

MASSACHUSETTS

STATE GRANGE NEWS



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"Masters Award of Excellence"



Stockbridge Grange #295 honors one of their own - August 26, 2005 a "Masters Award of Excellence" was presented to Myrtle Mercier for her caring, thoughtful and generous support and service to Stockbridge Grange as well as to her community.

Alicia Brazie, State Treasurer, presented the award to Myrtle. A total of 62, 6 of her children with their families joined neighbors, Grangers from 10 Granges along with members of the 4-H All Star, were in attendance to celebrate and wish Myrtle well.

Myrtle is 97 years old (98 in November) and still helps Elder Services pack the meals for the elderly 5 days a week. She also helps on

the Big E Grange booth, donates items for sale at the Grange building, crochets for the VNA, collects pull tabs for the Shrinners, collects used glasses, collects stamps to be sent to a Missionary for art work, visits nursing homes and helps with the Grange dinners and card parties to name a few. She was a long time 4-H Leader, exhibited in the local fairs until 2 years ago, was instrumental in having the Grange Hall built, etc. The list is endless. She holds the office of Treasurer in Berkshire South Pomona #25 and Flora in Stockbridge Grange #295. She is a Past Master of Stockbridge Grange. She joined the Grange at the age of 14 and if it weren't for the fact that she took a few years off to raise her large (10 children) family, she would be an 83 year member.

Dudley Grange #163 Presents 50 Year Certificate



Tuesday, September 20th Dudley Grange held its Installation of Officers. After the installation, new Master, Peter Lyons presented 50 year member Marther Hainer, pictured on the right, with her certificate. Marther is in her 90's and until recently was very active in the Grange.

She and her late husband started Dudley's Scholarship Fund which she is still an active participant in. She was Treasurer of the Annual Strawberry Festival for many years among her other Grange offices.

It was a pleasure once again to hear her angelic voice singing at the meeting. Best wishes go out to her from all the Dudley Grange members.



From the Lecturer's Desk.....

As I write this column, I am in the midst of getting things ready for State Session. I am very pleased with the number of entries which I have received both for the Art and Photography Contests. When you come to State Session, be sure to stop into the Display Room to see all the fine work which our Grangers have contributed. I know that there are many more of you who, for some reason, do not enter into the contests. Please consider doing so next year.

The new State Programs are in the process of being formulated now. I hope that each one of you will enter into at least one contest for some department next year. Take this as a challenge to try to do this. It will make everyone's contests much more enjoyable with many more entries.

There is one more contest I want to focus on at this time. As I have been going around the state on various installing suites or just visiting Granges, I have noted that there are many very talented individuals. PLEASE enter the TALENT CONTEST this year! I was pleased to have two contestants in the adult category this past year, but there are three categories for adults to enter, and first, second and third places in each of these. The department chairs and your Lecturer can only hope that you will take the time to enter their contests.

For returning as well as first time Lecturers, you will find that your report forms are in a packet which your Grange representative to State Session brings back with him/her. Please take the time to read them over as well as send them in.

Finally, if you did not attend this past year's Lecturer's Conference and are at State Session, stop by my station where I will have copies of our Massachusetts' program for cost.

Until next Month.....

Susan Rotellini

From the Chaplain's Station

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I am writing this message at the end of September: however, by the time you receive it November will be here and I will no longer be your State Chaplain.

I find that November is a most appropriate month for you to read my final message from the Chaplain's Station: for this is the month of the Thanksgiving Holiday and I have many words of thanks to extend to all of you.

I will not name anyone for fear that I might exclude someone and that is certainly not my intention.

First I extend my thanks to everyone who through the last twenty-two State Grange Elections have conferred upon me the privilege of performing the duties appertaining to the State Chaplain's Office.

And to anyone and everyone who has in any way, great or small, assisted me in the work assigned to my office, a sincere thank you for your kind assistance. Without which I could not have exercised the functions allotted to me.

To the sick, the shut-ins and the bereaved I trust that my visits gave you a bit of courage and solace to help you through trying times. Be assured that those I ministered to gave me more that they will ever know: strengthening my awareness of the problems faced by people in need of compassion, especially those who are alone. Everyone has helped me to increase my spirituality as I become more and more aware of the needs of other people.

Thanks a million to everyone who has invited me to their meetings where I enjoyed myself and made the acquaintance of new Brothers and Sisters.

I do not know who your next Chaplain will be; however, I firmly hope that they will be shown the same consideration and kindness I have received during the past forty four years.

I joined the Order fifty nine years ago and from the night I received my First Degree I was impressed by the ritual and ceremonial of our Work. The lessons are impressive and if adhered to by everyone in this world we would not be faced with the problems we cope with today. I hope Grange will never dispense with the ritual of our Order for it is our life blood and without it we become just another social organization serving the community and each other. We need reverence and dignity in the exemplification of all of our work: remember, the Altar with the open Bible is the center of our meetings and should become the guide and guard over our lives.

I would never have enjoyed the beauties of Nature as I do if I had not joined the Grange.

God Bless and keep you through the years to come. I love you all, and will continue to keep you in my thoughts and prayers. See you around in the days to come.

A fond farewell as your Chaplain;

Brother Truman

MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE NEWS

Massachusetts State Grange, Inc.

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Shrewsbury Grange Turns in its Charter

Membership had dwindled from 550 to 35

From the Shrewsbury Record, Thursday, September 29, 2005

SHREWSBURY - Shrewsbury, once home to many farms, has dramatically changed throughout the years, leaving farm life as a distant memory for many families. With an ever-changing landscape and transformations in society, the vitality of the Shrewsbury Grange was also greatly affected.

On September 10th at the Ray Stone Post, members of the Shrewsbury Grange decided it was time to hand over their charter to the state due to declining membership.

"After 129 years, having any Grange close is sad," said Grange Master/President Joyce Herrick who joined the Grange when she was 14. "It was definitely emotional. I cried throughout the meeting."

Herrick a native of Shelburne Falls, a farming community, has fond memories of the turkey dinners and the Grange Fair that used to take place in October.

Although it was a difficult decision to hand in the charter, the Shrewsbury Grange was pleased to donate a final \$60,000 to the police and fire departments, the senior center; the Shrewsbury Historical Society, St. Anne's Church Humane Services, and a scholarship to Shrewsbury High School, Heifer International Program, 4-H Camp, Clara Barton Camp, Boy and Girl Scouts and several health associations that support Lou Gehrig's disease, diabetes, macular degeneration, and arthritis and to the town common project.

In addition to the donations to Shrewsbury, members of the Shrewsbury Grange also donated to the State and National Granges, which included the Grange museum in Rutland and the National Grange Building in Washington DC.

The funds were the result of investments made by the Grange's former treasurer Russell Jones with the money earned from the sale of the Grange hall, which was located on the corner of Main Street and Maple Avenue.

Once the Grange sold its building to the Knights of Columbus in 1964, it arranged to use the building for five years. After that the group met at the Ray Stone Post from 1969 to 1973. From 1973 to 1985 the Grange met at Three Acres on North Quinsigamond Avenue and returned to the Ray Stone Post in 1985 until its final meeting on September 10.

Established in 1876, the Shrewsbury Grange started off as a group of farmers and their families and friends who held gatherings and thrived on improving the community. There was also a Juvenile Grange that children could join beginning at age 14.

Members of the Grange helped out during the tornado of 1953. According to the group's history, 26 cots were set up in the hall with bedding donated by neighbors and six nurses and two doctors provided assistance.

Once having a membership of 550 the Shrewsbury Grange's membership dwindled to 35 members before the charter was handed in.

"There are so many extracurricular activities now," said Ursula Piazza, a former Shrewsbury resident who was raised in Wisconsin. "It came to a stage where the Grange wasn't doing



Members and officers of Shrewsbury Grange: (seated) Barbara Cortis, Margaret Mattero and Ann Lehman; (Standing) Rose Larson, Joyce Herrick, Eleanor Sears, Helen Miller, Laureston Crawford, Ursula Piazza, Hazel Blackett.

much with youth."

Many of the young people went off to college or were too busy with their careers to invest their time into the Shrewsbury Grange.

According to Piazza, the Granges helped "stimulate individuals to their maximum potential" in their lives morally and politically while upholding religion and good health and an effort to make the community better.

At 75, Piazza was the second youngest member of the Shrewsbury Grange where the average age of the membership was from 85 to 90.

"It was getting too hard to set up the folding chairs and hold events," Piazza explained. "It was getting too much. There was no new blood to carry it on. We reluctantly gave up."

Five former members of the Grange have joined the Auburn Grange. In the past, the Shrewsbury Grange established relationships with Granges in Holden, Auburn, Boylston and Worcester, according to Herrick.

According to Herrick, the Lion's Club, the Masons, the Knights of Columbus and the Legion are also having trouble staying in existence.

"It's hard for groups (like the Shrewsbury Grange) to keep going," Herrick said. "I wish more people would have gotten involved."

Ann Lehman, a Grange member for 67 years said she loved the camaraderie.

"It was a family organization based on agriculture," Lehman said. "Anybody who was anybody was in the Grange."

Lehman acknowledged the changes in Shrewsbury, which she said was "once a small town with a lot of agriculture." Today is a different world, where mothers are working and people don't have the time, Lehman said.

"The Shrewsbury Grange was the most beautiful organization I have ever known and it will be greatly missed," Lehman said.

National Grange Monthly Legislative Conference Call September 26, 2005

Topic: "Grange Resolution Management"

Attendees: Gordon Gibson (CT), Jay Pfeiffer (TX) and Carl St. Don (MA)

Speaker: Open Discussion

How can Grange leaders better manage the resolution process at their state and national conventions? Grassroots policy development has been the cornerstone of the Grange legislative program since 1867. However increased pressure to shorten conventions, as well as more demand for events at state and national conventions, have created risks that there will be insufficient time to thoroughly debate and discuss resolutions at our state and national conventions.

Mr. Pfeiffer began the discussion by talking about his recent experiences at the state convention in Texas. He noted that prior research and awareness of present national policy, found in the policy handbook, helped committees decide which resolutions needed to be addressed. State Grange's are encouraged to submit new resolutions for the national convention, but the importance of emphasizing old policies, that have recently become current issues, was also stressed as a necessary facet of the policy process.

The next topic discussed was the National Grange's attempt to streamline the national convention in both the "gavel to gavel" time and the non-policy related activities. One of the solutions to quickening the policy side of the convention is making the resolution number more prominent in order to make sure resolutions are addressed and kept track of in an orderly fashion. This solution led to the discussion about relieving Committee Secretaries of some of their responsibilities and allowing the Legislative

Staff to take a more hands on role in the process. The use of spreadsheets as a better way to keep an orderly record of the proceedings was also discussed.

Another issue talked about during the discussion was the importance of sending state resolutions to the National Grange in a timely matter. In order to provide committees with informed and prepared insight, state resolutions must be received in a reasonable amount of time before the national convention. If there are questions about specific resolutions, the National Grange is willing to help with any resources available to us, but a reasonable response time must be expected. Also mentioned was the use of the new Policy Discussion Board, found on the National Grange website (www.nationalgrange.org). A resolution from the California State Grange was posted on the Discussion Board, and is open to suggestions, questions, and comments from anyone who joins the discussion. This is the first year the Discussion Board has been used, and its' success depends on participation by the members.

The resolution process is a complicated, yet integral, facet of the national convention. Everyone must work together in order for this process to proceed smoothly, and the National Grange welcomes any suggestions or comments regarding convention procedures.

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Are you a Grange member who is interested in discussing public policy issues with other Grange Members? Click on www.nationalgrange.org/legislation/discussionroom.htm

Events and Activities

December 2

PITTSFIELD #14 - Christmas Party and cake walk. Bring a grab bag gift (\$5 maximum).

December 3

NORFOLK #135 - Norfolk Grange Santa's Secret Workshop 9 AM - 4 PM. Run by the Grange, this town wide event features organizations from around the town working to help children make Christmas presents for their families with the help of volunteer elves from all organizations in the community

December 6

WORCESTER #22 - Christmas Post Office and collection of dues. Corresponding Officers Night.

December 7

SHELBURNE #68 - 7:30 PM Business meeting followed by "Gifts in a Jar" craft project.

WILLIAMSTOWN #366 - Christmas Party - Janet Patterson. Covered Dish Supper.

December 12

HOLDEN #78 - Gifts for Shut-ins and Holden Grange Post Office.

December 12

WESTBOROUGH #116 - Let's have an early Christmas. Jean Hall will tell us how.

December 13

NORFOLK #135 - Meets 7:30 PM. Annual Cookie Swap. Bring three dozen fancy cookies of one kind to the meeting and an additional empty container. Leave with an assortment of homemade cookies to splurge on during the holidays!

December 14

WORC. CENTRAL POMONA #7 - Meets in Auburn 7:30 PM. Movie Theme. "Call of the Wild" speaker from the Massachusetts Wildlife. Christmas Shopping and Card Exchange.

December 15

AUBURN #60 - 7:30 PM. Theme National Parks. Mesa Verdi National Park, Colorado.

December 22

LUNENBURG #169 - 6:30 PM, Pot Luck Supper \$2.00. Christmas Party \$3.00 gift exchange. Bring a nonperishable item for Jenny's Shop. Christmas program and a carol sing.

NOTE: TO THOSE GRANGES THAT HAVE SUBMITTED SEVERAL EVENTS IN ADVANCE. CHANGES TO THE EVENTS SUBMITTED WILL NOT BE MADE UNLESS RECEIVED WITHIN THE PROPER PUBLISHING TIMES AS OUTLINED ON THIS PAGE. IT IS THE STATE GRANGE NEWS POLICY THAT OMITTED MEETINGS WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

When Mary Jordan asked me to recruit ambassadors and hosts for the New England Grange Building I had no idea what was in store to make it happen. Thanks to many brothers and sisters, the schedule was nearly filled for the 17 days.

The plan to have committee serve was a big help to me. I appreciate the willingness of the Community and Family Activities, Junior Grange, Legislative, Agriculture and Environment, Communications, Preservation of Buildings and Properties, Membership and Leadership Development, Youth and Young Adults, and Executive Committee in making my job easier.

Several who served gave good suggestions for future improvements that should be able to be implemented. Another thank you for thinking of ways to make the New England Grange Building more informative and useful to the public.

What a great group of Grangers there are in Massachusetts!

Adelia Bardwell

Submission Dates for Events and Activities Cut and Save this schedule

December issue - send January dates by November 1st.

January issue - send February dates by December 1st.

February issue - March dates by January 1st.

March issue - send April dates by February 1st.

April issue - send May dates by March 1st.

May issue - send June dates by April 1st.

June issue - send July and August dates by May 1st.

July/August issue - Send September dates by June 1st. **Please note there is not an issue prepared in July or August.**

September issue - send October dates by August 1st.

October issue - send November dates by September 1st.

November issue - send December dates by October 1st.

Mark your 2005 Calendars

Nov. 15-19th - 139th National Grange Annual Convention - Columbus, OH

Conn. Valley Pomona #19

Will be meeting Monday, November 28, 2005 in Whately at the First Congregational Church at 7 PM. A dinner is served at 7 PM for \$4. The meeting will begin at 8 PM. Programming for the evening is Deaf Awareness Night. A raffle will be held to benefit Hearing Projects.

National Grange Supports Motor Vehicle Owners' Right to Repair Act

WASHINGTON, August 29, 2005 - The Coalition for Auto Repair Equality (CARE) announced today that the National Grange, an organization with more than 2,800 local, county and State Grange chapters in 38 states, has joined the coalition of supporters for the Motor Vehicle Owners' Right to Repair Act, H.R. 2048.

Said David Parde, president of CARE, "We welcome the National Grange's support of this critical legislation. The action taken by the National Grange illustrates just how strongly consumers all across America support the protection of the rights of consumers and small businesses."

The National Grange joins other notable consumer and business supporters in the coalition such as AAA and National Federation of Independent Business. It is the nation's oldest general farm and rural public interest organization, founded in 1867. As part of this year's National Grange priority legislative issues document, Blueprint for Rural America 2005, the National Grange made the following policy statement under the heading Consumer Protection Law:

"The National Grange requests federal legislators to pass legislation that allows independent vehicle maintenance facilities or car dealership garages to have access to the technology/programming needed to repair all makes of vehicles so that the consumer has a choice of where to take his/her vehicle for maintenance and repair."

According to Leroy Watson, legislative director of the National Grange, "The Motor Vehicles Owners' Right to Repair Act is a critical reform that puts the needs of consumers first yet also protects the legitimate interests of automobile dealerships and other repair shops. The Motor Vehicles Owners' Right to Repair Act clearly addresses the goal of our Consumer Protection Law Policy Statement by helping to assure the consumer has the option to choose the repair

shop and the replacement parts to service and maintain their vehicles."

According to Watson, this bill is in direct response to the current automotive technology, which effectively "locks out" car owners from taking such action. Due to the growing presence of vehicles with On-Board Diagnostic systems, required by the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, some repair facilities have found it increasingly difficult to obtain the necessary information they need to repair newer vehicles. This means that later model cars can sometimes only be serviced at automobile dealerships, making shopping around for the best prices and most convenient service locations difficult for the consumer.

Watson added, "These non-dealership repair options are especially important for people living in rural communities, where licensed automobile dealerships may be located more than 100 miles away from independent repair facilities. We are eager to learn how to participate in the coalition and possibly coordinate some activities to help get the bill passed."

The Right to Repair Act is a broadly-supported bipartisan bill sponsored by Reps. Joe Barton, (R-TX) chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and Edolphus Towns, (D-NY). CARE is a national organization representing companies in the five million people strong automotive aftermarket, among them: NAPA, Midas, CARQUEST, AutoZone, Advance Auto, Jiffy Lube, O'Reilly's Auto Parts and CSK Auto (parent company of Checker, Schucks, Kragen).

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Pombo's ESA Reform Bill on the House Floor

Ask Your Congressman to Support It To Respect the Property Rights of Farmers and Ranchers

The U.S. House Resources Committee passed H.R. 3824, the "Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act of 2005 (TESRA)" on a 26-12 vote on Thursday, September 22. The bill now approaches a vote on the House floor and will be voted on as early as this week. Your calls and emails are needed *right now* to urge your Representative to support the bill.

Richard Pombo, chairman of the House Resources Committee, contends the ESA causes lawsuits and conflicts with land-owners, while failing to do enough for species. "I am willing to do whatever we can to put the focus on recovery and do what we can to recover these species as long as my property owners are protected," said Pombo. Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton commended the House Resources Committee for passing the legislation and lauded provisions of the bill that improve the recovery planning process and provide for the development of a clear definition of "best available scientific data." Bipartisan efforts to reform the Endangered Species Act are being driven by the failure of the current program to actually save species from extinction as seen by the clear evidence. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, only 10 (or less than 1%) of the roughly 1300 species listed have actually been recovered in the Act's 34-year history. What is the status of the remaining listed species? According to the Service data:

- 39% of the Act's listed species are classified as being in "unknown" status. They have no idea - could be extinct.
- 21% are classified as "declining."
- 3% are classified as "believed to be extinct," though they remain on the list.
- 30% are classified as "stable," though for many species in this category, this classification is a result of corrections to original data error, rather than actual accomplishments of the ESA.
- And finally, only 6% are classified by the Service as "improving."

TESRA would:

1. Require the federal government to compensate land owners if protecting endangered species forced them to give up the use of their land. (If compensation is not paid, the government could not enforce the act.) - for example, developers would be compensated for the value of structures they could not build because of restrictions that were ordered to protect wildlife.
2. Offer property owners grants and incentives to cooperate in protecting species on their land — remove the unintended consequences of the original ESA that prompts landowners to engage in what is known as "shoot, shovel, and shut up" by creating Conservation Aid and Conservation Grants.
3. Eliminate critical habitat designations because it does nothing but cause litigation and waste resources and instead require the agency to prepare recovery plans that identify certain areas considered to be important to a species' recovery.
4. Require the federal government to give greater weight to peer-reviewed science and empirical data, rather than computer modeling of the populations of endangered species.
5. Direct the secretary of the Interior to write new rules for determining the "best science" in listing endangered or threatened species.
6. Create bigger roles for state and local governments, insulating state officials from liability for them when they issue permits, or review notices or plans, authorizing private activity.
7. Increase opportunities for public input into all ESA regulatory processes, federal, state and local and
8. Focus government resources and public accountability on species recovery, not on species listing. In the future, species must have a Recovery Plan within 2 years of listing. TESRA also requires that recovery plans be developed and implemented for the hundreds of listed species without them presently. TESRA Recovery Plans will provide for development of expert Recovery Teams for each and every species in need. These will consist of biologists, relevant state, local and federal government officials, and affected parties. TESRA requires all recovery plans be re-visited and re-evaluated every 5 years to make sure progress is made, lessons are learned, and the best approaches toward recovery are utilized.

The National Grange supports a review of the ESA with the following guidelines: focus on keystone species (organisms critical to the stable functions of entire habitats and ecosystems), not minor or reduced species; rely on public lands for preservation; encourage voluntary protection by individuals and corporations; curtail taking of private lands for ESA; balance human costs with ecological benefits; compensation for private property owners for loss of usage of their property due to the ESA.

Please contact today your U.S. Representative to support H.R. 3824, the "Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act of 2005 (TESRA)."

Capitol switchboard: (202) 225-3121

If you have any questions or comments please contact Legislative Research Analyst Chil-Sook Hwang by e-mail: chwang@nationalgrange.org by fax: 202-347-1091 or by phone: 1-888-4GRANGE, ext 109.

Leadership Tip of the Month

Make Teaching A Regular Thing



If you want others to grow into new leadership positions, it is your responsibility to help them develop. This means you must teach them new things. While it can seem difficult to teach members, it is often only difficult to create the atmosphere that you are comfortable to teach in. Try making teaching a regular occurrence in your Grange. Regardless of if it is once a month or once a quarter, take time to teach all your members something. As a leader, there is always something that you need to educate your fellow members about. Take the opportunity to share answers or methods that they need to hear about.

Keep your teaching sessions short. If it takes more than five minutes, you need to decide what the most important thing about the lesson is and focus on it. When your members get used to having educational moments, they will start to look forward to them.

Make teaching a regular thing and become a better leader in your Grange!

MASS STATE GRANGE NEWS
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TIME DATED MATERIAL

Membership Tip of the Month

Look to the Future



Do you want to have the opportunity to recruit the most new members? If so, your focus must be to look into the future. History is great and it is positive to see what your Grange has done in the past and what impact it has had. However, that isn't what gets most people to join today.

When someone comments on the historical significance of your hall, share your vision for the future with them. Let them know where your Grange is going. Show them the living growing Grange that you have and that you want. Don't let them keep an old or out-of-date view of your Grange. Share why your traditions are important to the future of your members and the community.

Create displays for your Grange hall and for use in fair booths and other public events. These displays should feature what is happening and what your Granges plans for the future are. Look for ways the Grange can invest time and resources into helping children. People especially associate the future with their children.

Look to the future in your Grange and you will find it is easier to attract new members.

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