

# Massachusetts State Grange News



Volume 281

Official Publication of the Massachusetts State Grange, Inc.

February, 2010

## From the Office of Master



The Northeast Leaders conference was held Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> in Brattleboro Vt. This meeting was well attended with good delegations from all seven north-east State Granges. Br. Ed Luttrell our

National Master spoke about our great success in protecting our heritage name. We have not lost a single challenge. The future plan is legislation to protect our name like the Boy Scouts and Red Cross. This should happen this year. He also reported that there is a significant increase in new Granges. Nine State Granges have had an increase in Granges this year. He also challenged each and every Grange member to get new members. We need new ideas, new enthusiasm, renewed dedication to continue our Granges, and renewed fun in our Grange experience. New members can bring in all of this and more.

Rusty Hunt, the National Grange Leadership and Membership Director announced a number of Grange Growth Summits to be held this year. There will be one in Ohio and in Albany, New York (16-18 Apr.). If someone is interested in attending one of these, please contact me about becoming a member of our Grow Grange team.

Rusty then spoke about youth and getting youth involved in our regular meetings as officers and committee members. He urged us to invite the youth groups in the local area to Grange meetings and to involve them into some fun activities. Invite them to join. Each of you has a wealth of skills that these youth can learn from if you will let them in and then allow them the opportunity to become leaders. The rewards will be yours with fun meetings and renewed energy.

The New England Grange Building Trustees met on Friday night and had a very productive meeting. The report of the Big-E was presented and the results were very positive. The General Store is a great success and as a result of this success, the State Granges are no longer assessed dues per member. Renovations of the interior are nearly complete and it was voted to refinish the main floor this summer. Thank you to all who helped make the Big-E Grange experience a great success including the "Contra Banditos" from Groton Grange. The crafts that have been supplied again this year have been

a very significant element of the Grange Store success. Many people return each year to get the knitted crafts. Thank you for your continued support of the knitting and sewing crafts.

I would like to thank Br. Scott Davis for a job well done as President of the NEGB Trustees. He has served well and has seen the complete renovation of the inside of the building during his tenure. He will continue as a Trustee but stepped aside for new leadership. Matt Clark (NH) is now President, Tom Gotauco (RI) is VP, Jim Owens (ME) is Treasurer and Jody Cameron (CT) is Secretary.

The Northeast Connection (2013) convention needs your help. We are seeking candidates for a convention coordinator, suggestions for a convention theme, and logo suggestions please submit your ideas and suggestions to me no later than Mar. 15, 2010. All inputs will be presented to the NE Connection committee the end of March. All themes and logos will be created in cooperation with National Grange.

Uxbridge Grange continues to have a special relationship with DCF. They were asked to purchase two snowsuits for sixteen month old twins. We were able to get really cute "bear snowsuits" to fill the need. In addition, they were asked by DCF to help two special needs young men starting out in an apartment together, while attending a Community College. They donated two \$50.00 gift cards to Stop N' Shop and their social worker brought them shopping for the essentials.

In December they were again contacted by DCF to help three children for Christmas. They were in need of winter coats, hats, mittens, boots, and clothing. Uxbridge Grange donated \$300.00 and a member purchased coats, hats, mittens and boots, and other items with the money. The members also volunteered to give additional items such as warm clothing and toys. Each child received four outfits, and three gift items.

If you or your Grange has a story about Foster Care, please let me know and I will include the story in my report. We are the only organization that supports the foster children in the DCF program. Let's keep up the good work. Remember the closing charge: "Helping the Fatherless"!

Enjoy the February break.

Fraternally,  
*Calvin C. Chase, Jr.*



## From the Lecturer's Desk.....

It seems that Mother Nature is repeating herself this year with our cold weather and occasional snow storms. I'm beginning to hope that Spring is not too far away with warmer weather.

February is a good month, however, to plan spring and other upcoming activities. Remember that April is Grange Month. Take time to plan something special that will include all of your members - younger and older members, those in need of rides to meetings, shut-ins, and non-members, too. Open meetings with good programs that are well publicized have the potential to bring in new members and allow the public to see just what the Granges and Grangers happen to do. Don't forget to include Community Citizen Awards when you plan your festivities.

Also, don't forget that while the weather may be nippy outside, you can also work on a song, skit, dance, recitation, a sign-a-song, or even to pick out a favorite recipe to practice for the Talent and Bake-off Contests to be held April 18th at Dunstable Town Hall. The Sign-a-song and Public Speaking contests will also be held at this time.

Each year the number of participants for each of these contests seem to be declining. This is very unfortunate as we have many very talented Grangers. As I stated in my last article, this year, we are allowing non-members to enter the Talent Contest in an attempt to increase the number of participants. We hope that they may later decide to join one of our Granges. However, the Best in Show winner must be a Grange member in order to participate in the Regional Talent Contest.

As promised the information for the North East Grange Lecturer's Conference. It will be held at the Vermont Technical College, Randolph, VT from August 2-5th. Please keep in mind that this conference is not for Lecturers only. Everyone is welcome to attend. I know that if you attend this conference, you will have a great time. I hope that many of you will plan on coming this year. There will be more information to follow.

As far as contests go, I will continue with the Grange Family Photo category for the photography contest. And, please, do not forget that the "Massachusetts" program is a contest for Lecturers - Subordinate and Pomona again this year.

Also, remember that I have all the books for the Pen in Hand Book Reviews available for loan, as well as DVD's on Meth Labs, the Kelly Farm, Massachusetts with handouts (by our Marion Taylor), and the National Grange Building with fact sheets. The National Grange Building is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this June, 2010.

Of special note for Lecturers: Do not forget our program "Growing Our Children's World," listed in the Program Handbook. This a good time of year to focus on Supporting/Learning and Getting Along with Others which I mentioned in my last bulletin to you.

Finally, please try to remember to send in your reports to me. The report forms are available for downloading from the Massachusetts State Grange Web site, both monthly and quarterly.

*Until next month stay healthy and warm....*

*Susan Rotellini*

## Directory Change

Patricia Gibson, Junior Co-Director email:  
pattigj@aol.com

### MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE NEWS

Massachusetts State Grange, Inc.

**CALVIN C. CHASE, JR.**  
Editor-in-Chief

**DEBORAH K. GOODRICH**  
Executive Editor

#### Board of Management

**Kathleen M. Peterson, Chairman**

**Thomas Severance, Vice Chairman**

**J. Wesley Blackmer**

**Mary J. Jordan**

**Alicia L. Brazie**

**Randall L. Vaill**

**Matthew Johnson**

*Advertising from Grange affiliates, news items and photos solicited. Deadline is the 15th of each month to the Executive Editor. Advertising Rate: \$5.00 per column inch.*

*Email addresses maintained by State Secretary: Randall L. Vaill, 1018 Hillside Drive, Palmer MA 01069-2178*

E-mail: [Stategrangenews@massgrange.org](mailto:Stategrangenews@massgrange.org)  
Fax: 508-869-3143

Webmaster: Brad Goodrich  
Website: [www.massgrange.org](http://www.massgrange.org)



## Chaplain's Message

There are certain people from the Bible we should always remember and also study. People like Moses, who brought us the Ten Commandments, David, who wrote the book of Psalms, Daniel, who survived unbearable suffering, and Ruth, who had to leave her homeland and discovered an unbreakable bond with Naomi. There are many others whose leadership and faith in God, led them on a journey that remains unparalleled even today.

In the history of our own country, we must always honor the events which took place that were orchestrated by men like George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Patrick Henry. These founding fathers of our country had laid the ground rules for the type of freedom and democracy that we enjoy whole-heartedly today. If not for the actions of these fine early Americans, where would we be today? Their struggles have been recorded and studied for generations and generations so that we today would learn from their mistakes and be guided by their influence. Most other countries in the world do not have this type of history to use to shape their destiny and to help create a better way of life in the present.

Modern times offer a whole new group of people who we can admire and study carefully. The tireless efforts of folks like Ted Kennedy, Mother Theresa, Pope John Paul II, and many others who have worked tirelessly to create a world that is safe and made equal for all people, have been retold many times in recent years. The struggles we face today are not the same as in biblical times, nor are they the same as those our country's forefathers experienced, however they still exist.

If we never pay attention to any other details of our Grange journey, we certainly must respect the fact that there were seven founders of our Order. Most of us are familiar with Oliver Hudson Kelly and the work that has been done recently to renovate the Kelly farm in Minnesota. The other 6 included William Saunders, Aaron B. Grosh, William M. Ireland, John R. Thompson, Francis McDowell, and John Trimble. They were also assisted greatly by Caroline Hall. These early developers of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry had to endure tiresome labors and travelled great distances to see their mission to its end. They had a vision of a great fraternity, the first of its kind that would welcome women and young people into its membership, and would enable farmers and rural Americans to enjoy a better quality of life.

We are currently involved with struggles of our own and in these troubled times they are compounded with a more global struggle for peace and tranquility. With

banks in the state they are in, and people nationwide facing problems such as job loss and foreclosure, Americans are constantly trying very diligently to conquer their own personal battles with financial issues. Add to that the fact that nearly every one of us can say that we know someone who has been, or is, or will be engaged in active duty in Afghanistan or Iraq, it is a wonder that any of us get any sleep at all when we put our heads down at night. Our world is constantly changing, and by overcoming each of the hurdles, one at a time, we are able to make the choices that will best serve us in our quest for a better life.

Although we do not face the same challenges that our forefathers had to deal with, we do have struggles of our own. Each one of us has to deal with our own set of problems, whether financial issues, health issues, or suffering the loss of a loved one. We will overcome them in time. We shall make choices, good or bad, that will change the course of our lives. Let's remember to try to make good choices so that the outcome will be in our favor. Meanwhile, we must make the best of the opportunities that are right there before us.

Fraternally,  
Randy Belseth

**Quote of the month: "The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them." – Albert Einstein**

## National Grange Growth Summit 2010 Schedule

### Grange Growth Summits

March 12-14 - Palmer, Alaska

March 26-28 - Boise, Idaho

### Advance Team Training Schedule

April 9-11 - Reedsburg, Wisconsin

April 16-18 - Albany, New York

April 23-25 - Topeka, Kansas

May 21-23 - Zanesville, Ohio

### Pomona Team Building

September 24-26 - Pittsburg, PA

Registration forms will be available on the National Grange Website at [www.nationalgrange.org](http://www.nationalgrange.org). For information:

Grange Growth Summit Program – please contact Rusty Hunt @ (509) 632-5600 or (509) 681-0218 or [rustygranger@live.com](mailto:rustygranger@live.com)

Registration, Payment & Airport Transportation - please contact Jessica Cope @ (202) 628-3507, ext 113 or [jcope@nationalgrange.org](mailto:jcope@nationalgrange.org)

**RESOLUTION REGARDING THE NEW ENGLAND  
GRANGE BUILDING  
ADOPTED AT THE 137<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
SESSION OF THE  
MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE**

**Resolution #7 – Use of the New England  
Grange Building  
The Committee recommends adoption.**

WHEREAS, the New England Grange Building was constructed for the benefit of and use by Grange members; and

WHEREAS, the building remains unused for the major portion of the year; and

WHEREAS, many Granges are now meeting in quarters inadequate for large gatherings, such as joint or regional meetings; and

WHEREAS, this type of meeting and or activities, including those open to the public, are of benefit to the health and growth of the order; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts Trustees of the New England Grange Building be instructed to develop, for presentation, at the next meeting of the entire Board of Trustees, a set of Rules, and Regulations, and Procedure to permit the use of the New England Grange Building by Subordinate and Pomona Granges for Grange Meetings and Activities; and be it further

RESOLVED, the action by the Trustees and a copy of the Rules and Regulations be published in the Mass. State Grange News.

At the 143rd Annual National Convention held in November, the above resolution was passed. During the Northeast Leader's Conference held in Brattleboro, VT the following Rules and Regulations were adopted.

**Rules and Regulations for Use of  
New England Grange Building  
by Subordinate, Pomona and State Granges**

**Drafted by the Massachusetts Delegation  
to the NEGB Trustees  
Approved by the Board of Trustees of the  
New England Grange Building  
At their Annual Meeting on January 8, 2010**

The Trustees of the New England Grange Building are please to make available the building for the use of any Subordinate, Pomona or State Grange for Grange meetings or other Grange activities subject to its availability at no charge.

1. Availability: The building is not heated during the winter months. The gas log in the fireplace may be sufficient heat for cool early fall or late spring days or evenings. The building is closed and the water turned off in early November and remains thus until late April. The building is usually set up for the Fair in mid-August and thus is not available from this time until the Fair closes near the end of September or early October. It is available at all other times.
2. No charge: Granges will not be charged any amount for use of the building. However, the NEGB should be reimbursed for any costs incurred coincident with its use, such as the cost of utilities or necessary cleaning or maintenance. The amount of this reimbursement will be established by the NEGB Trustees' president at the time of use.
3. Procedure: Any Grange wishing to use the building should contact the NEGB Trustees' president to determine its availability, potential costs, and establish a means to gain entrance. The president will make every effort possible to satisfy the request. The Grange using the facility will be responsible for normal opening and closing activity, such as lights on and off, securing after use, and generally leaving the building in the condition it was found.

The current President of NEGB is Matthew Clark. He can be reached at 358 Pond Rd., Surry, NH 03431, Phone: (603) 209-1995 E-mail: cfiremedic99@aol.com .

## Supplement from State Master



The State Commission for Conservation of Soil, Water & Related Resources met in Holden at the USDA office. Some items should be addressed immediately by you, our Grange members:

- Water survey; There is a survey ongoing now. Public comment period ends within a few weeks. If you have a comment to be made, contact your local Conservation committee or the Conservation District office in your area. The new State wide water use policy will be issued in 2011.
- Envirothon: Is your local High School participating in this program? A large number of schools already participate. Go to the [www.Ma.gov.agr](http://www.Ma.gov.agr). This is only one of many programs available.
- Mass Fish and Wildlife; Again many programs available.
- Dept of Agr. Resources has a new program on the Asian Longhorn Beetle. Each local Grange should run this program. It may be on youtube.
- Ag Day at the State House is April 8. Please plan on attending.

### Calendar of Events

Mass State Grange Website  
[www.massgrange.org](http://www.massgrange.org)

If you would like to enter an event on the Mass. State Grange Website Calendar of Events, you may submit your request on line.

The request will be emailed and reviewed by the webmaster for entry in the calendar of events.

To submit your request, go to the Calendar of Events page on the website, scroll down to the bottom of the page. Click on the Submit an Event button and complete the on line form. The start time is a required field and must be filled in.

### APPLE VALLEY JUNIOR GRANGE CELEBRATES THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

When: March 27, 2010  
Where: Dunstable Town Hall  
Time: 12:00 PM Pot Luck Luncheon

Minuteman Pomona will hold their meeting beginning at 1:00 PM with the members of Apple Valley Junior Grange as our guests. At 2:00 PM we will have a special magical entertainment program for the Juniors as well as recognition of the Junior program.

Please plan to join us and bring your children and grandchildren as we celebrate our Apple Valley Junior Grange.

RSVP by March 20th to:

Janet Horne 508-429-9210  
Phyllis Foss 978-263-2241  
Linda Chase 978-649-7184

### UMass Seminars for the Home Garden and Small Farm

With the continued surge in interest in growing one's own food, some clients will be asking their landscapers for help on how to get started. UMass Extension's 2010 Home Garden and Small Farm Series starts in a few weeks with a number of workshops on growing and managing fruit plantings in the backyard! Locations vary around the state.

To see a full schedule and more details, go to <http://www.UMassGarden.com>

- Feb. 27 Growing & Pruning Apples in the Home Garden - Belchertown
- March 6 Grafting Apple Trees, A Hands-on Workshop - Peabody
- March 13 Growing & Pruning Berries in the Home Garden - Weston
- March 20 An Introduction to Growing Grapes - Belchertown
- March 27 Small-scale Viticulture for the Serious Grower - Belchertown
- April 10 The 100-Square-Foot, 25-Tree, 5-Variety Backyard Apple Orchard Fruiting Wall - Peabody
- April 17 Growing & Pruning Berries in the Home Garden - Northborough
- April 24 Managing Weeds Organically - Topsfield

**Contact your U.S. Senators and Ask Them  
To Amend S. 2786, the Enhanced Restitution  
Enforcement and Equitable Retirement  
Treatment Act of 2009**

S. 2786, the Enhanced Restitution Enforcement and Equitable Retirement Treatment Act of 2009, will adversely affect crime victims, especially rural victims of crime, by diverting deposits into the Crime Victims Restitution Trust Fund away from payments for individual victims of Federal offenses who are entitled to receive restitution into a new, special retirement program exclusively for the benefit of Assistant United States Attorneys.

**Background**

While the National Grange greatly appreciates the work of Assistant United States Attorneys and the work they do which benefit victims of crime, the Grange is concerned that the approach proposed in S. 2786 will adversely affect crime victims generally through reduction in deposits into the Crime Victims Fund as well as individual victims of Federal offenses who are entitled to receive restitution. Specifically, the National Grange objects to the provisions in Title I, Section 101 of the legislation that would allocate 95 percent of any late fine payments to the Crime Victims Fund. The legislation also allows 95 percent of late restitution payments to go to the victim with the remaining 5 percent of each late payment going into the newly created Enhanced Financial Recovery Fund.

The National Grange is also concerned that unless each criminal debt is ultimately paid in full, the proposed collection scheme will result in a loss of funds that would otherwise go into the Crime Victims Fund and to victims of Federal offenses who are owed restitution. In effect, crime victims are being asked to help subsidize a fund whose ultimate purpose is to improve the retirement benefits of Assistant United States Attorneys.

Unlike previous versions of this legislation, the current bill does not seek to take half of the special assessments for the Enhanced Financial Recovery Fund. While increased special assessments might offset a portion of the amounts that would otherwise be deposited into the Crime Victims Fund, it does not offset amounts that would have been paid to individual crime victims who are owed restitution. Assistant United States Attorneys are generally career government employees who are eligible for full Federal retirement, pension and matching retirement contributions, just as any other Federal employees. Creating a special supplemental retirement fund for Assistant United States Attorneys is not just unfair to victims of crime, it is unfair to other Federal employees who protect the public and address the concerns and needs of victims of crime. The National Grange believes the most equitable approach would be to require the payment in full of the entire criminal fine and/or restitution before any collected amounts are deposited into the Enhanced Financial Recovery Fund.

**Grange Policy**

**Sentencing**

The National Grange supports imposing stiff mandatory sentences in criminal cases. We believe using plea-bargaining should be restrained. We further believe that convicted criminals should be responsible for restitution to their victims and society.

**Action Needed**

Please e-mail your U.S. Senators urging them to amend S. 2786. Please feel free to follow the sample letter.

**Sample E-Mail**

Dear Senator:

I am concerned about S. 2786, the Enhanced Restitution Enforcement and Equitable Retirement Treatment Act of 2009. I believe this legislation will adversely affect crime victims generally through reduction in deposits into the Crime Victims Fund, as well as individual victims of Federal offenses who are entitled to receive restitution. Specifically, I object to the provisions in Title I, Section 101 of the legislation that would allocate 95 percent of any late fine payments to go to the Crime Victims Fund. The legislation also allows 95 percent of late restitution payments to go to the victim with the remaining 5 percent of each late payment going into the newly created Enhanced Financial Recovery Fund.

I am also concerned that unless each criminal debt is ultimately paid in full, the proposed collection scheme will result in a loss of funds that would otherwise go into the Crime Victims Fund and to victims of Federal offenses who are owed restitution. In effect, crime victims are being asked to help subsidize a fund whose ultimate purpose is to improve the retirement benefits of Assistant United States Attorneys.

Unlike previous versions of this legislation, the current bill does not seek to take half of the special assessments for the Enhanced Financial Recovery Fund. While increased special assessments might offset a portion of the amounts that would otherwise be deposited into the Crime Victims Fund, it does not offset amounts that would have been paid to individual crime victims who are owed restitution.

Senator, I believe the most equitable approach would be to require the payment in full of the entire criminal fine and/or restitution before any collected amounts are deposited into the Enhanced Financial Recovery Fund. Please consider amendments to S 2786 to correct these issues. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Your name

Your Grange number

## Contact Your U.S. Senators and Ask Them to Oppose Attempts to Reform MEDPac Program

Little noticed or debated provisions in the national health care reform legislation before Congress would dramatically transform the current MEDPac program from an effective advisory mechanism that helps guide Congressional decision making on issues of Medicare reimbursement into an unaccountable, Executive branch, bureaucratic regulatory agency that would potentially exacerbate existing disparities in health care delivery in farming, rural and tribal communities.

### Background

The National Grange is greatly concerned with proposals to change the mission of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MEDPac) from a Congressional advisory body to an executive branch regulatory agency. Transforming MEDPac from an advisory organization to a regulatory agency would place critical decisions related to the payment for, and delivery of, high quality, efficient health care in farming, rural, and tribal communities across the nation in the hands of unelected, bureaucratic managers in Washington, D.C. rather than patients and their local care providers. It would stifle the critical role of oversight and action regarding disparate impacts that standardized Medicare reimbursement policies often inflict on both patients and providers in rural and other chronically underserved communities that the current MEDPac regime provides for Congress. It would shift the balance of authority for medical public policy decision-making away from the legislative branch, as well as away from doctors and patients, to the executive branch.

The National Grange is very concerned that the MEDPac reforms in the proposed health care legislation will not address the concerns raised by our grassroots delegates for comprehensive health care reform that will serve the interests of patients and providers in remote farming, rural and tribal communities. Specifically, the National Grange is worried that the proposed MEDPac reforms will create a false public policy choice by focusing on cost cutting and short-term savings in the Medicare program at the expense of long-term health outcomes/cost savings and true health reform. This result could quickly lead to rationing of care, thus exacerbating existing health disparities in currently underserved communities. An overarching Federal regulatory authority dictating Medicare reimbursement schedules would inevitably diminish the role of patients and community based health care providers who are on the front lines of finding creative ways to eliminating existing disparities in health care delivery to rural communities. Finally MEDPac reform clearly cedes too much Congressional power to the executive branch.

### Grange Policy

At the 143rd annual convention to the National Grange, held last month in Grand Rapids MI, the grassroots delegates from across the nation adopted the following comprehensive policy directives related to the course of health care

reform now before Congress.

“Protection of Medicare or current health insurance coverage as they are presently provided with no reduction in coverage must be maintained. Medical decisions should be made by licensed medical professionals based on the needs of the patient.”

### Action Needed

Please e-mail your U. S. Senators and Representatives urging them oppose changes in the current MEDPac program as part of any national health care reform.

Sample E-Mail

Dear Senator/Representative:

I am concerned about the possible changes in the current MEDPac program that would transform the program from an effective advisory mechanism helping guide Congressional decision making on issues of Medicare reimbursement into an unaccountable, executive branch, bureaucratic regulatory agency that would potentially exacerbate existing disparities in health care delivery in farming, rural and tribal communities. Transforming MEDPac from an advisory organization to a regulatory agency would place critical decisions related to the payment for, and delivery of, high quality, efficient health care in farming, rural, and tribal communities across the nation in the hands of unelected, bureaucratic managers in Washington, D.C. rather than patients and their local care providers. It would stifle the critical role of oversight and action regarding disparate impacts that standardized Medicare reimbursement policies often inflict on both patients and providers in rural and other chronically underserved communities that the current MEDPac regime provides for Congress. It would shift the balance of authority for medical public policy decision-making away from the legislative branch, as well as away from doctors and patients, to the executive branch.

I am very concerned that the MEDPac reforms in the proposed health care reform legislation will not address the concerns for comprehensive health care reform that will serve the interests of patients and providers in remote farming, rural, and tribal communities. I am also worried that the proposed MEDPac reforms will create a false public policy choice by focusing on cost cutting and short-term savings in the Medicare program at the expense of long-term health outcomes/cost savings and true health reform. As a result, I urge you to oppose any attempt to transform the current MEDPac program from an effective advisory mechanism to a regulatory agency.

Sincerely,

Your name

Your Grange number