>Gregory Lehmann</td>
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<td>North Orange Jr. #142</td>
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<td>David Lehmann</td>
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<td>North Orange Jr. #14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age 11 – 14 1st</td>
<td>Kane Gray</td>
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<td>North Orange Jr. #142</td>
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Continued next page
Birdhouse
Age 5 – 7 1st Cory Tanner North Orange Jr. #142
2nd Alexis Lovely Central Community Jr. #141

Age 8 – 10 1st David Lehmann North Orange Jr. #142
2nd Gregory Lehmann North Orange Jr. #142

Age 11 – 14 1st Gina Lupachini Upton Jr. #39
2nd Liam Myer Upton Jr. #39
3rd Kane Gray North Orange Jr. #142

Big E Project – Make Something Using the Word “Juniors”

Ages 8 – 10 1st Will LaCroix Southeastern Jr. #137
2nd Gregory Lehmann North Orange Jr. #142
3rd David Lehmann North Orange Jr. #142

Age 11 – 14 1st Katerina LaCroix Southeastern Jr. #137

Junior Grange Leadership Awards:
Debbie Goodrich Central Community Jr. #141
Carrie Lehmann, Vanessa Gray, Jessica Gale-Tanner North Orange Jr. #142
Ken and Kristen Paulson Upton Jr. #39

Junior Leader Report Award:
Debbie Goodrich Central Community Jr. #141

Junior Community Service Awards:
Central Community Jr. #141
North Orange Jr. #142
Upton Jr. #39

Card Shower…..
Adelia Bardwell is inviting Grangers to shower Carolyn Meunier with cards on November 8 for her 65th birthday. The address is: Carol Meunier
Dexter Health Care
64 Park Street
dexter, Maine 04930
It’s never too late to mail a card!
Home and Community Service Committee

The members of this committee wish to thank everyone who so generously donated throughout the year to all the Health projects and to Foster Care. A special thanks goes out to those who brought gift cards to State Session. In all 106 $5.00 and 2 $10.00 MacDonald cards were purchased from monetary donations or received over the weekend. Ten (10) $10.00 Walmart cards were also purchased. These were divided among the committee members to be distributed across the State. Six packages of diapers were also donated for a total of 562 diapers. We know that many more cards, diapers and other items were donated through individual Granges and given to their local DCF offices. We thank-you for your support year after year to Foster Care and to the children in the State of Massachusetts.

Thank-you also goes out to all who entered the Bake Off Continued next page
& Needlework contests. We look forward to seeing you next year and hope that more Grange members will participate in these contests. Information on these contests will be coming out after the 1st of the year.

Finally, may you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving, a great Christmas and most of all a healthy, happy year ahead.

Mass. State Grange Home and Community Service Committee
Susan LaFleur – Co-director       Jean Harmon – Co-director
Jessica Gale-Tanner       Brian Carr       Karlena Henry

Petersham Grange Offers Soils Testing to Area Gardeners

Petersham Grange 95 is again offering to help area gardeners test their garden soil this fall to see if minerals needed to promote healthy plant growth are in balance. Since 2011, Petersham Grange has been helping local gardeners evaluate their garden soils and plan strategies for amendments that include necessary minerals and promote healthy plant growth. Fall is the best time to get the testing done.

Soils testing can be done at U Mass Amherst, but Anderson says she and other small gardeners have had very good service and easier to interpret results from Logan Lab testing service (http://loganlabs.com/) in Lakeview, Ohio. Gardeners should plan to collect about two cups of garden soil. Fill out the forms available on Logan Labs website where further instructions are available. Soil analysis reports cost $25. Results are usually e-mailed back within five days from when they are received at the lab.

Grange member and Lecturer Ellen Anderson said, "Our region has large areas of excellent soils. But dramatic improvements in garden productivity can come from knowing what soil elements may have been depleted over the years."

Petersham Grange No. 95 works locally to help with agriculture-related education and is pleased to coordinate this soil testing effort. The Grange organizes the Agricultural Fair at the town's annual Old Home Day. "It would be wonderful to see the results of soil amendments at the annual 2107 Old Home Day judging event," Anderson said.

Continued next page
Anderson plans to send off a box Logan Labs with several samples over the November 15th weekend. She will be glad to include soil samples from other gardeners who get in touch with her and can bring the sample to the Petersham Library on Nov. 15th. Gardeners who miss the deadline can send samples on their own later in the year, Anderson said. Gardeners who want to test their soil should contact Ellen for details at 978-724-3537.

**Petersham Grange Presents 50 Jewel**

Arthur Alger of Leominster received a 50-year jewel at the October meeting of Petersham Grange No. 95.

Arthur joined the Royalston Grange on November 16, 1966 and moved to the Athol Grange when the Royalston group disbanded in 2004. He joined the Petersham Grange in 2007 and currently serves as Chaplain.

Arthur is a past master of the Royalston Grange and of the Franklin and Worcester Pomona. Arthur is also a past president of the former 7th Degree Social Club of Central Massachusetts.

Peterham Grange #95 Master Rick Hardaker (left) presented a 50 year jewel to Grange Chaplain Arthur Alger of Leominster as assistant stewards Betty Millers and Sheila Youd looked on. Alger joined the former Royalston Grange in 1966.
Petersham Grange #95 Secretary Nancy Carruth visited the third-grade class at Petersham Center School Nov. 2 to give dictionaries from the local Grange to 16 students. Later in the week she will present 55 students at the Ruggles Lane School in Barre with their copies as well.

Thinking of You.....

Take time to write a note or send a card so that our Grange friends know we are thinking of them.

Gertrude Lacey
2 Chestnut Street, Apt. 105
Whitinsville, MA 01588
(has had surgery)

Alicia Brazie
51 Idle Hour Road
New Marlborough, MA 01230
(her sister Virginia S. Markham passed away)

Thank You

A sincere thank you for all the cards and phone calls I received at the time of my sister's death. One truly understands the need of friends and family at a time such as this.

Fraternally,
Alicia Brazie

Send in Your News!

At State Session, the State Master recommended Granges send in their news to the SGN. This recommendation was accepted by the delegate body. Granges need to stop being shy about this. Send news to SGN by email: stategrangenews@massgrange.org, or mail: Ann Prest, 836 Haverhill St. Rowley, MA 01969 or phone 978-948-8130. If all you can write is a few facts, send it along. Granges are doing some great things out there, so let the Grange world know about it.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Petersham Grange member Hilary Loring and husband Steve were out walking to the Post Office (and making a Grange fashion statement) in their Petersham Grange hats. Hilary's hat is the 2015 version and Steve's hat is from 2016. Petersham Grange No. 95 produces a limited edition of 50 hats each year and sells them as a fund-raising tool at the Petersham Friday Market and at Grange.
### The PATRON Award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passion</th>
<th>Visit at least three other Subordinate Granges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Participate in at least two Grange-sponsored activities &amp; one Grange-sponsored contest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tradition</td>
<td>Attend at least 75% of your Subordinate Grange meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recruitment</td>
<td>Recruit at least one new or reinstated member for your Grange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Originality</td>
<td>Present a program with 3 elements of “RIME” (recreation, inspiration, music, education)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networking</td>
<td>Publicize at least one of your Grange activities or events</td>
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Use this Documentation Form to show how you accomplished each of the above criteria during the Contest period of November 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. **Send this form along with any supporting documentation by August 1, 2017** to the State Grange Lecturer, Janet Segur, 26 Glenwood Place, Rutland, MA 01543-2005 / jsegur55@gmail.com (Use the back of form, if more space is needed.)

**Name** ___________________________ **Grange Name & Number** ___________________________ **Date** ___________________________

**Passion:** Subordinate Granges I have visited (3 or more)

1. Name: ___________________________ Grange # ________ Date: __________
2. Name: ___________________________ Grange # ________ Date: __________
3. Name: ___________________________ Grange # ________ Date: __________
4. Name: ___________________________ Grange # ________ Date: __________

**Activity:** One State Grange-sponsored contest & two or more Grange-sponsored activities I have participated in:

A) Grange Contest: ___________________________ Date: __________ Describe your participation: ___________________________

**Tradition:** Attendance at my local Subordinate meetings: Meetings held: #______ I attended # ________

**Recruitment:** New or reinstated Grange member. Name: ___________________________ Date joined: __________

**Originality:** Program I presented: ___________________________ Place: ___________________________ Date: __________

Recreation: ___________________________

Inspiration: ___________________________

Music: ___________________________

Education: ___________________________

**Networking:** Grange Activity or Event Name: ___________________________ Date: __________

How I publicized it: ___________________________
RESOLUTIONS ACTED UPON AT THE
144th ANNUAL SESSION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE

1. MAILING STATE GRANGE NEWS TO SOME PATRONS

WHEREAS, mailing the State Grange News was eliminated to reduce cost and improve delivery time; and WHEREAS, some Granges are required to seek alternative methods of receiving the State Grange News due to lack of computers; and WHEREAS, some Patrons do have a computer, but may lack adequate internet connection to receive the News; and WHEREAS, a financial and time burden is imposed on fellow Granges to provide the State Grange News to members who do not have the proper equipment to receive it online; therefore be it RESOLVED, the Massachusetts State Grange dispense one paper copy of the newsletter to Subordinate Grange to disperse a paper copy to members who need it.

SUBMITTED BY: CHESTERFIELD GRANGE #83 Hillside Pomona #20

COMMITTEE: Budget, Buildings, and Properties FINAL ACTION: Committee recommended adoption of resolution as amended (underlined print). The delegate body voted to reject the recommendation and rejected the resolution.

2. REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE STATE GRANGE NEWS

Original resolution submitted by Chesterfield Grange #83 and Hillside Pomona #20 was rewritten in committee. See Sept. SGN for original.

WHEREAS, there are an excessive number of pages in the State Grange News, and excessive number of pages make the file difficult to download; THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Editor of the State Grange News find a way to reduce the number of pages by font size, margins, eliminating outdated information and unconfirmed meetings.

COMMITTEE: Agriculture and the Environment FINAL ACTION: The committee recommended the adoption of the resolution as rewritten. The delegate body voted to reject the recommendation and voted to reject the resolution.

3. MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

WHEREAS, membership within the Massachusetts State Grange is in decline; and WHEREAS, Subordinate Granges need new members to continue; therefore be it RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange develop methods to recruit membership.

SUBMITTED BY: HANOVER GRANGE #206

COMMITTEE: Transportation and Community Interests FINAL ACTION: The committee recommended rejection of the resolution and the delegate body voted to accept the recommendation of the committee

4. TIMELY DISTRIBUTION OF THE STATE GRANGE NEWS WHEREAS, the publication of the State Grange News has been updated over the past few years, but its distribution continues to be delayed; and WHEREAS, the State Grange News continues to arrive after one quarter to one third of any given month has passed; and WHEREAS, many events submitted for publication have already occurred before the News reaches the members; therefore be it RESOLVED, the Editor and the State Secretary coordinate their schedules to ensure the online publication of the State Grange News is distributed by the fifth day of the month; and be it further RESOLVED, the publication and
mailing the News to Grangers without computers or internet access also be sent out by the fifth day of the month.

SUBMITTED BY: CHESTERFIELD GRANGE #83       Hillside Pomona #20

COMMITTEE:   Transportation and Community Interests       FINAL ACTION: The committee recommended rejection of the resolution. The delegate body voted to accept the recommendation of the committee and rejected the resolution.

5. ELIMINATING POMONA GRANGES
WHEREAS, many Pomona Granges across the country have lost the primary focus of initiating and promoting legislation; and WHEREAS, the meetings have become mainly a social gathering; and WHEREAS, many Pomona Granges are comprised of the minimum of Subordinate Granges required and meeting are often attended primarily by one Subordinate; and WHEREAS, many members are very active in the Subordinate Granges having little time for Pomona, resulting in declining attendance at meetings and even membership in Pomona; and WHEREAS, many Pomona Granges do not hold the Fifth Degree annually due to lack of people; therefore be it RESOLVED, the Pomona Grange unit be eliminated and the Fifth Degree be presented annually at the State Grange Session; and be it further RESOLVED, the National Grange appoints a committee to make the necessary revisions to the Digest of Laws of the National Grange to reflect this change.

SUBMITTED BY: WORCESTER CENTRAL POMONA #7

COMMITTEE:    Good of the Order       FINAL ACTION: Committee recommends rejection of the resolution. The delegate body voted to accept the recommendation of the committee and rejected the resolution.

6. SUBORDINATE GRANGES
WHEREAS, as with other fraternal organizations the age of the membership has greatly increased; and WHEREAS, smaller Granges are trying to reinvigorate themselves are sometimes unable to get a quorum as currently established; and WHEREAS, all Granges still have business that needs to be transacted during meetings; therefore be it RESOLVED, that National Grange lower the quorum for subordinate meetings from seven (7) to five (5).

SUBMITTED BY: HANOVER GRANGE #206

COMMITTEE:  Insurance, Legislation and Taxation       FINAL ACTION: Committee recommended to reject the resolution. The delegate body voted to accept the recommendation of the committee.

7. RESOLUTIONS BROUGHT BY SESSION COMMITTEE
WHEREAS, resolutions are an essential part of the effectiveness of the Grange; and WHEREAS, some ideas for resolutions can occur while in committee session; therefore be it RESOLVED, solutions that are submitted by committee sessions that fall within the scale of the committee be considered for vote by the delegates of the State Grange along with the other resolutions sent to and recommended by the committee.

SUBMITTED BY: HANOVER GRANGE #206

COMMITTEE:  This resolution was not assigned as it is current policy of the Massachusetts State Grange.
8. POMONA RESTRUCTURING
See Sept. SGN for original resolution submitted by Worcester Norfolk Pomona #10. This resolution was rewritten by the committee and retitled:

8. POMONA STUDY

WHEREAS, historically Pomonas have been a crucial aspect of legislative and ritual work; and Whereas, membership struggles have brought the number of Granges and members in Pomona down and reduced the influence and scope of this level of our organization; and WHEREAS, the membership of the Massachusetts State Grange should decide the future of this aspect of our organization; and
WHEREAS, according to Article 2.1 of the constitution for Pomona Granges, the State Master and Executive Committee have the responsibility to determine Pomona jurisdictions; and WHEREAS, it is possible that with new Pomona jurisdictions that Pomona Granges could be prosperous once again, therefore be it RESOLVED, the Executive Committee of the Massachusetts State Grange survey all Subordinate and Pomona Granges to determine if changes, including possible redistricting will result in improvements in the viability of our Pomonas and that they complete this study and report their finding at the 2017 Massachusetts State Grange Session.

COMMITTEE: Good of the Order   FINAL ACTION: The committee recommended adoption of the resolution. The delegate body voted to reject the recommendation, and rejected the resolution.

9. RITUAL TEAM COMPETITION

WHEREAS, the Patron of Husbandry has ritual which is both honorable and inspirational; and WHEREAS, in recent years, the exemplification of the Degree ritual has not been commonplace; and WHEREAS, many members have not had the privilege of witnessing and learning the many valuable lessons contained in the Grange Ritual; and WHEREAS, the knowledge gained from Welcoming Ceremony falls short of what a candidate could benefit; and WHEREAS, the responsibility of preserving the Ritual fall upon all Grangers; therefore be it RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange establish an annual ritual team competition; and be it further RESOLVED, that there be a monetary prize given to the winning teams; be it further RESOLVED that a committee be appointed to oversee an annual ritual team competition.

SUBMITTED BY: CONNECTICUT VALLEY POMONA #19

COMMITTEE: Budget, Buildings and Properties        FINAL ACTION: The committee recommended adoption with the additional resolve. The delegate body voted to accept the recommendation of the committee and voted to accept the resolution as amended.

10. VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE AT GRANGE MEETINGS WHEREAS, the National Grange Master issued a ruling on virtual attendance at Grange Meetings in an information announcement dated March 25, 2016 “...on the ability of Grange members to participate and specifically to be allowed to cast votes, in meetings of Subordinate/Community Granges without being physically present; i.e. via telephone, audio or electronic video means such as computer”; and WHEREAS, social media is a way to keep members informed of Grange news and happenings who are physically unable to attend due to schooling away of home, health reasons, military or relocation, etc. but should not be exercised in Grange meetings to constitute virtual attendance or voting; and WHEREAS, the Grange has prided itself on being a fraternal organization of social and family participation and as this may encourage members not to attend Grange meetings if virtually able to attend; and WHEREAS, a Grange is required to have at least seven members present to fill required offices to open a Grange
meeting; as in the National Digest Chapter 6, Article 6.12.5; and WHEREAS, in the National Grange Digest Chapter 10, Article 10.2.1 that all voting shall be given by the voting sign of the order which the Master will count and announce, and the implementation of virtual attendance could cause possible expense to the Grange to allow the Master to count those virtual votes; therefore be it RESOLVED, that the Granges should not encourage virtual attendance resulting in reduced physical participation at meetings to hold an office, voting, participate in the activities and workings of the Grange; therefore be it further RESOLVED, that the delegates at the November 2016 National Grange Session overrule the National Master’s “Ruling of Virtual Attendance” as it would be of further harm to the benefit of our organization; therefore be it further RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange and other State Granges vote to not allow Virtual Attendance and voting by the members of their Subordinate/Community Granges.

SUBMITTED BY: SIPPICAN POMONA #31
COMMITTEE: Insurance, Legislation and Taxation FINAL ACTION: The committee recommended the acceptance of the resolution. The delegate body voted to reject the recommendation and rejected the resolution.

11. USE OF EDUCATIONAL AID FUND INVESTMENTS
WHEREAS, donations to the Massachusetts State Grange Educational Aid Fund have been decreasing in recent years; and WHEREAS, interest rates on Certificates of Deposit have dropped to a very low level in recent years necessitating the Educational Aid Fund Trustees to invest the Fund in the market in order to earn the money necessary to cover expenses and the awarding of scholarships; and WHEREAS, Article 6.2 of the Constitution of the State Grange of Massachusetts reads that “Its purpose is ‘to help people to help themselves’ by loaning money and by awarding scholarships to Grange members desiring a higher education than is afforded by the high schools of the Commonwealth, with scholarships to be financed from income realized on the invested assets of the Educational Aid Fund and from the Fund itself not to exceed one percent of the Fund per year.”; and WHEREAS, in years in which the Fund receives a low return, using one percent of the Fund provides about one-third of the money needed to pay a year’s scholarships and other expenses; therefore be it RESOLVED, in order to provide scholarships to deserving patrons each year at a level consistent with recent years, that the last clause of Article 6.2 of the Constitution of the State Grange of Massachusetts be revised to read that scholarships are “to be financed from income realized on the invested assets of the Educational Aid Fund and from the Fund itself not to exceed three percent of the Fund per year.”

SUBMITTED BY: TRUSTEES OF THE EDUCATIONAL AID FUND
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Social Services FINAL ACTION: Committee recommended adoption of Resolution. The delegate body voted to accept the recommendation and accept the resolution.

12. NEW SUBORDINATE SECRETARY TRAINING
The Education, Health, and Social Services Committee rewrote the resolved section. Original resolution is in the Sept. SGN.

WHEREAS, to newly elected Secretaries the quarterly reports and other forms required to be filed can sometimes be very confusing; and WHEREAS, even longtime Secretaries can have portions of the forms that they need to fill but are unfamiliar with; and WHEREAS, to improve accuracy and reduce errors; therefore be it RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange provide district Sec-
retary training to build-up and refresh their skills and go over all required forms including quarterly reports that they may need to fill during the year. This is also to include instruction materials to explain the duties of their office and to aid in preparation of required forms and reports.

SUBMITTED BY: HANOVER GRANGE #206

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Social Services FINAL ACTION: Adoption was recommended as rewritten. The delegate body voted to accept the recommendation.

13. PESTICIDE USE AND BEES

WHEREAS, worldwide bee populations are in decline; and
WHEREAS, bees, through pollination and honey production, are crucial to our food supply, accounting for approximately one-third of the human diet; and
WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency has found that the class of pesticides called neonicotinoids have negative effects on bee populations when used on certain crops; and
WHEREAS, all steps must be taken to help protect the bee population for the benefit of Massachusetts farmers and the protection of the food supply; therefore be it
RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange support legislation to limit the sale and use of neonicotinoids.

SUBMITTED BY: WORCESTER NORFOLK POMONA #10 and UXBRIDGE GRANGE #200

COMMITTEE: Agriculture and the Environment FINAL ACTION: Committee recommended adoption. The delegate body voted to accept the recommendation and voted to accept the resolution.

14. LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

This resolution was created and submitted at State Session by the Insurance, Legislation and Taxation Committee.

WHEREAS the Massachusetts State Grange needs a clear definition of what we support on legislative issues: therefore be it
RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange adopt the following Legislative Principles:
1. Non-partisanship
2. Support for local food and farmers
3. Support for agriculture education
4. Promote civic participation
5. Encourage conservation and natural resources stewardship
6. Support for rural communities

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Social Services FINAL ACTION: Committee recommended adoption. The recommendation was accepted by vote of the delegate body.

15. BALLOT QUESTION #3—AN ACT TO PREVENT CRUELTY TO FARM ANIMALS

This resolution was written by the Agriculture and the Environment Sessions Committee.

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts State Grange supports “common sense regulation on the treatment of animals, understanding that when farmers are using approved best practices animals are treated well. Livestock represent the farmers’ livelihood, therefore keeping their animals healthy is a clear priority; and
WHEREAS Ballot Question #3 will not improve the condition of animals in Massachusetts since such practices are not currently used in Massachusetts, per the Middlesex County Farm Bureau; and
WHEREAS the mistreatment of animals is already addressed by current law; therefore be it
RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange oppose Ballot Question #3.

COMMITTEE: Agriculture and the Environment    FINAL ACTION: The committee recommended
adopting the resolution and the delegate body accepted the recommendation.

16. CORI/SORI
Resolution presented at State Session by the Education, Health, and Social Services Sessions
Committee. Text not available at this time.

COMMITTEE: The Executive Committee    FINAL ACTION: The committee recommends rejection
of the resolution. The delegate body voted to accept the recommendation of the committee and vot-
ed to reject the resolution.

**Confirmed November Meetings**

**November 11**
Laurel Grange #161
Grange Hall, 21 Garden St,
West Newbury
7:30 PM Election of Officers

**November 12**
Heritage Pomona #2
Laurel Grange Hall, 21 Garden St.,
West Newbury
3:30 PM Turkey Day

**November 14**
Holden Grange #78
Holden Sr. Center, 1130 Main St.
6:00 PM Dues Paying Supper
7:00 PM Veterans to be our guests.
Program entitled "Rain Water Harvested" by
Sterling Greenery.

**November 15**
Rowley Grange #204
28 Central St.,
7:00 PM Turkey Shoot

**November 15**
Central Community Grange #22
Boylston Town House, 599 Main Street,
Boylston
6:30 PM Dues Paying Potluck supper

**November 17  Meeting cancelled**
Sterling Grange #53
Grange Hall, 14 Maple St.

**November 21**
Beverly Grange #306
Hastings House, 14 Oak St. Beverly Farms
6:00 PM Covered Dish Supper
7:00 PM Business meeting - Turkey Shoot

**November 28**
Holden Grange #78
Holden Sr. Center, 1130 Main St.
7:00 pm "Black Friday Revisited" Spoof.

**December 1**
Upton Grange #125
Grange Hall, 26 School St.
7:30 PM Home and Community Service Night
"Foster Care Program." (donation of Christmas
Toys to Foster Kids)

**December 1**
Sterling Grange #53
Grange Hall, 14 Maple St.
6:00 p.m. Musical program.

**December 4, Sunday**
Upton VFW Hall
6th Annual Holiday Program with a Veterans
Award Ceremony. Upton Seniors and other
Town Organizations are invited. “Holiday” pen-
ny sale, Bring Non-perishable food items for
Upton Food Pantry
**Unconfirmed Meetings**

**November 7**
West Stockbridge #246  
Stockbridge Grange Hall  
51 Church St.  
6:30 PM Harvest Supper  
Happy Thanksgiving

**November 8**
Groton Grange #7  
Grange Hall, 80 Champney St.  
7:00 PM Words for Thirds

Dudley Grange #163  
Grange Hall, Center Rd., Dudley  
7:00 PM Honor Our Veterans

**November 9**
New Braintree Grange #170  
New Braintree Congo. Church,  
Hardwick & Oakham Rds.  
7:30 PM Team Shopping  
Rochester Grange #257  
Grange Hall, 205 Hartley Rd  
7:30 PM Thanksgiving Program

**November 10**
Berkshire North Pomona #6  
@ Pittsfield, Masonic Temple,  
116 South St., Pittsfield  
6:15 PM Thanksgiving celebration  
Turkey supplied, bring a side dish  
7:30 PM Pie Raffle

**November 11**
Boxborough Grange #131  
Boxborough Town Hall,  
29 Middle Rd. Grange Room  
8:00 PM Neighborhood Night  
Veterans issues & Penny sale  
Chesterfield Grange #83  
Senior Center/Grange Hall  
Community Center, 400 Main Rd,  
6:30 PM Veteran’s Dinner  
Dunstable Grange #31  
Dunstable Town Hall  
8:00 PM What We are Thankful For?  
Stockbridge Grange #295  
Grange Hall, 51 Church St.  
6:30 PM Covered Dish Supper  
7:30 PM Veterans Program

**November 12**
New Braintree Grange #170  
New Braintree Town Hall  
Pig Roast,  
Community Service Award

**November 14**
Hinsdale Grange #19  
Town Hall, 39 South Street  
6:00 PM Covered Dish Supper  
7:30 PM Guest speaker  
Collection for “Soldiers On”

**November 16**
West Boxford Grange #140  
Lincoln Hall, 564 Main St.  
7:30 PM How was the turkey?

**November 18**
Chesterfield Grange #83  
Senior Center/Grange Hall  
Community Center, 400 Main Rd,  
7:30 PM Thanksgiving Basket  
South Middleboro Grange #337  
Grange Hall, 570 Wareham St.  
7:30 PM Veterans Night

**November 19**
Community Grange #382  
Grange Hall, 47 North West St.  
Feeding Hills  
11:45 AM Meeting with Lunch  
Food collection for Open Pan

**November 21**
Dracut Grange #216  
Dracut Historical Society  
Lakeview Ave  
7:30 PM Fall Facts  
Ware Grange #164  
Grange Hall, 297 Belchertown Rd  
7:00 PM Veterans’ Program

**November 22**
Anawan-Oakton Grange #221  
Grange Hall, 243 Winthrop St.  
Rehoboth  
7:00 PM Give Thanks  
What are we thankful for?

**November 25**
Stockbridge Grange #295  
Grange Hall, 51 Church St.  
7:30 PM Plymouth Plantation

**November 28**
Bay State Pomona  
Anawan Grange Hall  
Junct. 44 and 118  
12:00 Lunch  
1:00 PM Decorate for the Holidays  
Berkshire So. Pomona Grange #25  
Stockbridge Grange Hall  
51 Church St., Stockbridge  
7:30 PM I Believe in America

**December 1**
Acushnet Grange #285  
Grange Hall, 1121 North Main St.  
7:30 PM Merry Christmas  
$5 gift exchange  
Bradford Grange #238  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
27 White St., Haverhill  
7:30 PM Business Meeting

**December 2**
Prescott Grange #73  
Grange Hall, 12 Park St.  
Pepperell  
7:00 PM Business meeting

**December 3**
Sippican Pomona  
@ South Middleboro Grange  
4:30 Meeting  
6:00 PM Supper  
7:00 Penny Sale  
Christmas Program  
Norfolk Grange #35  
Grange Hall, 28 Rockwood Rd.  
7:00 PM Special Holiday program  
Train ride with Santa, open to public

**December 5**
West Stockbridge Grange #246  
Stockbridge Grange Hall,  
51 Church St., Stockbridge  
7:30 PM $5 gift exchange  
Dracut Grange #216  
Dracut Historical Society.  
Lakeview Ave  
7:30 PM Christmas Party