

Massachusetts State Grange

PROGRAM HANDBOOK Today's Grange: Families in Action A Guide to 2008 – 2009 and 2009 – 2010 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 –2009-2010

2009-2010

- Apr – Grange Month/Membership Month
- Apr – Earth Day
- May – Go to Church Sunday
- May – Talent Contest, Bake Off, Public Speaking and Sign-A-Song, Bowling
- May – Dinner Dance
- June – Dairy Month
- July – Northeast Youth Conference
- Aug – Y.L.T.S.
- Aug – Northeast 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:	1 st	\$10.00
	2 nd	\$5.00
	3 rd	\$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:	1 st	\$20.00
	2 nd	\$10.00
	3 rd	\$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 (2009) of the contest year and before September 1st (2010) 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.

Essay Contests will continue for both Juniors and Adults. Topics for each year are listed below. Cash prizes will be awarded in each category.

2008-2009:

Adults: Finish the title statement: **When HPI takes a "hand" people are _____** The prescribed page limits are no more than three 8 1-2" by 11" pages, double spaced.

Juniors: Finish the title statement: **The Grange should support HPI because _____** The page limits for Juniors are the same as for adults.

2009-2010:

Adults: Finish the title statement: **HPI does it's work by _____** 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 "Name 6-10 animals you would take on an Ark

and why." 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. A certificate will be issued to the recipient. This award is available to any Subordinate or Pomona member.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

This newly created committee was mandated to inform the public of the Grange and its activities through submission of news items to the print media. It was also charged to compile a list of non-Grange Publications through out the state. Having met with only mediocre success the committee began to search out new projects to insure its success.

Our new theme is Dare "to take the road less traveled" (Robert Frost) The Grange has gone back and forth on the same road for too long and it no longer bears much fruit. We must dare to seek out new ways to attract members. We are looking into the creation of video and audio compact discs for submission to television and radio stations. We also strongly urge all Granges to work toward getting their inactive members back to work for the good of the order. We have also put together an informational booth which we will continue to set up at as many public events as possible. We will continue to seek out

invitations to exchange ideas with as many Granges as possible. Our brochure offer remains valid; we will create a brochure highlighting the activities of each and every Subordinate or Pomona Grange who requests one, in the style of the State Grange Brochure. Finally we will continue to seek out other programs which will serve to assist us in attaining our objective. We must work together to Grow Grange.

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 2009

The Bake off will take place April 26, 2009 at the Sudbury Grange Hall located on Concord Road beside Sudbury Town Hall. The Bake off will start at 1 PM. All entries must be there by 12:30 PM for judging!

Items to Be Judged for 2009:

1. 7 Layer Bars
2. Cornbread
3. Pineapple Upside-down cake
4. Fruit Cobbler

Juniors

1. (7) Biscuits (Your choice)

Special Recipe 2009

Use the following basic soup recipe and you can add to the recipe:

Soup Recipe must include:

1. Carrots
2. Celery
3. Onions
4. Peppers

The rest is up to you!!!!

2009-2010 Needlework Contest

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

1. 3-Piece Baby Set (Sweater and hat plus booties or blanket)
2. Plastic Canvas
3. Afghan (Knitted, crocheted, woven, etc.)
4. Doilies, center pieces, luncheon cloth (Cloth, knit or crocheted)
5. Embroidery, and embroidery article (not framed)
6. Counted Cross Stitch
7. Adult Garment (Knitted or crocheted)
8. Latch Hook (Any item)
9. Key Holder
10. Scarf or Pocketbook (Has to be made out of fun fur yarn)

Juniors

1. Placemat

Bake Off 2010

(Time and Place to be determined)

Items to Be Judged for 2010:

1. Chocolate Cake (frosted)
2. Cinnamon Rolls
3. Pudding (Your choice)
4. (7) Brownies

Juniors

1. Gingerbread cookies

Special Recipe 2010

To be determined.

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 2009-2010 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

2009-2010 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:

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

Hearing Aids:

Beltone offer free testing and special prices for Grange Members.

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 or facilities that provide services for the Deaf (*i.e.* NEADS, N.E. Home for the Deaf, etc.) Inquire how your Grange could assist either as volunteers, contributing materials or holding special fundraisers for needed equipment.
2. Daycare Project: donate age appropriate sign language books and “Do You See the Signs” poster to your local daycare center.
3. Library/School Project: Donate any of the following Deaf Materials 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 & Hearing Awareness Director for updated list.)
 - Pledge of Allegiance Poster (free)
 - “Lift Up Your Hands” Songbook (available for \$5.00 through Deaf 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 that 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. (Pidgen, ASL, ESL, etc.)
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 Soup Labels, 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 & Hearing Awareness

State Junior Sign-A-Song Contest and State Junior “Sign the Alphabet” Contest

Open to Junior Grange Members

Age Groups: 5 to 7 and 8 to 14

Contestants ages 5-7 may use simple songs appropriate for age. Both contests held in conjunction with State Sign-A-Song Contest (Refer to “State Sign-A-Song Contest” under Deaf & Hearing Awareness for Sign-A-Song rules)

Junior Regional “Sign-A-Song” and “Sign the Alphabet” Contests

These contests are open to the 8 to 14 year old State winner and are held during N.E. Regional Youth Conference in July. Winners of the Regional contests are asked to perform during the Junior Breakfast at the National Convention in

November.

Essay Contest:

Write a 150 word essay on the topic of “What Would I Miss if I Lost 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

Collecting:

Campbell Soup Labels, 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. No interest is charge during the period of schooling. The rate of interest at the conclusion of schooling is 4% per year, charged in advance. Repayment of the loans must commence 6 months following completion of schooling.

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 and membership of at least one year in a Massachusetts Subordinate Grange on the due date of the application. 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. These awards are competitive and no student may receive more than one Bonus Award. 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. No Patron is entitled to more than four scholarships (full and/or part time).

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 are available from the Secretary of the Board or on the State Grange Website.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nancy M. Blackmer, Chairman
Janet Horne, Secretary
Amber L. Vaill, Treasurer
Calvin C. Chase, Jr., State Master
Susan Rotellini, State Lecturer
Gordon E. Taylor, Trustee Emeritus

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 State Grange Secretary, Randall L. Vaill, Jr., 1018 Hillside Drive, Palmer, MA 01069-2178. Address and name changes are to be submitted to the State Grange Secretary 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.

2008-2009 Junior Projects

100th Birthday Favor:

Next year is the Junior 100th Birthday; make a party favor to celebrate this event. Use your imagination. This would be something that you would put at a place setting at a birthday party.

Drinking Straws:

Make something from drinking straws. Be creative and make no larger than the length of the straws themselves. You can use other mediums to use with your straws.

Make a car or truck:

Use individual cereal box and matchbox to make a car, truck or emergency vehicle. Other boxes about the same size could be used.

Recycled Project: CD Disc

Use old or new CD Disc to make something. You can use more than one disc, if necessary and other mediums with it.

Big "E" Project: Picture Collage

The project for this year is a collage of pictures with the theme "Lets Get Outside – No Child Left Inside." These pictures could be taken by the Junior if possible, or pictures taken by someone else with them in it.

2009-2010 Junior Projects

Popsicle Sticks:

Make something with colored or plain Popsicle sticks. If plain you can color or paint them if you want to. Use other mediums with them if you want to.

Pennant:

Make a pennant to show your favorite sports team or event. Make from felt, poster board and decorate. Can be applied to a stick if you want.

Christmas Tree Ornament:

Make Christmas tree ornament out of any medium but no larger than 5" x 5". Remember this will on a Christmas tree.

Recycle Project: Birdfeeder

Recycle a can, milk box or plastic carton to make a birdfeeder.

Big "E" Project

Will be announced after the first of the year and information will be sent to you.

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 2009 and 2010. One from each Junior Grange that enters will be chosen.

Junior Grange Ambassador

From the above applications 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 2008 – June 2009 and July 2009 – June 2010.

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, 2009 for 2008-2009 (and September 30, 2010 for 2009 – 2010) 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 2008-2009 and 2009-2010'

There will be two new programs beginning this year. Both may be done in 2008-2009 and/or 2009-2010.

Lecturer's Program Contest:

This program contest will run for both years and may be completed either year.

The program is to be our state – **Massachusetts**. The program should be a complete program with information, music, quizzes, and skits about our heritage, history, current attractions, and whatever else you wish to include in it. The program should be about 25-35 minutes long and contain the principles of RIME (Recreation, Inspiration, Music and Education).

Each Lecturer, Subordinate/Community or Pomona, may enter only one program within the

two year span.

First, second and third place winners will be announced at State Session in October 2009 and 2010.

Two year Program: Growing Our Children's World

This program is intended to increase our members awareness of community programs which may already be in existence with their community. There is no requirement that any member or Grange must participate in any of the community programs in order to fulfill this. If you or your Grange chooses to do so, that is up to you. All I ask is that you, as a Lecturer, present information about six (6) of the following topics within the two year span of this program.

Growing Our Children's World is not a contest, but I hope that each Lecturer will attempt to present programs about six (6) of the following topics within the next two years.

As you read each of the topics, I am sure that you will understand the underlying premise of this program: We all need to make our world a better place for our children to live in.

Topics:

1. Supporting Family Life
2. Supporting Our Military
3. Supporting Our Schools
4. Supporting Our Seniors
5. Learning and Getting Along With Others
6. Supporting Going Green in Your Community
7. Beautifying Our World
8. Promoting Love of Country and Patriotism
9. Promoting the Grange

We need to make a positive difference in our world whether it is to recycle, plant a community garden, feed the needy families, support Foster Care and DSS, encourage our schoolchildren to learn, help our seniors cope, learn about other's differences and our similarities, encourage patriotism, support our military, and promote our wonderful organization – the Grange.

The Lecturer's program is a great way to accomplish these goals by bringing in speakers and/or community leaders as well as the community at large to promote such issues. By showing our interest in our communities, more people, hopefully will want

to join with us in supporting and promoting them.

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 to reconnect. 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, is to be presented by a

Subordinate/Community 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 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 North East Grange Regional Talent Contest. This will be held at the North East Grange Lecturer' Conference in August as part of the program on States 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 North East 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 two 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 including the time limitations. 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 categories in the Photography Contest for the next two year.. 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. The 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. Junior Grange members will be judged in two divisions: Ages 5-9 and Ages 10-14.

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 5-9

_____ Junior 10-14

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 two 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 of the current year
- 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 no minimum size, as 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 _____ Pastels

Division: _____ Adult _____ Junior 5-9
_____ Junior 10-14

6. With Pen in Hand Contest 2008-2009

- a. **Poetry** – Entries may be any poem on the subject of **“The Corn Fields”** which is between **a minimum of 14 to a maximum of 30 lines** in length
- b. **Essay** – The topic for this year is: **“What Will We Leave Our Children?”** The prescribed page limits are no more than three 8 ½” X 11” pages, double spaced.
For Juniors: The topic is **“Home in a Junk Yard.”** The prescribed page limits is a minimum of one 8 ½ by 11 page, 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.

Adults:

The Ghost Map by Steven Johnson.

A New York Times Notable Book of the Year. In the summer of 1854, London is seized by a violent outbreak of Cholera that no one knows how to stop. As the epidemic spreads, a maverick physician and a local curate are spurred to action working to solve the most pressing medical riddle of their time. Johnson gives us a thrilling account and a powerful explanation of how solving this has shaped the world in which we live.

Marley & Me by John Grogan

#1 *New York Times* Bestseller. The heartwarming and unforgettable story of a family and the wonderfully neurotic dog who taught them what really matters in life.

The Pursuit of Happyness by Chris Gardner

#1 *New York Times* Bestseller. A triumphant modern-day Horatio Alger story – based on the life that inspired the major motion picture – is a memoir that will have you rooting for the underdog as it stirs you to pursue your dreams.

Saving the World and Other Extreme Sports

by James Patterson

#1 *New York Times* Bestseller. James Patterson calls this the best adventure story he’s ever written. There’s one last chance to save the world and it’s in the hands of six extraordinary kids who can fly.

Juniors, 5-9

Mercy Watson to the Rescue by Kate DiCamillo

The first in a new series from Newberry Medal-winning author Kate DiCamillo. Mr. and Mrs. Watson have a pig named Mercy who is a porcine wonder. Mercy decides not to sleep in her own bed one night and this is not good news for the Watsons.

Juniors 10-14

The Shadow Thieves by Anne Ursu

A humorous and slightly creepy adventure that will have you asking: What if Greek myths were real?

2009-2010

- a. **Poetry** – Entries may be any poem on the subject of **“Tradition”** which is between **a minimum of 14 to a maximum of 30 lines** in length
- b. **Essay** – The topic for this year is: **“Down in the Dumpster”**. The prescribed page limits are no more than three 8 ½” X 11” pages, double spaced.
For Juniors: The topic is **“Here, Mousie, Mousie, Mousie.”** The prescribed page limits is a minimum of one 8 ½ x 11 page, 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.

Adults

Mayflower by Nathaniel Philbrick

One of the ten best books of the year according to the New York Times Book Review. Nathaniel Philbrick launches an extraordinary journey to understand the truth behind the voyage of the Mayflower and the settlement of Plymouth Colony, a story that was fifty-five year epic, beginning in peril and ending in war.

Summer of '49 by David Halbestam

A Harper Modern Classic. The year was 1949, and a war weary nation turned from the battlefields to the ball fields in search of new heroes. It was also the summer which marked the beginning of a sports rivalry unequalled in the annals of athletic competition when the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox went head to head for the American League title.

Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

A New York Times Bestseller. In 1993 a mountaineer drifts into an impoverished Pakistan village after a failed attempt to climb K2. Moved by the inhabitants' kindness, he promised to return and build a school. This is a story of that promise and its outcome. The astonishing, uplifting story of a real-life Indiana Jones and his remarkable humanitarian campaign in the Taliban's backyard.

The Spellman Files by Lisa Lutz

A New York Times Bestseller. Isabel Spellman is part Nancy Drew and part Dirty Harry, addicted to Get Smart reruns and prefers entering homes through windows rather than doors. But she is a very good private investigator. In fact all the members of her family are. If only they would leave their work at the office.

Juniors, 5-9:

The Bailey School Kids, Volume 1 by Debbie Dadey and Marcia Thornton Jones.

A new series of adventures for the students at the Bailey School who believe there are some weird grown-ups living in their city. But is their third-

grade teacher really a vampire from Transylvania and their camp counselor a werewolf? And these are only two of the questions they decide to find out.

Juniors, 10-14:

The View from Saturday by E. L. Konigsburg
A Newberry Award Winner. Mrs. Olinski is returning to teaching ten years after being paralyzed in an automobile accident. She chooses four of the most unique students to be her sixth-grade Academic Bowl Team. Will these people become champions in the tournament or in even more far reaching competitions?

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 responsibly 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.

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 by developing a skill that is important both in and out of the Grange.

There are three contests:

1. Prepared Speech:
 - a. 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.
- b. 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.
 - c. State winners must agree to represent the state at the Northeast Regional Youth Conference.
2. Elevator Speech:
- a. You are to answer the question "What is the Grange?" for someone you have just met in a restaurant, elevator, etc.
 - b. Time limit is 90 seconds.
 - c. State winners must agree to represent the state at the Northeast Regional Youth Conference.
3. Impromptu Speech:
- a. Participants will draw two topics, select their choice of the two and return the other one.
 - b. Competition will be held at the State and Regional levels – **You need not have participated in a state competition in order to participate in the Regional Conference.**
 - c. Your response must be at least 1 minute long but less than 7 minutes.

Each contest is open to all Grange members and has three age categories:

- Category 1: 14-19 years old
- Category 2: 20-29 years old
- Category 3: 30+ years old

Award: State winners receive certificates and cash prizes. 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 Contest.

Bowling Contest

The Bowling Contest will be held in May.

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 competition. Junior Granges that are large enough will be allowed to enter two (2) teams.

- b. **Subordinate:** Players must consist of at least one (1) male and one (1) female. Each team must be composed of Subordinate Grange members belonging to not more than two (2) Subordinate Granges in one Pomona Area. Teams should have a designated captain. **Note: There will be no age limitations on the team members; youth and young adult members are all encouraged to participate but are not necessary for the formation of a team.**
 - c. **Pomona:** Players must consist of at least one (1) male and one (1) female. Each player must be a member of that Pomona Grange. Team should 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 begin promptly at 12:30 pm. 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 should have a score keeper.** The score keeper does not have to be a Grange member. Each Junior team must have an adult score keeper. The score keeper and team captain must report for instruction at 12:15 pm.
 7. The match is decided by the total pin fall of three (3) strings.
 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 State Youth Directors by *May 1st*. Those teams that do not register before the tournament date will have an additional \$20 fee upon registration (if there are enough lanes available to accommodate them). Send the name of the captain and team members to the State Youth Directors.

Cost: The cost is \$3.50 per team member per string (bowling shoes included). Please make checks payable to the *Massachusetts State Grange*.

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 State Youth Directors. Granges not sending a bowling team may still make a donation by sending a check to the State Secretary earmarked "Bowling."

Award: One award will be given to the High Individual or Team – the person or team who raises the most money through pledges.

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

The purpose of the Massachusetts Youth Ambassador Program is to provide an opportunity for Youth – selected to represent their State at National Grange Convention – to build their individual leadership potential, to broaden their view of the Grange by experiencing a National Convention. To receive educational training to use in Massachusetts, and to build relationships with Grangers throughout the nation by having fun.

Eligibility and Requirements:

1. Youth Ambassadors must be 16-21 years of age, have observed their 16th birthday, but not their 22nd birthday by December 31st of the year they attend the National Convention. These individuals must also be single, never been

married.

2. Ambassadors must have been a Grange member for a minimum of one (1) year.
3. An interview will be conducted to determine Ambassador potential coordinated by the State Youth Directors. Ambassador candidates need to contact the State Youth Directors for interview date.
4. A written test will be given covering Grange knowledge. Sample tests are available from the State Youth Directors for studying.
5. Applications are available from any Youth Committee member, or the State Youth Directors and the Massachusetts State Grange Website at www.massgrange.org.
6. A letter of recommendation from the Subordinate or Community Grange must accompany the application, preferably from the Master or Secretary.
7. Winners must attend Youth Leadership Training School (August) and will be expected to represent Massachusetts at the Northeast Regional Youth Conference (July) and the National Convention (November) following the end of their term as Ambassador. As such, State Youth Ambassadors will need to complete the following:
 - a. Ambassador must complete the requirements for a minimum of 3 seals of any of the National Grange achievement awards between September 1st of the previous year and by October 15th of the year served as Ambassador.
 - b. Each Horizon Leadership Ambassador will be expected to complete a Grange Trivia Challenge with a score of at least 80% prior to attending the convention. Trivia Challenge must be returned to the national Director by October 15th of the current year.
 - c. Ambassadors will also be members of the Youth Committee during their term.

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 to the State Youth Directors 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 State Youth Directors.

Massachusetts State Grange Youth Leadership Association - MSGYLA

The Youth Committee is working to revive the MSGYLA, a state-wide organization to train Youth and Young Adults in Grange leadership and ritual. For more information, contact the State Youth Directors.

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
- Mentor Program

