

Massachusetts State Grange

PROGRAM HANDBOOK Today's Grange: Families in Action A Guide to 2006 – 2007 and 2007 – 2008 Programs

This Program Handbook is designed to provide information on the programs and activities sponsored by the Massachusetts State Grange. These programs and activities reflect the vision and mission of the Massachusetts State Grange.

A Vision for the Grange...

The Grange in the 21st Century will be a preeminent organization.

It will commit to the development of the potential in families, youth and adults of all ages through dynamic programs and experiences that educate, engage and enrich lives.

The Grange will be noted for its commitment to the membership through its enabled leadership, its financial and organizational strength and its ability to make a difference in the lives of children, youth, families and individuals.

The Grange will be relevant, caring and involved part of the community in which its members are located. It will be well known and understood and considered a viable, involved and distinctive organization.

A person who becomes a member can expect to find in the organization a clear and impressive pathway to membership, outstanding fellowship with leaders and respected citizens of the community. The

encouragement to meet and make new friends and the opportunity to lead and be well led.

At the State and National level the Grange will be a flexible, well governed, proactive partner in the communities in support of issues that are relevant to members and the communities in which they live. It will be accountable to and supportive of the leadership and membership at the local Grange. The Grange will be responsive to the member's time, committed to membership growth, and designed for relevance and National preeminence.

Strategic Goals as Defined by the National Grange Task Force

- Creating a relevant organization
- Developing effective leaders
- Building a stronger local, state and National organization and financial structure
- Reducing the resistance to change
- Stemming the loss of new and recent Grangers

Mission Statement of Massachusetts State Grange...

The Grange is an organization actively dedicated to meeting the needs of its members, community and nation.

Core Values:

- Love of community
- Belief in the goodness of mankind
- Improvement of human condition

Key Result Areas:

- Developing individual growth
- Serving the needs of all members
- Being community relevant

Strategies:

- Training leaders
- Encourage teamwork
- Developing individual talent
- Forming alliances with similar organizations

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Note: Please refer to the specific sections listed above for due dates of reports and contests.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS –2007-2008

2007-2008

- Apr – Grange Month/Membership Month
- Apr – Earth Day
- Apr – Dinner Dance
- May – Go to Church Sunday
- May – Talent Contest, Bake Off, Public Speaking and Sign-A-Song
- June – Dairy Month
- July – N.E. Youth conference
- Aug – Y.L.T.S.
- Aug – N.E. Lecturer’s Conference
- Sept 1 – All contest entries must be postmarked unless otherwise specified
- Sept 30 – Lecturer’s Final Reports
- Oct – State Session
- Nov – Annual National Grange Convention
- Nov – Farm Week

Note: Any addendums to the above calendar of events will be announced in the State Grange News.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Subordinate Grange Agriculture and/or Environment Exhibit

An Exhibit in the local community, displayed in a public place during Grange Week or some other time period. Each exhibit will indicate the Grange name and the theme to be Agriculture, Environment, or both. A written report is to be submitted before

September 1st to the Committee. The report should also contain publicity or copies of the media obtained as the result of the exhibit, accompanied by photos. Winners will be judged on the contents of this report, using the scoring listed below for Exhibit. Minimum size 2 ft. x 3 ft. Maximum size 3 ft. x 8 ft.

Score for Judging Exhibit

Theme	30 points
Preparation required	20 points
Location of Exhibit	20 points
Publicity received	30 points

Prizes:	1 st .	\$20.00
	2 nd	\$10.00
	3 rd .	\$5.00

State Grange Agriculturist:

This award is for individuals who are actively engaged in farming, gardening, agricultural enterprise or rural development such as – a Christmas tree farm, fruit grower, dairy farmer, beekeeper, aquaculture etc...

Rules:

1. Open to any Grange member, of any age.
2. There will be one winner selected and announced at the State Grange session.
3. Those nominating the applicants, will need to write a statement concerning their involvement in:
 - a. Community Service - Involvement with projects geared towards the betterment of your community. The applicant may have worked through the Grange or another organization.
 - b. Personal Achievement – Awards or honors you have received through the Grange or other organizations. Your personal fulfillment for being a member of the Grange or for your involvement in other activities.
 - c. Commitment to the Grange – Your Grange activities at all levels.

AWARD: Winners will be announced at State Grange session, and presented with a trophy or plaque.

Coloring Contests:

Wax Crayon only. The Committee will provide the previous year’s Agriculture Drawing Contest

winner's picture. Open to age groups of children: 5-7, 8-11, 12-14 years of age on or before September 1st of each year. Three contests with prizes for all age groups.

Any type of fluid crayon, marker, or "Marks It" paper will be disqualified.

Score For Judging Coloring:

Use of color 30 points
 Neatness 40 points
 Variety of color 30 points

Prizes: 1st \$10.00
 2nd \$5.00
 3rd \$3.00

All coloring contest entries are open to Grange members or anyone sponsored by a Grange member. All entries must be judged on a Pomona level and the top three winners selected in each class must be submitted to the Committee person no later than September 15th. Entries will be judged at the fall meeting of the Agriculture and Conservation Committee. Age to be based on September 1st of each year the contest shall be offered.

Agriculture Drawing Contest:

Open to two age groups: 5-14 and 15 and over on or before September 1st of the Contest year. Prizes will be awarded to both age groups as follows:

Score For Judging Drawing:

Neatness 30 points
 Variety of Agriculture in Drawing 40 points
 Creatively/Originality 30 points

Prizes: 1st \$20.00
 2nd \$10.00
 3rd \$5.00

Subject: Farm scenes, including landscapes, buildings, farm animals, or a display of farm products.

This contest is designed to support the Coloring Contest. The Committee will choose one or more winning drawings to be used as the picture for the Coloring Contest for the coming year. The drawing should be complex enough to be interesting to the judges yet simple enough for children between the ages of 5-14 to color next year. The deadline for this contest is September 1st and will be judged at the fall

meeting of the Agriculture and Conservation Committee.

Farm Photo Contest

Eligibility: All photos must be original and be taken by the person making the entry and may be a Grange member or a non-member. Prints can be made by the photographer or by a commercial lab. Only photos taken between September 1st (2005) of the contest year and before September 1st (2006) of the current year can be entered in the competition.

Judging: One category. **Color**

Subject: **Farm Scenes.** Including landscapes, buildings, animals, or a display of farm products.

Size: Photos may be enlarged. It may be enlarged to any size between 5" x 7" and up to 8" x 16" not including the mounting board. No glass.

Entry Date: All prints must be received by a Committee member, no later than September 15th in the contest year.

Prizes:	Adult Group	Youth 18 & under
1st	\$25.00	\$25.00
2nd	\$15.00	\$15.00
3rd	\$10.00	\$10.00

Arbor Day

It is the wish of this Committee to continue to observe Arbor Day on the last Friday of each April. The reports of Grange members participating in this annual observance have been inspiring to each one of us.

Let us continue this worthwhile practice of planting a tree or shrub for a commemorative event - thus informing the public of our great community concern for others and for the future.

Massachusetts Agriculture In The Classroom

The mission of the Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom program is to foster an awareness and learning in all areas related to the food and agriculture industries and the economic and social importance of agriculture to the state, nation and the world. It is their goal to promote agriculture in Massachusetts' classrooms by providing educators with agricultural resources, mini-grants funding and educational support.

Agriculture Fund

This fund is used to support the Committee's activities with 4-H, Future Farmers of America, Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom, Massachusetts Soil Commission, State Grange Rosettes for fairs, as well as other Agricultural organizations and activities. Requests for Rosettes for Grange Fairs can be sent to the Committee Co-Directors or members and are available by July 15th. Monies for this fund are raised by various Committee projects, and through donations from Granges. Please send donations to the State Grange Secretary made payable to "Massachusetts State Grange" with a notation that the donation is used for "Agriculture Fund".

HEIFER PROJECT COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for the conduct of an outreach program in support of Heifer Project International, with the State Master's approval.

Each year a raffle will be organized and carried out at State Grange Session; the proceeds of which shall be for HPI.

During the year the committee will keep in communication with the current project coordinators and be prepared to update the Granges in the state.

This year we will begin an essay contest for both Juniors and Adults. The topics for each year are listed below. Cash prizes will be awarded in each category.

2006-2007:

Adults: The question for the essay contest is: **“What do you feel is being accomplished internationally through HPI?”** The prescribed page limits are no more than three 8 1-2” by 11” pages, double spaced

Juniors: The question for the essay contest is: **“What is your favorite HPI Ark animal and why?”** The page limits for Juniors are the same as for adults.

2007-2008:

Adults: The question for the essay contest is: **“How HPI improves the value of human life.”** The prescribed page limits are no more than three 8 1-2” by 11” pages, double spaced.

Juniors: The question for the essay contest is”

“What are the responsibilities of owning an animal?” The page limits for Juniors are the same as for adults.

RECOGNITION AWARDS

Recognition of Service Excellence (R.O.S.E)

Award

This award will be given to an individual for Outstanding service to the Grange. The purpose of the award is to recognize a Granger who has made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the Grange in Massachusetts through their hard work and dedicated service. The recipient will be chosen by the Massachusetts State Grange Executive Committee. This award will be presented at the State Grange Session.

Master's Award of Excellence

This award will be presented to members for outstanding service to their Grange and their community. Names are to be sent to the State Master, Calvin C. Chase, Jr., 491 Hollis Street, Dunstable, MA 01827. A certificate will be issued to the recipient. This award is available to any Subordinate or Pomona member.

Communications Award

The Communications Award will be presented to Subordinate and Pomona Granges at the 2007 State Grange Session. Granges will be judged on the relevance of their Communications Plan, the quantity and quality of the items listed in #2 (below), and the overall creativity of presentation. Judging will be performed by the MA State Grange Information Committee and outside media professionals.

The Communications Award will be given to the Grange that best meets the following criteria:

1. The Grange shows how they followed their Communications Plan by including the following:
 - press releases
 - articles/news clips
 - pictures of storefronts/bulletin boards
 - photos of public events
 - community service project information that generated publicity
 - publicity that was intended to generate new membership
 - Grange newsletter or other means of

updating their membership on events/changes/etc.

- 2. Special consideration will be given to Granges that develop a website to communicate with members and the general public.

The Grange Information Committee reserves the right to present more than one award or no award depending on the entries received.

Deadline for entries is September 1st of the contest year. Please submit entries to the Grange Information Committee.

COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE

State contests are open to members and non-members. All contests will be judged in four age groups. Age will be determined as of January 1st of the current year.

Groups

- Group A Ages – 4– 9 (Juniors)
- Group B Ages – 10– 13 (Juniors)
- Group C Ages – 14– 19 (Youth)
- Group D Ages 20 and over

Be sure you have specified the current group. A label must be securely attached to each entry, and must contain the following:

Group _____ (date of birth required for A, B, and C)
Name _____
Address _____
Grange Name and Number: _____

Judging will be September and locations will be announced later and the judge’s decision will be final!

Bake Off

The Bake off place and time of judging to be announced.

Items to Be Judged for 2007:

- 1. Coffee Cake
- 2. Fruit Cobbler (your choice)
- 3. (7) Squares (your choice)

Special Recipe

Use the following recipe and you can add to it.

BASIC RECIPE FOR CHILI

- One pound Ground Beef
- One small or medium onion (chopped; should be at least one cup)
- One 1 lb. can tomatoes (diced or if whole broken up)
- One 1 lb. can pinto beans or some people prefer kidney beans
- One teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- One teaspoon garlic powder
- One teaspoon chili powder

Brown ground beef; after about three quarters of the browning action, chop and add onions. When the onion is transparent, add tomatoes, beans, and spices. Simmer for 30-45 minutes to meld all the flavors.

Juniors

- 1. (7) Decorated Cookies

2007 Needlework Contest

First prize winners will go on to the Big E for Regional Judging.

- 1. 3 Piece Baby Set (Sweater and hat plus either booties or blanket)
- 2. Plastic Canvas
- 3. Afghan, knitted, crocheted, woven, etc.
- 4. Doilies, center pieces, luncheon cloth knit or crocheted
- 5. Embroidery, and embroidery article (not frame)
- 6. Counted Cross Stitch
- 7. Adult Garment – knitted or crocheted
- 8. Latch Hook (any item)
- 9. Hat, Scarf, Mitten Set (adult)
- 10. Bookend

Juniors

- 2. Christmas Ornament
- 2. Christmas Ornament (for National Grange Christmas Tree)

Bake Off

The Bake off place and time of judging to be announced.

Items to Be Judged for 2008:

1. Quick Bread (no package mix)
2. (7) Drop Cookies (your choice)
3. Fruit Pie (two crust)

Special Recipe

Use the following recipe and you can add to it.

BASIC RECIPE FOR BREAD PUDDING

- 8 Slices bread
- 4 Apples
- ½ Cup raisins
- 1 1/3 Cup milk
- 5 Eggs
- ¾ Cup brown sugar
- ¼ Cup or ½ stick butter, melted
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon salt

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Lightly grease 11 ¾ by 7 ½ inch baking dish. Toast bread slices lightly and cut into quarters. Arrange in single layer of bread pieces in bottom of dish.
2. Core and slice one apple and reserve. Core and dice remaining apples. Spread diced apples evenly over bread in dish. Sprinkle raisins on top. Place reserved apples between rows of bread.
3. In a large bowl, combine milk, eggs, ½ cup of brown sugar, butter, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. Beat until well combined. Pour over bread and fruit; sprinkle top with remaining brown sugar. Set dish in pan of water and bake for 40-45 minutes or until firm.

Juniors

1. (7) Decorated Cupcakes

2008 Needlework Contest

First prize winners will go on to the Big E for Regional Judging.

1. 3 Piece Baby Set (Sweater and hat plus either booties or blanket)
2. Plastic Canvas
3. Afghan, knitted, crocheted, woven, etc.
4. Doilies, center pieces, luncheon cloth knit or crocheted
5. Embroidery, and embroidery article (not frame)
6. Counted Cross Stitch
7. Adult Garment – knitted or crocheted
8. Latch Hook (any item)
9. Knitted or crotched Child's Poncho

10. Welcome sign (Size 13 ½ x 16 ½)

Juniors

Dream catchers (size 2 x 6 ½)

Community Service Project

Through community service, a Grange becomes a relevant, caring and involved part of its community. Community Service is an important part of our Vision for the Grange. Grange members, working together to meet a community need, make their community a better place to work and live, while strengthening the Grange itself. Every Grange has projects that they carry out to benefit their community. The Goal for 2005-2006 is for each Grange to review the needs of its community and to select one or more projects that will help meet the identified needs.

All Granges are asked to report projects they have undertaken and success they have achieved. Report forms and details will be mailed to each Grange with September 15th as the deadline to return the completed reports. The First Prize will be \$100; Second Prize will be \$75; Third Prize will be \$50; and Fourth Prize will be \$25. The prize money is made available by the National Grange.

- Reports should include, but are not restricted to, the following details:
- Report includes information for one year (October through September)
- How and why was the project(s) selected?
- What was the project(s) and the success achieved?
- How did the Community benefit from the project(s)?
- How many of the Grange members participated in the project(s)?
- Volunteer hours by Grange members.
- How did other organizations or non-Grangers work on your project(s)?
- How did your Grange gain visibility through this project (publicity)?
- Sum of donations made to the community

2007-2008 Health Project

Lap robes are still in demand by V.A. hospitals and long term-facilities and should be made from lightweight materials and no smaller than 39" X 48". Also, unfilled Ditty Bags and Wheelchair totes are needed. We have patterns and materials if

requested. Premie Hats, Booties and small blankets were gratefully received statewide and will be continued. We will continue to collect soda can tabs. We will continue to donate to the Kelly Farm and the Albert J. Thomas Library Museum. In order for us to help, it is important that we know what is going on in each. A report form will be given out at the regional meetings.

DEAF AND HEARING AWARENESS

HEARING AID ASSISTANCE

(formerly Diagnostic Assistance):

Many Grange members do not have insurance or any other means to help defray the cost of a hearing aid. This program assists those Grange members, including Juniors, who have purchased a hearing aid within the past year.

Rules:

- 1) Only Patrons in good standing on the date of application will be eligible for reimbursement of up to \$200 per hearing aid per year
- 2) Copy of the bill and a personal letter in which the applicant (or legal guardian) sets forth his/her own request for the award to be sent to the State Deaf and Hearing Awareness Director by June 30th. (Please include your Grange name and number)
- 3) Reimbursement checks are given only once per year in September

Donations:

Requests for donations will be received from the State Director in May. All checks must be made payable to the **Massachusetts State Grange**. Send checks to the State Secretary by July 31st and earmark (memo) one or more of the following funds:

- 1) **State Grange Health Project: Beverly School for the Deaf, Parent-Infant/Toddler Program.** This is a family centered program that provides educational services to families with deaf and hard of hearing children from infancy to three years of age. Services are also offered to deaf children with special needs, cochlear implants, and to hearing children with special communication needs who may benefit from a combined auditory/visual presentation of language.
- 2) **The Hearing Aid Fund:** Helps Grange members who have purchased a hearing aid within the past year (refer to Diagnostic Assistance). The amount actually reimbursed depends upon how

much is donated by Granges to the fund for the year, and how many Grange members apply for reimbursement.

State Projects:

Most of these project ideas would be considered Community Service Projects.

1. Contact local schools for the Deaf. Inquire how your Grange could assist the school either as volunteers, contributing materials or holding special fundraisers for needed equipment
2. Donate the Manual Alphabet Poster and Manual Alphabet Cards to Fire Stations, Police Stations, and Emergency Rooms
3. Daycare Project: donate age appropriate sign language books and "Do You See the Signs" poster to your local daycare center
4. Library/School Project: donate any of the following Deaf Material to your local library or public/private school's library:
 - Purchase and donate books on Deafness, Deaf Culture, Hearing Loss and Sign Language (contact Deaf and Hearing Awareness Director for list)
 - Pledge of Allegiance Poster
 - "Lift Up Your Hands" Songbook (available for \$5 through Deaf and Hearing Awareness Director)
 - Sign Language Bookmarks (free)

State Sign-A-Song Contest:

The Sign-A-Song Contest promotes the use of non-verbal skills of communication. This contest will be held during the May meeting in conjunction with the Public Speaking Contest. Please note there are new categories and rules.

- A. Novice – one who is beginning to learn sign language, has had no more than three sign language classes and has entered the Sign-A-Song Contest no more than two years
- B. Hobbyist – one who signs on an occasional basis and strictly for fun. One who has entered the Sign-A-Song Contest more than two years.
- C. Group – two or more people signing and may include up to two Junior Grange members

Rules:

1. Open to any Subordinate Grange member, who has been a member for at least one year (There is a separate contest for Juniors)
2. The Participants must provide three copies of

the words to their song two weeks prior to the contest

3. Participants must furnish their own music. A cassette and a CD player will be available
4. Anyone who is a professional instructor, or receives money for signing, may not enter
5. Signers use total communication techniques: Sign language, facial expressions, mouthing words for lip reading, finger spelling if appropriate, body movement
6. Props and costumes are not allowed
7. Only one song may be signed during the competition performance. Medleys are not allowed
8. Participants must sign their own name and song title
9. Participants must inform the audience and judges what type of sign language they will be using
10. State winners must agree to represent the state at the Regional Youth Conference

AWARDS: State winners receive ribbons

Pre-Register: Those members wishing to participate must let the State Deaf and Hearing Awareness Director or State Youth Directors know of their intention at least two weeks prior to the Contest.

Collecting:

- Campbell UPC Bar Codes, cereal “Box Tops for Education” for Clarke School for the Deaf, Northampton, MA
- Hearing Aids – used and “unwanted”, but can be refurbished for The Learning Center for Deaf Children, Framingham, MA

Junior Grange Deaf Activities

Contact local Schools for the Deaf

Inquire how your Junior Grange could assist the school either as volunteers or holding a special fundraiser for needed equipment. This would be a great Community Service Project for your Junior Grange.

State Junior Sign-A-Song Contest

Open to Junior Grange Members ages 5-14

Categories: Individual and Group (2-5 individuals)

Contestants ages 5-9 may use simple songs appropriate for age.

Held in conjunction with State Sign-A-Song Contest (Refer to “State Sign-A-Song Contest” under Deaf and Hearing Awareness).

Essay Contest:

Write a 200 word essay on the topic of “What Should I do To Protect My Hearing.” Include a picture for the overall theme on standard letter sized paper.

Age groups: 5-7; 8-11; 12 – 14 years old (as of September 1st of the contest year.

Cash prizes for each age group are as follows: 1st Place - \$25, 2nd Place - \$15, 3rd Place - \$10

Entries will be judged on their content and neatness. Deadline to enter: September 1st

500 Club:

Collect 500 pennies and donate them to our State Health Project, Beverly School for the Deaf Infant/Toddler Program. Send donations to the State Secretary made payable to the Massachusetts State Grange. In appreciation, a “500 Club Certificate” and a Manual Alphabet poster or Pledge of Allegiance poster will be sent for each contribution.

Collecting:

Campbell UPC Bar Codes, cereal “Box Tops for Education” for Clarke School for the Deaf, Northampton, MA

EDUCATIONAL AID FUND

The Loans and Scholarships available to Massachusetts Subordinate Grange members are made possible by donations made to the Educational Aid Fund by Junior, Subordinate and Pomona Granges, or by individual Grange members. The donations received are added to the Fund and later loaned to qualifying student Patrons. The interest paid on the loans, along with interest earned on the other investments of the Fund, is used to grant Scholarships. Loans and Scholarships are made to Patrons in good standing in their Subordinate Granges who are enrolled as students at a school or college which requires high school graduation.

Loans of up to \$500 per academic year are available to a total of four loans for full-time enrollment in one, two, three or four year courses, as well as for graduate study. The cumulative loan may be carried forward to the current year with \$2,000 the maximum that may be borrowed from the Fund. Loans of up to one-half the tuition cost

with maximum loan per course of \$200 and maximum per year of \$400 are available for single courses. Loan applications are accepted at any time during the year and are processed as they are received.

Each year the Board of Trustees votes an amount from the available income earnings of the Educational Aid Fund to be used for the awarding of Scholarships to students enrolled in full-time study. The amount voted is divided between First-time and Subsequent Scholarship applicants. The minimum amount of Scholarship awards will be \$400 and the maximum amount will be \$1,000. Should the amount of scholarships awarded exceed the available income earnings, the difference will come out of the Fund itself. Any Patrons who have been awarded a First Scholarship may apply for a Subsequent Scholarship for a two-year college program and up to three Subsequent Scholarships for a four-year program, provided that the other requirements of full-time study and continued Grange membership are met. Four Grange Activity Scholarship Bonus Awards are also available. Students apply for these awards by completing the Grange Activity Scholarship Bonus Award Application. Completed Scholarship applications must be submitted by July 1st in order to be considered for a scholarship award for the academic year beginning in September of the same year. Scholarships are also available for students enrolled in part-time College programs. A special application form is available for these awards. The deadline for these applications is September 1st

All donations to the Educational Aid Fund, as well as completed Loan and Scholarship Applications, should be sent directly to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Educational Aid Fund, Janet Horne, 701 Prentice Street, Holliston, MA 01746. Applications for Scholarships and Loans and a detailed descriptive booklet about the Fund are available from Grange Secretaries, or may be obtained from any member of the Board of Trustees of the Educational Aid Fund.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gordon E. Taylor, Chairman
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Susan Rotellini, State Lecturer

GRANGE INFORMATION

Massachusetts State Grange News

The Massachusetts State Grange News is the official publication of the Massachusetts State Grange, and is published eleven times a year.

Deadline For News

News articles are due by the **FIRST** of each month. Events for publishing will run from the first to the end of the month of the following month, and are due the first of each month i.e., for November Issue the events will run from December 1st to December 31st due to the Editor by October 1st.

News can be mailed to the Executive Editor, Deborah K. Goodrich, 2 Duffy Road, Boylston, MA 01505, or by fax 508-869-3143 or e-mail to: stategrangenews@massgrange.org E-mailed documents can be accepted by either Microsoft Word or Corel Word Perfect without any special formatting. Pictures should be saved in a JPEG (.jpg) file format for publication purposes. These items should be attached to an e-mail with **"Grange Article"** or similar wording as the subject.

Editorial Control

The Editor shall have editorial control over all aspects of the "News." The Editor may delegate responsibility for content as appropriate, but reserve the right to modify articles as the Editor sees fit. Due to page and date restrictions some articles submitted may not be able to be included or may be included several months after submission.

Subscriptions

The Massachusetts State Grange provides a subscription to each Grange Family free of charge. The secretary of each Grange is to supply a current list of families with up-to-date addresses annually to the Business Editor, Brad Goodrich, 2 Duffy Road, Boylston, MA 01505. Address and name changes are to be submitted to the Business Editor monthly.

Website / Electronic Communication

The MSG website is a communications tool for the Grange. It serves four distinct audiences:

- current Grange members
- non-members

- Granges on all levels throughout the state
- MSG officers and committees

The Grange Information Committee is a vehicle to facilitate communication. Information can only be made available via the website if you provide it to us. The Committee cannot be the ones responsible for generating all information. It is very imperative that Grange members participate in submission of noteworthy articles and news to both the “News” and the Website.

Information can be faxed to (508) 869-3143 or mailed to Massachusetts State Grange Webmaster, c/o Brad Goodrich, 2 Duffy Road, Boylston, MA 01505.

Granges who have questions about setting up their own websites can also contact the webmaster at the above address.

Website Links

The State Grange Website will have links to various other sites. These links may include websites of other Granges on the Subordinate, Pomona, State or National level; entities which the Grange has established a relationship, such as benefit providers, allied organizations; and established organizations traditionally recognized as promoting similar goals. Should you wish to have a link on the website, please email the Webmaster. The Webmaster and other members of the Grange Information Committee do not have any control over the content of those linked websites. The Webmaster will continually review these linked sites for content and if deemed inappropriate will remove them from the website.

Guidelines for Submitting Items to State Grange News and Website by Computer

Items may be sent by e-mail for inclusion in the State Grange News and on the Grange website. Articles should be typed using Microsoft Word without any special formatting. Pictures should be saved in a JPEG (.jpg) file format. These items should be attached to an e-mail with “Grange Article” or similar wording as the subject.

State Grange News items should be emailed to stategrangenews@massgrange.org

State Grange website items should be emailed to webmaster@massgrange.org

Ownership of Information and Acceptable Use

All information posted and /or published by the MSG in any form, whether in print or electronically, shall remain the property of the MSG. This shall include any website based or email communications generated by MSG officers and committees on its behalf. Any use of such information, including any list of e-mail addresses, for purposes other than the official business of the MSG, its committees, and Pomona and Subordinate Granges is prohibited.

JUNIOR GRANGE ACTIVITIES

The Junior Grange Projects are open to any Junior Grange member. Plan to do projects at your meetings or individually. Each project must be labeled with the child’s name, age, Junior Grange and name of project. Junior Grange projects are due by the end of August of the current year and make sure that the projects for the current year are entered as this is a two-year program book. Remember that the other departments also have crafts or projects that can be done. Age groups for judging 5-7, 8-10 and 11-14. It is important that each project be labeled with a separate label.

2006-2007 Junior Projects

Eggheads:

Use a small nail to make a hole about the size of a quarter in one end of a raw egg (be gentle or egg will crack). Drain and rinse out the shell. Use permanent markers to draw on a funny face. Spoon soil in the shell and plant with grass seed. Moisten and cover with plastic wrap, then set in a sunny spot to sprout (generally less than a week). Remove the cover and water daily and the egghead’s hair will grow long and thick. Trim or shape the grass however you want to go with the face you put on it.

Airplane:

Make an airplane that really flies out of paper. Paint or decorate any way you want. No larger than 12” x 12”.

Angel:

Make an angel out of any material medium to larger than 12” high. It may stand or be hung on the wall. Be creative.

Community Service Project: Welcome Sign

Make a welcome sign for the door or wall. These signs should be no larger than 11” x 14” and can

have any shape (oval, square or rectangle). These will be given to a nursing home, elderly housing or other community program.

Recycled Project: Lapel Pin or Broach

Use any material that you find. This can be buttons, shells, lace, bottle top, or a combination of any thing. Use your imagination. Remember this is something that you would wear so size is appropriate.

Big “E” Project: Decorated Picture Frame

Any picture frame can be used; store bought, home made or mats. No Glass is to be used with frame but picture should be included. It can be decorated with foam, shells, beads, glitter, puzzle pieces, etc.

2007-2008 Junior Projects

Salt Dough Ornaments:

This ornament can be for any holiday. Recipe for the dough is: 2 cups plain flour, $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 cup water, 1 cup salt. Mix flour, salt and water. Roll out to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick. Cut out ornament or form into a shape. While dough is still wet make a hole in the top for hanging. To dry bake at 200 degrees for 2 hours turning 1 hour or layout to air dry for 2 to 3 weeks turning ornament daily. When dry paint or decorate any way you want.

Three “D” Animal:

Make out of any material (Clay, paper, wood, etc.). Paint or decorate as needed. No larger than 6 inches.

Wind chime:

Make a wind chime out of any item no larger than 5” diameter and 12” long. Be creative and use any items that makes a noise.

Community Service Project: Helping Our Community

Choose some type of project that your Junior Grange can do within your community. You may involve other organizations or maybe your Subordinate or Pomona Grange. Take pictures and make a folder telling why you chose the project, how you planned to complete it, each Junior’s name and other people or groups involved. (Junior Granges will be awarded at 1st, 2nd or 3rd place and each Junior that participates will be recognized).

Recycle Project: Pinecone Craft: Paper Towel or Toilet Tube:

Make any type of item from these tubes. You can

use more than one tube but project should not be bigger than 12”. Decorate with any medium to make a person, totem pole, rain stick, etc.

National Grange Junior Grange Department has projects that your Grange can do; also, don’t forget the Merit Badge Program. Check the National Grange website for details. All Leaders will also receive this information.

Junior Grange Representative

We would like to have those Junior members who would like to represent their Junior Grange submit an application which will be mailed to the Junior Grange Leaders. This application is due the end of September of 2007 and 2008. One from each Junior Grange that enters will be chosen.

Junior Grange Ambassador

From the above an Ambassador will be chosen to represent all of the Massachusetts Juniors.

New Members

Each Junior Grange that takes in new members during the year will receive a certificate for the current year. Members must be brought in between July 2006 – June 2007 and July 2007 – June 2008.

Massachusetts Junior Grange Community Service Award

The Community Service Award is to be presented by a Junior, Subordinate or Pomona Granges to children who do not belong to the Junior Grange but have done some type of outstanding Community Service. There is no charge for these awards and can be obtained from the Junior Grange Director at any time.

Massachusetts State Junior Grange #84

We are always looking for members to join the State Junior Grange. This is open to children 5-14 years of age who do not live in the area of one of our other Junior Granges and would like to become a member. These members are given projects to do as well as being able to do any of the other projects in the program books. They are encouraged to attend Subordinate meetings with their parents, grandparents or friend and help with projects or events. They are also encouraged to attend State Grange Session and activities that Grange committees have. Contact the Junior

Director or committee member for information.

Any Grange that is interested in sponsoring a Junior Grange in your area contact the Junior Director.

LECTURER'S PROGRAM

It is important that you read over this Program Handbook carefully as many topics, and projects have changed. There is also information concerning a new two-year project under the direction of the Subordinate/Community Lecturer Included.

Please note that due dates for quarterly Lecturer's Reports have changed. Returning Subordinate/Community Lecturers will notice that I have tried to streamline your quarterly report form. **The date for all Lecturer's Final Reports and all Lecturer's contest entries must be postmarked by September 30, 2007 for 2006-2007 (and September 30, 2008 for 2007 – 2008) to be considered for judging.**

The ongoing programs of the National Grange are as follows:

1. **Community Service** – The Community Action Committee will present further information on this program. New Sound and Hearing Packets for schools are being prepared for all ages.
2. **Oliver H. Kelley Farm** – This year's project is to raise money to change the displays in the interpretive center to better reflect the times and contribution that Kelley made to the Grange and to agriculture as well as the ongoing contributions to the farm itself.
3. **The National Foster Parent Program** – The National Grange continues to support and encourage State and local Granges to continue their involvement with this organization.
4. **Grange Family Health Issues** – The National Grange suggests that Granges become involved with the health issues and needs of all of our members as well as our Deaf and Hearing Awareness.

In addition to the above four programs, National Programs include:

The Dictionary Project – The Dictionary Project is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization designed to raise money to provide a dictionary for each third grade student. This will aid third grade teachers in their goal to see all their students become good writers,

active readers, and creative thinkers.

Identity Theft – In our society we need to be more aware of the means to prevent this type of activity.

Rural Meth Labs – With the intrusion of meth labs into smaller cities and towns as well as farm areas, we need to become aware of what is going on and how to prevent disasters from happening within our communities.

State Programs for 2006-2007 and 2007-2008"

The following **Grange Concerns** programs are designed to impact not only the individual, or the family unit, but the community as a whole. It is part of the duties of a Grange Lecturer to bring important issues before the membership and to help educate both the membership and community.

Because many Granges are meeting only once a month, I would like to see each lecturer present programs on **at least two** (2) of the following programs which have an impact within your community over the course of the Grange year.

- A. **Foster Care/Abuse**
 - B. **Farm/Home Safety and Environmental Concerns**
 - C. **Local Government Issues**
 - D. **Health Care Issues: Obesity and Deaf and Hearing Awareness**
 - E. **Rediscovering America**
- A. **Foster Care/Abuse** – Coordinate this program with your Family and Community Action Committee.
- B. **Farm/Home Safety and Environmental Concerns** – This topic can be coordinated with your Agriculture and Environment Committee.
- C. **Local Government Issues** – Coordinate this program with our Legislative Chairman or Committee.
- D. **Health Care Issues: Obesity and Deaf and Hearing Awareness** – Coordinate this program with the Deaf and Hearing Awareness Committee and your local Board of Health.
- E. **Rediscovering America** – Over the course of the next two years, I hope that many of you will make use of this program. I have received much positive feedback from Lecturers concerning this program over the past years.

Further information concerning each of these will be made available to Lecturers through my quarterly Lecturer's Bulletins throughout the year.

New Two-Year State Project:

This project will be to create an **Alphabet Book** for your Town/City. I hope that each Subordinate/Community Grange will take part in this new two-year project which will be under the direction of the Subordinate/Community Lecturer.

Each Alphabet Book should be a scrapbook containing photographs and/or pictures of different places within your community which are of interest, color, beauty, and/or historic significance to your community at large.

Each page (26 of them) should be dedicated to just one letter of the alphabet, starting with "A" of course. A page may have from one to three photos/pictures on it. Each photo/picture should be accompanied by an explanation, description, or other form of clarification as to why it has been chosen to be included with this letter.

That does not mean that if your town does not have an interesting place which begins with "A" that it can not be included on that page. The word "Amazing" might be used with a picture that illustrates this adjective. More information will be forthcoming from the State Lecturer to Subordinate/Community Lecturers.

Obviously, this project will take time and effort, as well as collaboration among members. You might want to create a committee to work on it, to select places which illustrate each letter, use photographs which cover different seasons, create the written copy which accompanies each photo/picture and letter, and to collate the finished book.

Since this Alphabet Book is designed to be given by your Grange to your town/city library, it is expected that its quality will attest to the amount of time and dedication those who worked on this project have put into it.

A commemorative cover page will be made available to Granges who complete this project. This cover page will include the name of the Grange which created the book, those members who worked on it, the date of the presentation to your library and it will be signed by the State Master and State Lecturer as well as your Subordinate/Community Master and Lecturer.

Although some Granges may complete this project by October, 2007, I do not expect the book to be completed until October, 2008. Each Grange which completes this project will receive a cash award.

Booster/membership night

The purpose of the Booster/Membership Night is to provide a day or nighttime meeting and/or activity to promote the Grange, getting your name out into your community, and hopefully encourage new members to join the Grange as well as reach out to former or non-active members. This may be done on a Grange night at a regular meeting, a special meeting, an open meeting, or at another time other than your regular meeting.

Some activities which could be included in this "meeting" are an awards presentation, a special entertainment or speaker, a picnic, supper, or other type of activity of your choosing.

Whatever your committee plans, make sure to advertise the event (posters, newspaper blurbs or ads, use local TV, invitations, etc.) prepare your hall or meeting place, decorate it appropriately, prepare refreshments, set up displays about the Grange and its work in your community, and greet everyone at the door.

Grange month – April is set aside to celebrate the Grange and what it does every day for the community. The Grange is the oldest agricultural organization in the United States and as such has much to be proud of. Since many Granges have now gone to one meeting per month, and many do not have meetings in one particular week, rather than set aside one week to celebrate, feel free to celebrate Grange during any week in April.

This would be a good time to award certificates for community service, years of membership, have displays in your local library showcasing what you have contributed to your community, hold open meetings with local officials, or nearly any of the activities you could plan to bring your community into your Grange. Be creative, be friendly, be proud to be a Grange member, and do advertise the events in your community.

Community citizen award/award for public Service

- The Community Citizen Award, although now presented at a State level, is to be presented by a Subordinate Grange to a non-member, individual or group in your community for their outstanding achievements in your community.

The Award for Public Service is to be presented by a Pomona Grange to either a member or non-member, individual or group, for his/her/their outstanding achievements within your community.

Each of these awards is available from: DoriAnn Gedris, National Grange Headquarters, 1616 H Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006-4999. Please allow 3-4 weeks delivery from time order is placed.

Contests

1. Regional Talent Contest – There will be a New England Grange Regional Talent Contest. This will be held at the New England Grange Lecturer' Conference in August as part of the program on New England Night.

The act representing each state will be the "Best of Show" winner from each state's Talent Contest. Besides ribbons, the First place award will be \$100, Second place = \$75.00, and Third place = \$50. Each of the remaining three runners-up will receive \$25, as well as their ribbons. The host state for the NEGL Conference will supply the judges for the Regional Contest. Since each state will be sending only one act, there will not be any separate categories at the regional level.

Rules:

- a. All performers being judged must be Grange members. Groups performing may include Junior Grangers and/or children too young to hold Junior Grange membership, however at least half of the performers in the group must be Subordinate members.
- b. Participants need not be members of the same Grange.
- c. Taped accompaniment for vocal acts must be instrumental only. No additional voices in the background. No taped accompaniment for instrumental acts.
- d. When the accompanist is only the accompanist and not a performer in his/her own right, it is no longer required that the accompanist be a Grange member.

- e. No sign language will be permitted in this contest.
- f. There is no minimum time limit. Maximum time is six minutes. Two points per minute or portion thereof will be deducted from the total points for all performances going overtime.
- g. The "Best of Show" entry from each State Grange will be eligible to compete in the New England Grange Regional Talent Contest held on New England Night at the New England Lecturers' Conference. State "Best of Show" is to be the overall outstanding act selected by the judges.
- h. Only persons who performed in the state judging and were designated as "Best of Show" act may represent the State Grange in the Regional Talent Contest.
- i. The act judge at the State level must be the one performed at the New England Grange Regional Talent Contest.

Scorecard:

The following scorecard will be used at the New England Grange Regional Talent Contest. It will also be used in the State Talent Contest.

State Presence	15 points
Appropriateness of Dress or Costume	5 points
Preparation and Skill of Presentation	60 points
Suitability of Number	15 points
Audience Appeal	5 points

Total Points 100 points

2. State Talent Contest – There will be three classes in the State Talent Contest: Vocal, Instrumental, and Variety Acts. All participants must be Grange members as outlined in the rules for the Regional Talent Contest listed above. There is no restriction on the number of persons taking part. The act should be at least four minutes long, but no longer than 6 minutes. Cash prizes and ribbons will be awarded. The act deemed the "Best of Show" will represent Massachusetts in the Regional Contest. **You must notify the State Lecturer by March 1st that you are considering entering the talent contest and in which category.** The judging for the State Contest will be the same as for the Regional competition.

3. Junior Grange Talent Contest – There will also be a Talent Contest for Junior Grange members. There will be two age groups: up to age 9 and those age 10 and over. Rules are the same as for the State Talent Contest except the minimum time for the act will be two minutes. A Subordinate Grange member may serve as accompanist to a vocal act. Cash prizes and ribbons will be awarded.

4. Photography Contest – There are three-color categories in this year’s Photography Contest. They are a) People, b) Places, and c) Animals. The criteria for judging the photographs are: a) Composition and arrangement, b) Interest, c) Presentation and d) Technique. Prizes for first, second, and third place winners in each category, including Junior Grangers will be cash and ribbons. **Rules:**

- a. Only prints are accepted for judging
- b. Photographer must select the category for his/her entry
- c. A photograph may be entered in only one category
- d. All photographs are to be given a caption by the person who took the picture caption should be entered on the entry form
- e. Participants may enter all categories using different photographs
- f. Participants, however, may only enter one photo per category
- g. Entries must have been taken after September 1st
- h. Print may be made by a commercial process but must have been taken by the entrant personally
- i. Frame or backing is required for all photographs
- j. Size of entry, including frame or backing, must not be smaller than 5” x 5” or larger than 16” x 20”
- k. **No labels, titles, or captions** should be on the front of each entry
- l. A copy of the entry form below must be on back of each entry

There is also a contest for Junior Grange members. The rules are the same as listed above. **However, all Junior Grange members, regardless of age, will be judged in one division.**

Please include the following information on all

photography entries:

Name: _____

Complete Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Grange Name and Number: _____

Category: Photographer must select category that applies:

_____ People _____ Places _____ Animals

Caption for Photo: _____

Division _____ Adult _____ Junior

5. Art Contest – The Art Contest will remain the same as last year. There will be four categories: a) Oils and Acrylics; b) Watercolors; c) Charcoal or Pencil Drawing, d) Pastels. The criteria for judging the art entries are: a) How well the artist used the medium selected; b) Craftsmanship and skill; c) Composition, presentation of subject; d) Originality; and e) Theme and its treatment.

Prizes for first, second, and third place winners in each category, including Junior Grangers will be cash and ribbons. As with Photography Contest, there will only be one division of Junior Grangers.

Rules:

- a. All entries must be the original work of the member
- b. All entries must be completed by September 1st
- c. Entries are judged according to the medium used
- d. Charcoal and pencil entries must have been treated for permanency to stop smudging
- e. Nude entries will not be accepted
- f. Size for all classes: Artwork must not exceed 24” x 36” including the frame. There is not minimum size, miniatures will be accepted in all categories
- g. All entries must be framed or have a firm backing so that they can be displayed properly
- h. Computer enhancement of artwork and/or art generated by using computer printers is not permitted
- i. Sculpture will not be accepted
- j. A copy of the entry form below **must be on the back of each entry**

Please include the following information on all art entries:

Name: _____
Complete Address: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Grange Name and Number: _____

Category: Artist must select the category that applies:

_____ Oils and Acrylics _____ Charcoal or Pencil _____ Watercolors

Division: _____ Adult _____ Junior

6. With Pen in Hand – There are three categories under this heading. Each one is unique and creative.

2006-2007

- a. **Poetry** – Entries may be any poem on the subject of **CHILDREN** which is between a **minimum of 14 to a maximum of 30 lines** in length
- b. **Essay** – The topic for this year is: **“Treasures Money Cannot Buy”**. The prescribed page limits are no more than three 8 ½” X 11” pages, double spaced.
- c. **Book Recommendation** – You must read one of the following books (or all of them) and then explain: **Why would I recommend this book to someone else?** In two or three 8 ½” X 11” pages, doubled spaced, tell why this book entertained you, why it was worthwhile reading, or why you feel someone else would enjoy reading the book.

The books for 2006-2007 are:

Flags of Our Fathers by James Bradley with Ron Powers

This #1 *New York Times* Bestseller soon to be a major motion picture relates the true story of the six men who raised the flag at Iwo Jima, from their enlistment, their training, and their subsequent struggles.

True Believer by Nicholas Sparks

This is also a #1 *New York Times* Bestseller. A Scientific journalist, a born skeptic, travels to a small town determined to discover the truth behind ghostly apparitions. What he didn't plan on was the granddaughter of the town psychic.

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

This timeless classic of childhood in a sleepy southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it became an instant bestseller when it was published. It went on to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 for Ms. Lee who turned 80 this year.

Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West by Gregory Maguire

This adult fable examines some of literature's major themes combining both humor and pessimism in a meditation on good and evil, the bittersweet dividends of power, and the high cost of love. This book is the basis for the acclaimed Broadway hit musical **Wicked**.

The Novels for Junior Grange members are:

Under age 9 –

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

This Newberry Honor book relates the story of a disarmingly engaging young girl in the company of a tender canine who transforms the lives of all they meet.

Age 10 and Over –

The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke

This *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year is the first novel in a series of the magical underworld of Venice, Italy with hidden canals and crumbling rooftops which shelter runaways and children with incredible secrets.

2007-2008

- a. **Poetry** – Entries may be any poem on the subject of **Wisdom** which is between a **minimum of 14 to a maximum of 30 lines** in length
- b. **Essay** – The topic for this year is: **“Mistakes Can Be Worthwhile”**. The prescribed page limits are no more than three 8 ½” X 11” pages, double spaced.
- c. **Book Recommendation** – You must read one of the following books (or all of them) and then explain: **Why would I recommend this book to someone else?** In two or three 8 ½” X 11” pages, doubled spaced, tell why this book entertained you, why it was worthwhile reading, or why you feel someone else would enjoy reading the book.

The books for 2007-2008 are:

Revolutionary Mothers: Women in the Struggle for America's Independence by Carol Berkin

This lively book by an American History professor reclaims a vital part of our political legacy. It is compact, informative, and vividly recounts colonial women's struggles for their nation's independence, and sometimes their own.

The Teammates: A Portrait of a Friendship by David Halbestam

A *New York Times* Bestseller, this is an inspiring story of four baseball legends, Dom DiMaggio, Johnny Pesky, Bobby Doerr and Ted Williams. Their extraordinary friendship kept them close to each other for more than sixty years, and this story begins as Dom DiMaggio and Johnny Pesky trek to see their old teammate, Ted Williams, knowing that he is dying.

Zorro by Isabel Allende

A *New York Times* Bestseller, retelling of the stories created by Johnston McCulley in 1919, Zorro is not a magical character like Superman or Spiderman. He is first a human being, who loves life and is willing to take risks to defend the underdog. It embraces adventure, legend, and history.

Burned by Carol Higgins Clark

This *New York Times* Bestseller, and the fourth in the series if Private Investigator Regan Reilly, is a fun novel to read with eccentric characters and surprise endings.

The Novels for Junior Grange members are:

Under age 9 –

Whoopi Goldberg's Picky Book of Manners by Whoopi Goldberg

Due out in October of 2006, this second book by the famed comedian hopes to instruct a new generation of civility. It grew from her observation that many adults lack good manners and she thought, why not write it for kids since parents might read it with their children causing everyone to win.

Age 10 and Over –

The Captive by Kathryn Lasky

This is the first book in the Guardians of Ga'hoole series. Soren a barn owl, is born in the forest to Tyto, a tranquil kingdom where barn owls dwell. However, evil lurks in his world, an evil which

threatens to shatter Tyto's peace and change Soren's life forever.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

The legislative director of the Massachusetts State Grange is charged with the responsibility of coordinating the legislative affairs of the members of the Massachusetts Grange in conjunction with the National Grange at the level of our federal government and the legislative affairs at both the State and local level.

Part of that responsibility is to ascertain the primary concerns of the Massachusetts Grange members and the concerns of our neighbors and fellow residents of our commonwealth and our local communities. Of particular concern are issues that affect the quality of life for rural and suburban families and their communities and to act as a voice or a channel of communications for that voice with the elected and appointed members of our national, state and local governments.

The second part of that responsibility is to maintain a vigilant eye and ear to pending legislation that might be of special concern to grange members, to encourage them to employ the grange meetings as a forum for discussion and debate on these issues and help them formulate resolutions to be submitted to the state and national granges. The programs of the Lecturers in each grange can be very instrumental in achieving this purpose also, so it is highly recommended that a collaborative association between the subordinate Lecturer and the Legislative and Agriculture committee chairmen be fostered.

At the National level the Grange has developed an extensive program that is available to interested Grange members through the legislative committee chairman of your Subordinate or Pomona Grange.

The priority issues and topics of this manual are summed up in the Blue Print for Rural America.

1. Extend prosperity in US Agriculture to family farmers and ranchers.
2. Reform eminent domain authority.
3. Expand rural telecommunications services.
4. Achieve energy security.
5. Improve quality and availability of health care.

Other areas of concern to Grangers and our rural neighbors, besides agricultural issues, are citizenship and public affairs, conservation of natural resources (including energy resources) education & health, labor & judicial,

taxation & transportation.

Copies of the National Grange Legislative Policies and Grassroots Training Manual will be available at the Annual State session or directly from the legislative director by sending an email to legislation@massgrange.org

An electronic copy of this document is also available at the National Grange web site <http://www.nationalgrange.org>

At the present time the legislative director is working in conjunction with the agricultural and community action committees to complete the process of developing a similar legislative handbook specifically focused on the concerns of the Grange and our rural neighbors in Massachusetts. It is anticipated that a legislative handbook for Massachusetts will be available at the 2007 annual session.

In order to help us develop this handbook and be able to continue to edit and update it in the future, all members are encouraged to communicate to the state legislative director, what you consider to be the three most important social and political issues our community faces today and what legislation you think would be appropriate to address those issues.

Visit us at <http://massgrange.org/>

If you have any issues or concerns you are welcome to call me at 508-429-5458.

MEMBERSHIP/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Membership/Leadership Development Team is here to help Granges Grow. We visit when asked and plan a Membership/Leadership Workshop most years in the spring.

Although April is Membership month we would like to remind you that EVERY DAY you have a personal opportunity to grow your Grange. We urge you to seize the moment.

For further information or a visit please contact the Directors of the Membership/Leadership Development Committee.

SECRETARY INFORMATION

Quarterly Reports – All Quarterly reports are due at the close of each quarter (September 30, December 31, March 31 and June 30). The Grange Master or next ranking officer, as well as the Grange Executive Committee or Secretary must sign reports, and the Grange seal must be affixed to the report.

1. **Subordinate Grange Secretary Quarterly Report** – The white copy is sent to the State Secretary and the Subordinate Secretary retains the yellow copy for the Grange records. This report and check made payable to the Massachusetts State Grange must be forwarded to the State Secretary *no later than 5 days following the close of the quarter.*
2. **Subordinate Grange Executive Committee Quarterly Report** – The white copy is sent to the State Master and the Subordinate Secretary retains the yellow copy for the Grange records *no later than 5 days following the close of the quarter.*
3. **Subordinate Grange Secretary Quarterly Pomona Report** – The white copy of the Pomona Quarterly report is sent to the Pomona Secretary and the Subordinate Secretary retains the yellow copy for the Grange records.
4. **Junior Grange Quarterly Report** – The yellow copy is sent to the State Secretary and the Junior Leader retains the white copy for the Grange records. This report and check made payable to the Massachusetts State Grange must be forwarded to the State Secretary *no later than 5 days following the close of the quarter.*

Annual Reports – All Annual reports are due June 30. The Grange Master or next ranking officer, as well as the Grange Executive Committee or Secretary must sign reports, and the Grange seal must be affixed to the report

1. **Pomona Grange Secretary Annual Report** – The green copy is sent to the State Secretary and the Pomona Secretary retains the white copy for the Grange records. This report and check made payable to the Massachusetts State Grange must be forwarded to the State Secretary no later than 5 days following the close of the quarter.
2. **Pomona Grange Executive Committee Annual Report** – The green copy is sent to the State

Master and the Subordinate Secretary retains the white copy for the Grange records.

All quarterly and annual reports are required by Grange Law and Subordinate and Pomona Grange Secretary's, Grange **Masters and Grange Executive Committees have the responsibility to ensure these reports are accurate and that the reports are submitted timely.** These reports help the State and National Grange keep track of membership as well as the reports are a means by which the State and National Grange receives funding.

Applications For Membership Recognition

Subordinate Secretaries should review their membership records at least twice a year and "Applications for Membership Recognition" should be sent to the State Secretary. Grange members deserve recognition for their service to the Grange in a timely manner.

Note: The National Grange will not issue certifications more than 90 days ahead of the anniversary date. The only exception are illness or relocation and requests for early issuance must be made in writing and attached to Form M.

1. Golden Sheaf (50 years), Diamond Certificate (75) years and 80 or 85 year letters

- a. Use gold form (Form M)
- b. Complete all required information, affix the Grange seal, sign and send to the State Secretary. The "**mail membership recognition to**" address is the Subordinate Secretary.
- c. For Golden Sheaf applicants only, a check payable to the National Grange for \$10.00 must accompany each Golden Sheaf application.
- d. The State Secretary will sign, date, and record the information and then forward the application(s) to National Grange. The State Secretary faxes a copy of the application to the State Master.
- e. National Grange sends the Golden Sheaf certificates and/or seals to the Subordinate Secretary.
- f. Subordinate Secretary should allow a minimum of four weeks for processing.
- g. Refer to the above paragraph regarding National Grange policy for issuance.

2. Silver Star Certificates (25 years) and 55 60, 65 or 70 year seals

- a. Use the pink (Form O)
- b. Complete all required information, affix the Grange seal, sign and send to the State Secretary. The State Secretary faxes a copy of the application to the State Master.
- c. Refer to the above paragraph regarding National Grange policy for issuance.
- d. Subordinate Secretary should allow a minimum of four weeks for processing.
- e. Silver Star certificates are processed and sent from the State Secretary to the Subordinate Secretary. Seals are sent from the State Master to the Subordinate Secretary.

3. Non-Consecutive Membership Certificate (25 years) or more

- a. Use the tan form
- b. Complete all required information, affix the Grange seal, sign and send to the State Secretary.
- c. Refer to the above paragraph regarding National Grange policy for issuance.
- d. Subordinate Secretary should allow a minimum of four weeks for processing.
- e. Non-Consecutive Membership certificates are processed and sent from the State Secretary to the Subordinate Secretary.

Jewels - National Grange carries jewels for 25, 50 and 60 years of membership. Write to the National Grange, 1616 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006-4999 for a price list.

Veteran's Jewel (50 years)

- a. Use blue form
- b. Complete all required information, affix the Grange seal, sign and send to the State Secretary.
- c. Send a check made payable to the Massachusetts State Grange for \$15.00 for each jewel application.
- d. The Veteran's jewel is meant to accompany the Golden Sheaf certificate so send both applications at the same time to the State Secretary.
- e. Subordinate Secretary should allow a minimum of four weeks for processing.

Records (Secretary and Treasurer) – Records of meetings are permanent and must be recorded in a

suitable record book. Treasurer's records are also permanent and must be kept in a suitable book. Secretary and Treasurer books are available from National Grange or any office supply/stationery store. Please note that notepads or spiral-bound notebooks are not permanent. If the records are typed or computer generated, accumulate several years and then bind the pages. Always use permanent black ink.

Communications – Open all letters and envelopes when received and advise the Grange Master or appropriate committee if immediate action is needed between meetings. When request for information or questionnaires are received from the State or National Grange, please complete and return the information immediately, thus enabling the State and National Grange to operate in an efficient manner.

Resolutions – Resolutions are due on or before August 1st. Please use one sheet of paper per resolution and title each resolution. Send the resolution to the State Secretary either as an e-mail attachment or by sending a disk (Word format). Any Secretary, who does not have access to a computer, may still send a paper copy of the resolution to the State Secretary.

Annual Word – The key and cipher for the Annual Word will be sent to each Subordinate Secretary and Junior Leader upon receipt of the December quarterly report and dues, plus any outstanding quarters. Pomona Secretaries will receive both the key and cipher in late December as their annual report and dues are scheduled to be sent in for June 30 of that year.

Annual Membership Card – Annual membership cards may be purchased by Subordinate and/or Pomona Secretaries for their members in good standing. The cards provide proof of membership. The membership cards are available from the State Secretary or the National Grange Sales, 1616 H Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20006-4999. To place an order by phone, call (888) 447-2643 or on the internet www.nationalgrange.org.

Directory – The Massachusetts State Grange Directory is the property of the State Grange, subsequently no one may use the directory for solicitation purposes, financial, or political use without the express permission of the State Grange Executive Committee. Directory updates forms are mailed in June and must be returned by July 15.

The Secretary of the Massachusetts State Grange maintains a mailing list of all members and will annually send a list to each Subordinate Grange. Subordinate Secretaries should update the mailing list and promptly return it to the State Secretary. Address and name changes can be submitted at any time to the State Secretary. Please complete and immediately return all directory/ mailing list updates for your Grange.

Supplies – All Secretary materials are distributed at the State Session in October and are given to your delegate or your deputy if a delegate is not present at session. If you do not receive the packet within a month of the State Session, contact either your delegate or your deputy. Manuals, digests, record books, and other supplies are available from National Grange. Contact the National Grange, 1616 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006-4999 or call (888) 447-2643 or on the internet www.nationalgrange.org for a price list. Some supplies are also available through the State Secretary's office. An order form is included in the packet from State Session.

Checks Payable to Massachusetts State Grange – All checks must be payable to the Massachusetts State Grange and earmarked to where the donation or payment is to be credited. Send all checks to the State Secretary EXCEPT your Grange's donation to the Massachusetts State Grange Educational Aid Fund (EAF). See Education Aid Section of this program for more information.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Public Speaking Contest

This outstanding program helps to build leadership and self-confidence in all those who participate, through the formal presentation of a 4 to 7 minute speech on a topic of their choice.

Rules:

1. Any Grange member is eligible to participate, in the following categories:
 - Category 1: 14-19 years old
 - Category 2: 20-29 years old
 - Category 3: 30+ years old
2. Time limit is 4-7 minutes, on a topic of the speaker's choice. An impromptu question on the speaker's subject will also be asked at the end of the speech.
3. The contestant must provide three copies of an outline of their speech two weeks prior to the

state contest. Copies must be sent to the Youth Directors.

4. State winners must agree to represent the state at the Regional Youth Conference.
5. A complete outline of the judge's score sheet can be obtained from the Youth Directors.

Award: State winners receive ribbons. Regional winners receive cash prizes and also the Oliver Hudson Kelly Public Speaking Ruby award from National Grange. All regional contests are judged for a chance to showcase at National Session. **Deadline:** Those members wishing to participate must inform the State Youth Directors of their intention to participate in the contest at least two weeks prior to the State Lecturer's Talent Contest.

Bowl Across the Commonwealth

The State Youth Committee will work each year to coordinate a statewide event to raise money for a worthy cause. The Bowl Across The Commonwealth program is designed to provide Granges with a way to involve members in raising money through a bowling tournament. If your Subordinate or Pomona Grange is planning on participating in the bowling tournament, you might think about participating in this program. The object is to collect pledges for each string bowled, with all pledges going to a worthy cause. Pledge sheets can be obtained from any Youth Committee member, or the State Youth Directors.

What if your Grange isn't bowling?

Simply hold whatever fundraiser your Grange feels comfortable with! The object is to help out a worthy cause! Hold a cakewalk, penny sale, 50/50 raffle! It's open and up to you!

Money raised through this event should be brought the day of the event or sent to the State Grange Youth Directors. Checks should be made payable to the Massachusetts State Grange.

Award: One award will be given to the High Individual – the person who individually raises the most money through pledges

Deadline: None, this event can be held at any time. All money raised must be submitted to the State Grange Youth Directors by September 1st to allow them time to obtain a check for presentation at State Session.

Bowling Contest

The Bowling Contest will be held in April.

Rules:

1. Each team must have five players
 - a. Junior: Two (2) players must be female. Junior players must not be over 14 years of age on the day of the contest. Teams will be composed of not more than two Junior Granges. Junior Granges that are large enough will be allowed to enter two teams.
 - b. Subordinate and Pomona: Players consisting of at least one (1) male and one (1) female. At least one of the players must be youth or young adult (ages 14 to 45). Each team must be composed of Subordinate Grange members belonging to not more than two (2) Subordinate Granges in one Pomona area. Team must have a designated captain.
2. Each player can only bowl for one team. Affiliate members may bowl with affiliate team.
3. One (1) male and one (1) female spare will be allowed for each team. If a member is unable to finish the contest, the spare is then able to bowl the next string and MUST finish the contest. (Note: Junior teams may rotate their players at any time between strings, so that spares have the opportunity to bowl).
4. Matches will be scheduled and announced. Any player arriving after the sixth box must wait until the next string to bowl. A regular may not replace a spare after the string has started.
5. If a team member is absent, and no spare is available, the absentee will be the equivalent of the lowest score of the same sex on the opposing team.
6. Each Pomona and Subordinate team MUST have an EXPERIENCED scorekeeper. The scorekeeper does not have to be a Grange member. Each Junior team must have an ADULT scorekeeper. The scorekeeper and team captain must report for an instructional meeting a half hour before the tournament begins.
7. Each bowler will bowl
8. NBA rules will be observed. Pick up a rulebook where you bowl if you have any specific questions.

Awards: Trophies and/or medallions will be awarded to all winners.

Deadline: Teams must register with the Youth

Directors at least two weeks prior to the event.

Horizon Leadership Recognition Program (Ambassador Program, State Youth Ambassadors)

Grange youth selected to represent our organization through the Ambassador Program are selected on the basis of their Grange and community activities, knowledge of the Grange, leadership potential and interview performance.

Rules:

1. Eligibility
 - a. State Youth Ambassador: Single men and women, who have been members for one (1) year, who will be 16, but not yet 22 years of age by National Convention.
2. An interview will be conducted to determine Ambassador potential coordinated by the Youth Directors. Ambassador candidates need to contact the Youth Directors for interview date.
3. A written test will be given covering Grange knowledge. Sample tests are available from the State Youth Directors for studying.
4. Applications are available from any Youth Committee member, or the State Youth Directors and the Massachusetts State Grange Website at www.massgrange.org.
5. The National Grange Youth Horizon Leadership Program also requires participation in an official state event determined by the State Youth Directors; must have attended a National Grange Regional Youth Conference within the past two years; and must have completed the requirements of 4 seals of any of the achievement awards by October 15th of current year.

Award: Winners will receive a sash to wear for their term (to be returned at the end of their term). State Ambassadors will receive travel expenses paid to the National Grange Convention, where they will represent the Massachusetts State Grange. Winners will receive \$25.00, first runner up \$15.00.

Deadline: Applications must be turned in by October 1st.

Outstanding Youth

This award is presented to an individual who is actively involved with Grange, on a local, subordinate or state level. An individual, a Subordinate or Pomona Grange, can make nominations.

1. Members must be between 14 to 21 years of age when nominated.
2. Grange membership requirement – one year

minimum prior to nomination.

3. This entry must be made by nomination.
4. The following information must be provided with a nomination.
 - a. Name of nominee, address, Subordinate Grange, Pomona Grange, and degrees held.
 - b. List offices and committees served on.
 - c. Describe three major Grange activities and accomplishments.
 - d. List school, church and community organizations also with.
 - e. List Grange contests or awards won.

There will be one winner selected and announced at the State Grange Session.

Deadline: October 1st to the Youth Directors.

Massachusetts State Grange Youth Leadership Association – (14-21 years of age) Currently inactive

MSGYLA is a Grange conducted by the youth and mentored by the Youth Committee. Any member of the Grange who is youth age can be part of this Grange. Any youth can act as a voting member and take an office. There are 6 meetings throughout the year in different locations. The Elections of officers is in December; watch the State Grange News and Website for its location.

Fun in the Snow and Fun in the Sun

The Youth Committee plans 2 activities each year. They are fun events designed to get the youth together for a fun time. Sometimes the events involve sledding, picnicking, white water rafting, movie and games, etc. Watch the State Grange News and Website for more information.

Young Adults Contests

Horizon Leadership Recognition Program (Young Couple)

- a. Young Couple: Young couples that have been married and have been Grange members for a minimum of one (1) year, neither partner having reached 35 years of age by September 30 in the year they are competing.
- b. An interview will be conducted to determine Ambassador potential coordinated by the Young Adults Directors.
- c. A written test to be given by the Young Adults Directors.

Winners will receive a sash to wear for their one year term. Deadline: Application must be turned in by October 1st.

Outstanding Granger

This award is presented to an individual who is actively involved with Grange, on a local, subordinate or state level. There are two categories: Under 35 years of age and over 35 years of age. An individual, a Subordinate or Pomona Grange, can make nominations.

Outstanding Young Adult

This award is presented to an individual who is actively involved with the Grange on a Subordinate, Pomona or State Grange level.

- a. Member must be between 22 to 45 years of age.
- b. Grange Membership requirement – two years minimum.
- c. This entry must be made by nomination.

The following information must be provided with the nomination:

1. Name of nominee, address, Subordinate Grange, Pomona Grange and Degrees held.
2. List of Offices held and Committees served on.
3. Describe three major Grange activities and accomplishments.
4. List Outside Grange activities, such as church, school etc.
5. List of any Grange contest or awards won.

Award: Winner will be announced at State Grange Session and award will be presented.

Deadline: October 1st to the Young Adults Directors.

Mr. and Mrs. Grange

This award is presented to a couple who is actively involved with Grange, on a local, subordinate or state level, and are over the age of 35. This couple's contribution to Grange should be outstanding and worthy of state recognition. An

individual, a Subordinate or Pomona Grange, can make nominations.

Rules (Outstanding Granger and Mr. & Mrs. Grange)

1. Open to any Grange member over the age of 35.
2. Grange membership requirements – two year minimum, prior to the closing date of the contest year.

3. Contest year will cover the period from September 1 of the past year to September 1 of the present year.
4. This entry must be made by nomination.
5. The following information must be provided with the nomination.
 - a. Name of nominee, address, Subordinate Grange, Pomona Grange, and degrees held.
 - b. List offices and committees served on.
 - c. Describe three major Grange activities and accomplishments.
 - d. List home, school, church and community organizations also involved with.
 - e. List Grange contests or awards won.

There will be one winner selected and announced at the State Grange session.

Award: Winners will be announced at State Grange session, and presented with sashes to wear for their term. (To be returned at the end of term)

Deadline: October 1 to the Young Adult Directors.

NATIONAL PROGRAMS

National Grange has developed many new programs listed below: If you are interested in any of these, contact the Youth Directors or go to the National Grange website www.nationalgrange.org.

- John Trimble Youth Legislative
- Experience
- Caroline Hall T.L.C. Project
- Francis McDowell Grange and Current Events Trivia Challenge
- Aaron B. Grosh Mentoring Achievement Award
- William Saunders Exploration Achievement Award
- Family Recognition Program
- Regional Youth and Young Adults Development Representatives
- Mentoring Program

