



From the Office of Master



Brothers and Sisters, I urge you to read Br. Ed Luttrell's letter to be included in next month's State Grange News. There is considerable GOOD NEWS with 8 major players bowing out of the fight for the Grange name and many smaller victories as well. However, "WHL" (Wing nut for short) has just filed to use Grange in their lineup and could potentially cost the National Grange significant money in fighting this challenge.

We Grangers and Granges need to revive our efforts to meet the pledge of financial support to finish this fight. At last count, we had met 3/4th of our commitment but the additional funds are needed desperately. Please consider making more donations again this year. Your right to serve or sell food under the Grange name is still at risk.

Did you know that Pomona Granges are the Legislators of our order? It is Pomona Grange that has the responsibility to review and act upon resolutions generated in lower Granges? Pomona Granges are broader based and should have better knowledge of the impact of legislation in their district.

Did you know that it is the responsibility of the Pomona Grange to assist in generating new members for the Community Grange? Pomona Granges can gain new members only by generating new members in the area Granges.

Did you know that the Pomona Grange is supposed to help the lower Granges conduct the degrees and ritual? When is the last time your Pomona did the 5th degree? If you said last year, then you are in the minority.

Did you know that the Pomona Granges have been delegated the authority and duty to coordinate the Foster Care program? They are to contact the area DCF office and assess the need and then coordinate with the area Granges to collect and deliver the needed items. A few Pomona Granges are doing an excellent job, but some do not try at all.

It is up to you, the members to get the Pomona Granges back on track.

Fraternally,
Calvin C. Chase, Jr.,

Tom Severance - Testimonial

On Sunday, April 11th, Br. Tom Severance, High Priest of Demeter thought he was the guest speaker at an Open House for recruiting new members into Central Community Grange in Boylston, MA. It was all a ruse to get him to his testimonial and it worked too!

Family, friends and representatives from all the states in the Northeast Connection along with the National Master, Ed Luttrell were present. All to the delight of Tom.

Pictured: National Master, Ed Luttrell, Tom Severance and Woody Tucker, High Priest Emeritus





From the Lecturer's Desk.....

May is finally here with all its flowers and warmer weather than we had in April. I hope that you have all had a great response to the Grange Month Activities you hosted in April. Hopefully, you have even gained a few new members!

This year the weather helped us with our Talent/Public Speaking/Sign-a-Song Contests, and Bake-off which was held at the Dunstable Town Hall on April 18th. There were nearly 50 people who supported this event, and \$86.00 was raised for the Lecturer's raffle for the State Grange Travel Fund. There seemed to be more entries in the Bake-off this year than last year. Unfortunately, that was not the case with our other contests.

I would like to challenge each Subordinate/Community Grange to have a contestant in one of the following: Talent Contest, Public Speaking Contest, or the Sign-a-Song Contest next year.

Winners for this year's Talent: Juniors: Under 10 - First Place: In Vocals - Moussa Dienta, age 7, with his rendition of "Everyone Smiles in the Same Language"; in Instrumental - Sarah Jordan of Apple Valley Jr. #138 with her rendition of "The Wheels on the Bus" and "The Muffin" on the piano. Juniors: Over 10 - First Place: Vocals and Instrumental - Courtney Cunha of Southeastern Area #137 singing "The Climb" and with her own composition on the guitar. Adult Contest: First Place - Instrumental - Melissa Castellon of Dunstable Grange #31 with her rendition of "Where I Am Now" on the piano; and Vocals - Corey Spence of Dracut Grange #216 with his a cappella version of "The Master Has Called Us." Corey was chosen Best in Show and will represent us at the Regional Talent Contest in August at Lecturer's Conference as well as at the Showcase of Excellence at National Grange in November in North Carolina. Congratulations to all who entered, including Moussa, our first non-granger to enter, and thank you to all who came.

Your Grange secretary should have information on the North East Grange Lecturers' Conference by now. The dates for the conference is August 2-5, 2010 in Randolph, Vermont at the Vermont Technical College. Our theme is "A Vacation to" and our program is on "Nevada." Our program will be performed on Tuesday morning with rehearsal Monday night. The Regional Talent Contest will occur Tuesday evening at the NE Lecturers' Conference. There is a scheduled rehearsal for our program on June 12th in Dunstable Town Hall at 11:00 AM.

Keep in mind that you do not have to be a Lecturer to attend, and I certainly won't hold it against anyone who does not wish to participate in our program. Please come. I know that you will have a great time.

Until next month.....

Susan Rotellini

Thank You

I want to thank all of you who have sent cards, words of encouragement, and/or prayers for me during my first round of treatment. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Fraternally,
Larry Shea

Thank you to the MA State Grange for the beautiful flowers and all the wonderful well wishes I received from Grangers across the state following my hip replacement surgery. It's been a long road and these past few weeks after the operation reminded me that it's not over yet. But with every card I receive I have a renewed faith that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. I know I'll be back to normal and walking gracefully by State Session in October.

Fraternally,
Kathy Gibson

MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE NEWS

Massachusetts State Grange, Inc.

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Chaplain's Message

"If I had a nickel for every time I heard that, I'd be rich!" Have you ever heard this expression? It seems to me that I have heard that many times, especially lately. I believe I heard it many times when I was younger and then there was quite a while that it didn't occur. Now, it has come around again and is becoming more and more popular. Apparently, the message behind it is related to the fact that many times, people with good intentions to do something, make promises that are not kept. That would then cause someone to say, "If I had a nickel for every time I heard that, I'd be rich!" I like to regard people as true to their word, most of the time, but sometimes there are circumstances beyond our control which prevent us from keeping the promises we have made, no matter how well-intentioned they were at the time.

Now, I have thought about this statement, and if you suppose that I had heard someone utter an empty promise 100 times, and if I had been given a nickel each time, the net earnings would have been five whole dollars! Not exactly rich by my terms, but I suppose that it would be five dollars more than I had before. Of course then I would take that five dollars to Dunkin Donuts and that would be the end of my wealth and prosperity. Maybe one hundred times would not be enough. I guess it would have to be thousands of times - perhaps tens of thousands of times. I can only imagine the magnitude of my disappointment because of that.

This also brings to mind another expression, "A penny saved is a penny earned." It would seem to me that you would first have to earn the penny and then save it. Then again, if we were only saving pennies, it would take quite a while to have the savings amount to anything substantial. I guess it would be better than nothing at all. But don't let the government find out you are saving pennies, because they would surely find a way to put a tax on it. The underlying idea is to save even a small amount for future needs. Start small and work up to larger amounts.

Okay, here's one more - "Your face is going to freeze that way!" I always laugh when I hear that one. Obviously, your face will NOT freeze that way, but if you keep making that facial expression, people will probably begin to wonder what the heck is wrong with you! Parents always have an odd way of relaying meaningful instructions to their children in a way that will scare them slightly, so as to create a sense of alarm, but not so much as to terrorize them into a complete sense of paranoia. In other words, "Your face is going to freeze that way!" is meant to cause enough concern to make the disturbing faces stop, but not enough to create an abnormal lack of any facial expression at all. As far as I know, it was never very effective.

If a penny saved is a penny earned, then saving a penny each day, would amount to three dollars and sixty-five cents at the end of one year. But, if in that year, I received a nickel from an empty promise made by one hundred people, I'd have five dollars. Together, that would make eight dollars and sixty-five cents, which would make me smile and then if my face froze that way - then it would probably be all right!

It seems to me that we tend to abide by these types of expressions each and every day. Maybe not these particular ones that I have mentioned, but we are all prone to have a favorite saying or two that we rely on to emphasize the points we are making, or to make a bland story seem more interesting. No matter which ones come to mind, they do tend to make it a little easier to remember the lessons we have learned.

Fraternally,
Randy Belseth

Quote of the month: "What three things do you want to accomplish this year? Write them down and place them on your refrigerator for inspiration all year." - Anonymous

Executive Committee Corner

The Executive Committee Corner is something new that the Massachusetts State Grange Executive Committee is testing out at the request of some members. It is a new section being added to the State Grange News for us to share information that comes before the committee that may be of interest to the general membership. We hope you find it informative.

- The Massachusetts State Grange Executive Committee meetings for the remainder of the Grange year are scheduled for the following dates: May 27, June 19, August 14, October 7 and October 28. Please contact the State Secretary if you have a matter you would like brought before the Executive Committee. Requests should be sent a minimum of 10 days prior to a meeting and will be prioritized based on the urgency of the request and time available on the meeting agenda.
- The National Grange has requested a mailing list of all Grange members to share with American Income Life Insurance Company so that all Grange members can receive a free \$2,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment Benefit. It was voted not to share our mailing list for this purpose. Members can contact American Income Life if they are interested in the programs they offer.
- It was voted to have a one year electronic program handbook beginning with the 2010 State Session. This will allow State Grange committees more flexibility in determining programs and events.
- It was voted to authorize the State Overseer to work on a contract with the Milford Doubletree for the 2011 State Session. It was also voted to subsidize the room rates and meal costs at the 2010 State Session using proceeds from the Big E booth .
- It was voted to adopt the National Grange policy on alcoholic beverages until action at our next annual meeting. The policy adopted by National Grange is below.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (as adopted at the 2009 National Grange Convention)

10.11.1 All Granges are prohibited from having alcoholic beverages either in the Grange Hall or on any Grange Property during any Grange meeting, except as provided in Sections 10.11.3. Granges meeting in buildings or on property not owned by the Grange may not allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages during any Grange meeting.

10.11.2 A State Grange may allow the use of alcoholic beverages at Grange sponsored activities by adoption of a policy in the State Grange By-Laws. The individual Grange shall obtain host liquor or liquor liability coverage if it sponsors any events where alcohol will be served.

10.11.3 All Granges may have sealed containers of alcoholic beverages at Grange meetings and activities for use as demonstration aids, gifts, or fundraisers. Such containers shall remain sealed at such Grange meeting or activity.

10.11.4 A State Grange may allow the use of alcoholic beverages at functions sponsored by non-Grange groups that rent or lease Grange property by adoption of a policy in the State Grange By-Laws. Such renters shall provide proof of host liquor or liquor liability coverage.

10.11.5 No Grange on any level shall apply for or hold a liquor license except for temporary permits for special events.

Contact: Caroline LaCroix
(508) 947 – 1904

Annual Mother's Day Breakfast

South Middleboro Grange will host the annual Mother's Day Breakfast on Sunday, May 9, 2010 from 8-10:30 am at the South Middleboro Grange Hall, Route 28, 570 Wareham Street South Middleboro. Breakfast includes: juice, scrambled eggs, bacon, home fries, toast, blueberry/plain pancakes and coffee. Price is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. All proceeds benefit South Middleboro Grange.

From the Junior Grange Department:

Greetings from our committee and from our youngsters. The Junior Committee met in March and brainstormed our program ideas, activities and a whole bunch of other things. We look forward to working hard for the Grange in an effort to energize Grangers to promote our Junior program.

Last week's statewide contests held at the Dunstable Town Hall produced a wide array of talented Junior Grangers participating in the State Lecturer's Talent Contest and the State Junior Grange Committee Public Speaking Contest. Look for the names of the award winners for the talent contest in the Lecturer's Column. The public speaking contest produced two winners in two different age categories. Courtney Cunha, a resident of Rochester and member of the Southeast Area Junior Grange placed first for her speech on pet abuse. Katerina LaCroix, a resident of Middleborough and member of the Southeast Area Junior Grange placed first for her speech on horses. Congratulations to both girls for their awards.

The statewide bowling contest is coming up on Sunday, May 16 and Junior Grangers are anticipating a fun time in Spencer. Junior Grange teams are encouraged to participate. Contact the youth committee or the Junior committee for entry information.

We are fortunate to have several Junior Granges in our state and as the State Master hinted in his last column, several additional Junior Granges are in the process of being organized. This is tremendous. While not every Grange may have the resources to accomplish this goal, there are many ways in which your Grange can reach out to children in your community. Last year, our Grange hosted one of the summer reading programs sponsored by the public library. Held outside, about twelve families attended along with five Grange members, while the children's librarian read stories out loud. Following the story time, we gave them a tour of the Grange hall and then cookies in the downstairs hall. The kids loved seeing the hall; trying on the sashes was a big deal, and running around the hall playing tag was loud and fun for them. My daughter demonstrated the use of the Master's gavel, which of course, was a first for most of them. To conclude, our Master presented the librarian with a hard cover copy of The Three Little Pigs.

My point is this, a simple community outreach program involving kids is beneficial to your Grange and you do not need a Junior Grange to reach out to kids and families. A book donation with your Subordinate Grange seal and name on the inside page will be read by many kids who visit your local library and enjoy library services. Sponsoring any library program or activity at your hall or meeting place is an opportunity to showcase to kids and their families your local Grange and provides a wonderful educational opportunity for them and us.

My second point is any gain in membership, whether in the Junior Grange or Subordinate Grange is hard work. Becoming more family oriented in your community to attract interest in your Grange is beneficial. One simple event held annually is something to consider and the public library is willing to accept our hand in friendship. Many libraries are organizing summer programs now, so why not call and see how your Grange can get involved? Contact the library director by telephone or make an in person visit. Good luck!

Until next month, a well deserved Happy Mother's Day to each and every mother in our membership!

Sincerely,
Caroline Sabalewski LaCroix,
Junior Grange Committee

Identity Theft

Recently both Worcester Central Pomona #7 and Uxbridge Grange #200 held programs on Identity Theft. Ronald Rajotte, a police officer for the Town of Boylston was the guest speaker for Worcester Central Pomona. Paula Fleming, Vice President of Communications and Marketing for the Better Business Bureau located in Natick, MA was the speaker at Uxbridge Grange. Both speakers offered very sage advise on protecting your most precious possession, your personal information. Use caution when performing everyday transactions when using your debit card at a store, writing a check to pay your bills, or shopping online with a credit card. Just by not taking precautions you are increasing your chances of becoming a victim.

Officer Rajotte spoke of one case in particular in Boylston where a resident reported receiving a call on a Sunday, from a male identifying himself as being from the Massachusetts Tax department. The caller informed the resident that he wanted to send the resident a large sum of money. To get his payment, the caller just needed the resident's bank name, account number and routing number. The information was provided and soon thereafter his account was cleaned out, Rajotte said. Boylston officers traced the funds to Virginia, then to Miami and after that the funds could not be traced.

Another case a woman reported having her wallet taken or misplaced with personal documents, like her social security card and birth certificate inside.

Office Rajotte said under Massachusetts General Laws, identity theft is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 2 1/2 years and/or up to \$5,000 fine.

Identity theft has increased and according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), about 9 million Americans have their identity stolen each year.

Sources for identity theft include skimming, shoulder surfers, dumpster divers, lost or stolen wallets, Internet fraud among others.

Protect your personal information by:

- Keep personal information private. Do not give it over the phone or to unsolicited calls or emails
- Keep personal information in a secure place at home.
- Shred all documents containing your name and address. Sometimes that is all it takes.
- Check all receipts with the bank statement or credit card bills.
- Verify reliability of companies with the BBB before doing business.

Ms. Fleming stated that she uses one designated credit card for making Internet purchases and a separate card for local shopping making it easier to identify the source of identity theft should it occur. She also advises that people get rid of credit cards they are just not using. Check your credit report at least once a year by contacting one of the three credit agencies:

Each of the following agencies provide one free credit report per year:

Equifax - Order by phone: 1-800-685-1111, report a fraud: 1-800-525-6285, TDD: 1-800-255-0056, www.equifax.com or mail: PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

TransUnion - Order by phone: 1-877-322-8228, report a fraud: 1-800-680-7289, TDD: 1-877-886-7803, www.transunion.com or mail: Fraud Department, PO Box 6790, Fullerton, CA 92834-6790

Experian - Order by phone: 1-888-397-3742, report a fraud: 1-888-397-3742, TDD: 1-800-972-0322, www.experian.com or mail: PO Box 9532, Allen, TX 75013

To opt out of pre-approved credit card offers call 1-888-5-OPT-OUT or log on to www.optoutprescreen.com or to register for the Do Not Call Registry call 1-866-231-CALL or log on to www.mas.gov/donotcall.

If the offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If it looks like a duck and walks like a duck, it may not be a duck, it could be a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Community and Family Activities Bake-Off First Place Receipes

Perfect Chocolate Cake

(1) 9X13 or (2) 9" layers

1 C. Cocoa: whisk into 2 C. boiling water and cool
 1 C. Softened butter)
 2 1/4 C. Sugar) Cream at high speed
 4 Eggs) 5 mins. scrapping bowl
 1 1/2 tsp. Vanilla)
 2 3/4 C. Flour
 2 tsp. baking soda 1/2 tsp. each baking powder & salt

Add dry ingredients to creamed mixture alternately with cooled cocoa mixture mixing just until moistened after each addition. Pour into prepared pans. Bake 350 degree oven for 30 minutes or until done. Cool on wire rack

Frosting: Heat 6 oz. Chocolate chips, 1/2 C. Butter, 1/2 C. Lite Cream in pan. Add 2 1/2 C, Confectioners sugar. Blend will and spread over cooled cake.

Cinnamon Rolls

INGREDIENTS:

1 (.25 oz) package active dry yeast
 3/4 C. warm water (110 degrees F/45 degrees C)
 1/4 C. white sugar 3/4 tsp. salt
 1 egg, room temperature 2 1/2 C. bread flour
 1/4 C. butter, softened 1 TBS. ground cinnamon
 1/2 C. brown sugar

DIRECTIONS:

1. In a small bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water. Let stand until creamy, about 10 minutes.
2. In a large bowl, combine the yeast mixture with the sugar, salt, egg and 1 C. flour; stir well to combine. Stir in the remaining flour, 1/2 C. at a time, beating well with each addition. When the dough has pulled together, turn out onto a lightly floured surface and kneed until smooth and elastic, about 8 minutes. Cover with a damp cloth and let rest for 10 minutes.
3. Lightly grease 8X8 In square pan. Roll dough on a lightly floured surface to 1/4 in thick rectangle. Smear the dough with butter and sprinkle with cinnamon and brown sugar. Roll the dough along the long edge until it forms a roll. Slice into 16 equal size pieces and place in prepared pan. Cut side up.
4. Cover pan with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight or cover and let rise at room temperature until double in size. About 45 minutes.
5. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Bake rolls until golden brown, about 20 minutes.

Quick & Easy Peach Pudding

1/2 cube butter 1 (29 oz.) can sliced peaches
 1 C. Flour 1 C. Sugar
 Dash of salt 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
 2/3 C. milk 1 tsp. Vanilla
 1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Melt 1/2 cube butter in 9" x 9" pan, add can of peaches juice and all. Mix ingredients and pour batter over fruit and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Divine Truffle Brownies

INGREDIENTS:

1 (8 oz.) package Baker's Semi-Sweet Baking Chocolate squares, divided
 1/2 C. Margarine
 3/4 C. Sugar, divided
 3 large eggs, divided
 1 C. flour
 2/3 C. heavy cream

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees
2. Spray 13" x 19" pan with Pam for Baking
3. Microwave 2 squares chocolate and margarine in medium microwavable bowl on high for 1 1/2 minutes or until margarine is melted. Stir until chocolate is melted.
4. Stir in 1/2 C. sugar
5. Stir in 1 egg until well blended
6. Stir in flour.
7. Spread batter in bottom of pan.
8. Microwave remaining chocolate and cream in microwavable bowl for 1 1/2 minutes. Stir until chocolate is melted.
9. Beat remaining 1/4 C. sugar and 2 eggs in small bowl until thick and lemon yellow colored.
10. Beat in chocolate cream mixture.
11. Pour over batter in pan.
12. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until mousse topping is set and the edges begin to pull away from the side of the pan.
13. Cool in pan before slicing.

Welcome to our New Members

Erin Tully	Dunstable #31
Lisa Morrissey	New Braintree #170
Kathryn Cassady	Hanover #206
John J. Reynolds	Hanover #206
Peggi Williams	Hanover #206

Membership Recognitions

<i>25 years</i>	
James E. Taylor	Shelburne #68
Paula Timinski	Holden #78
Kathleen Bliss	Anawan #221
Robert J. Duffy	Anawan #221
Zeke B. Harmon	Anawan #221

In Memoriam

Bernice Wickwire	Central Community #22
Dorothy Martin	Dunstable #31
Charles Goss, Jr.	Dunstable #31
Louise Mitchell	Shelburne #68
Helen M. Ordnung	Charlton #92
Lena Adams	New Braintree #170
Hermann G. Patt, Jr.	New Braintree #170
Dorothy Mae Goff	Anawan #221
Elizabeth M. Tonini	West Stockbridge #246
Lawrence Mattison	Williamstown #366

<i>50 years</i>	
Wayne R. Jordan	Holden #78
Frederick Warren	Holden #78
Shirley Warren	Holden #78
Beverly Sanderson	Whately #414

<i>55 years</i>	
Betty M. Dorward	Holden #78
Donald A. Dorward	Holden #78
Sarah Handy	Holden #78
Gordon W. White	Holden #78
Barbara Fiske	Petersham #95
George Fiske	Petersham #95
David Drowne	Anawan #221
Audrey Eckilson	Anawan #221
Joanne P. Fritsch	Anawan #221
Jean F. Harmon	Anawan #221
Mary Fay Perry	Anawan #221

<i>60 years</i>	
Mildred E. Gray	Charlton #92
Marjorie Morrell	Anawan #221
Joan Smith	Anawan #221
C. Elizabeth Waterman	Anawan #221
Richard Hannum	Whately #414

<i>65 years</i>	
Earl N. Goff Jr.	Anawan #221
Richard W. Goff	Anawan #221
Marjorie Babb	Whately #414
Anne Daniels	Whately #414
Kenneth Daniels	Whately #414
Jessie Dickinson	Whately #414
James LaSalle	Whately #414
Walter Nye	Whately #414

<i>75 years</i>	
Marguerite (Clark) Langlois	Petersham #95

<i>Non Consecutive 50 years</i>	
Ruth Robinson	Petersham #95

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Name: _____

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Cut and mail to:

Randall L. Vaill, Jr.
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