

MASSACHUSETTS

# STATE GRANGE NEWS

Volume 244

Official Publication of the Massachusetts State Grange, Inc.

September, 2006



## From the Office of Master

September is here and a new commitment to the Grange is the custom this time of the year with installation of officers. Many Granges have opted for 2 year terms but the renewed

commitment is still real. Commit your selves to making a difference in your communities. Begin by providing dictionaries to your local school third graders. This is a high priority issue as it promotes education, it demonstrates your concern for education in your community, and if you put the label inside the front cover as has been recommended, it promotes your Grange to the parents of your third graders. In addition, it is a press opportunity. Get your news paper involved, its good advertisement for your Grange.

You have now heard from the Community & Family Action Committee about the first care kits for Foster Care Kids just entering the system. This kit is simple and inexpensive and will have a good impact on the system by providing the necessities for children first entering DSS services care. Please put in a list of contents and a label or short note on how to contact the Grange. Remember, there are various kits for different ages. Linda and I have put together four kits for 2-4 toddlers.

Next month is the 134<sup>th</sup> Session of the Massachusetts State Grange at Milford. You should be making arrangements with the hotel now. John West, National Chaplain and Master of the New Hampshire State Grange and his wife Hannah will be joining us as Representatives from the National Grange. Janet and Bill Horne have graciously accepted to escort John and Hannah for the session. Please give John and Hannah a great big Massachusetts welcome.

The Big-E will be open by the time you read this. We are again serving clam chowder and lobster rolls in the Mass Building. If you have volunteered for this effort, I thank you. If you find your way to the Big-E, check out the Mass room in the New England Grange Building. It has been rearranged, spiffed up and is now exhibiting some outstanding Granges in our State. I think you will find the room

better represents you, the Grange of today in Massachusetts.

Fraternally,  
*Calvin C. Chase, Jr., Master*

### National Chaplain John H. West



John H. West, Master of the NH State Grange from 2002 to 2006, was elected National Grange Chaplain in Columbus, OH, in 2005. Born and brought up in Chichester, a small town northeast of Concord, NH, he holds a Master's Degree from Middlebury College and taught middle school English for thirty-seven years before retiring.

He is a third generation Granger and has held many offices in Chichester Grange and Suncook Valley Pomona Grange as well as serving as Lecturer, Overseer, and Master of the NH State Grange. He is active with retired educators groups, a men's breakfast club, and the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA. As hobbies, he is an avid reader and collects items of Grange paraphernalia, interesting canes, miscellaneous railroad mementos, and owl-related objects.

Hannah West taught high school English before marrying John in 1977. A former State Jr. Director and Community Service Director, she is currently the Editor of the Granite State Granger and Ceres of the NH State Grange. She is a Past Master of Chichester Grange and has recently been elected Master of Suncook Valley Pomona Grange. Outside of Grange circles, she is Leader of Song at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Pittsfield, NH, and serves on the Parish Council. For many years she has been the Chichester correspondent for the Suncook Valley Sun newspaper.

Hannah and John have two daughters, Anne and Mary. Anne works near home in NH, and Mary is in California.



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

September and fall weather are upon us. Another Grange year is about to start for those of you who hold no meeting during the summer. It is time to send in your reports and contest entries, if you have not already done so.

Soon you will be receiving your New Program Handbook with the contests for 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. There you will notice that there have been some changes in contests in the Lecturer's Department. A new project has been added, one which will run for up to two years. Money will be given to each Grange which completes this project. It is not a contest. We hope all Granges will do their best and will participate which is why the time frame is up to two years to complete it. Lecturers who attended my June State wide meeting already know of it.

Thank you to all who attended the New England Grange Lecturers' Conference at Rivier College in August and took part in the program as well as the chorus. We had a great time and everyone worked well together. Thank you, also, to all those who contributed to the gracious gift I received from Massachusetts. I cannot thank you too much.

I hope to see many of you at State Session. Our Talent Contest winner, Ashling Keating will be performing Friday evening along with other entertainment.

*Until next month.....*

*Susan Rotellini*



## Chaplain's Message

As we enter the month of September, there are two very important things we must be aware of at this time. First and foremost, we should be mindful of the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragedy, which occurred on September 11, 2001. Second, as we are being installed as officers in our Granges, let us "remember the parable of the mustard seed."

The events of September 11, 2001 are probably the most horrific that have occurred in our lifetimes, and will be remembered as a tragedy for many years to come. The unspeakable catastrophe of the crumbling towers of the World Trade Center, the attack on the Pentagon, the bravery of those involved on that plane which crashed in Pennsylvania, and the mayhem that ensued, has left a permanent scar on us all. It is absolutely unimaginable to most of us. I still remember the looks of terror on the faces of those who spent weeks trying to find loved ones. Our hearts go out to the family of our late brother, John Oganowski of Dracut Grange who perished on that day.

When we are attending Installations this month, we will hear these words spoken to the Chaplain - "Remember the parable of the Mustard Seed." We have heard them many times and we know when they are about to be spoken. How many were like me and did not actually know what the parable really was? I decided to find out because, like most of our ritual, it seems to be pertinent. I found this version in the gospel of Mark, Chapter 4, verses 30-32.

Jesus, preaching on the shores of Galilee, explained the parable this way...that the mustard seed is the tiniest of all seeds, but when it is planted, it grows to a plant the size of a tree and the birds of the air will come and nest on its great branches. This is a lesson, not only for Chaplains in our Order, but for all of us. The tiniest of seeds, when planted and nurtured, will grow into huge full-grown plants. When you hear these words this month, consider their meaning and remember them in the coming Grange year.

I would like to also add a portion of my message from the service at the Cathedral of the Pines on June 25<sup>th</sup>. It seems to be relevant at this time of the year. *"Membership is defined as the state or condition of **belonging** to a group such as a species, social class, club, team, or political party. It is also defined as the **members** of a group, species, social class, or organization considered collectively. So the word "membership" can refer to the fact that one has a membership in a club or at the gym or what have you, or it can also*

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be used to refer to the entirety of the members. The core of the word membership is "member" which means one who belongs to and participates in a particular group by birth or choice. It is also defined as a separate and distinct part of a whole. Therefore, a member is a person who chooses to belong to a specific group, like the Grange, and is a separate and distinct part of the whole membership. Membership then, is like a system of gears working together in unison. Each one individually does their own part, in their own way, composing the whole of the "membership". All goes well as long as the members are working together, each as a separate and distinct part. But, when one or more of the pieces are missing, or not working, the whole is affected."

Peace be with you all,  
*Randy Belseth, Chaplain*

MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE SESSION

RESERVATIONS FOR:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, TO OCTOBER 29, 2006  
 FORMS MUST BE MADE BY: SEPTEMBER 26, 2006  
 RADISSON HOTEL MILFORD  
 11 BEAVER STREET  
 MILFORD, MA 01757  
 PHONE: (508) 478-7010 FAX: (508) 478-5600

RATE: SINGLE, DOUBLE, TRIPLE OR QUAD \$84  
 PLUS 9.7% TAX (\$8.15) = \$92.15 PER ROOM

**Arrival Time:** Our check-out time is NOON and as such, we cannot always guarantee your room will be available for check in prior to 3 PM on your date of arrival.

**Guaranteed Reservations:** Your reservation will not be held after 6PM on the indicated arrival date unless it has been guaranteed by the first night's deposit being received by the Hotel. This can be accomplished by forwarding a check or authorizing the use of your major credit card. Reservations without guarantee will not be held after 6PM.

**Cancellation:** If your travel plans change and you cannot stay with us, please cancel your reservation by calling the Hotel at least 72 hours prior to arrival. Always receive a cancellation number to ensure the release of your obligation.

**Important Notice:** Room rates are confirmed in U.S. Currency. Applicable local tax, currently 9.7%, will be charged in addition to the confirmed room rate. All special requests are subject to availability. Rates above are based on single, double, triple, or quad occupied rooms.

**Meals Reservation for Convention 2006**

**Meals were subsidized by the Grange Fundraiser at the Big E**

**Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> "Legislative & Agricultural Luncheon"**

**12:15 pm - Poolside**

Menu: Turkey Croissant served with Potato Salad, coffee, tea and dessert **Cost: \$15.00 per person**

**Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> "Youth and Young Adult Dinner" 6:00pm - Poolside**

Menu: BBQ Chicken served with Tossed Salad, Baked Potato, Corn on the Cob, Corn Bread and rolls, coffee, tea and dessert **Cost: \$20.00 per person**  
 Children meal: Hot Dog with Fries and tossed salad **Cost \$10.00 per child**

**Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> "Celebration Banquet" 7:00pm - Ballroom**

**CHOOSE ONE:** Prime Rib served with Horseradish Cream Sauce **OR** Broiled Boston Scrod served with Lemon Butter. Both Meals are served with Soup, Tossed Salad, Vegetables, Potato, Coffee, Tea and dessert. **Prime Rib \$30.00 per person**  
**Scrod \$25.00 per person**

Children meal: Chicken finger with fries and soup **Cost: \$10.00 per child**

Reservation must be in the hands of the Steward no later than September 30, 2006  
 For information or questions please call me at 978-372-8845

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Send reservation and form, with checks made out to <b>Mass State Grange</b> to: |                     |
| <b>Matthew Johnson, Steward</b>   |                     |
| <b>22 Jordan St., Haverhill, MA 01830</b>                                       |                     |
| Agric. & Leg.: Lunch  | ___ X \$15.00 = ___ |
| Youth & Young: Adult meal   | ___ X \$20.00 = ___ |
| Child meal  | ___ X \$10.00 = ___ |
| Celebration Dinner: Prime Rib   | ___ X \$30.00 = ___ |
| Scrod   | ___ X \$25.00 = ___ |
| Child   | ___ X \$10.00 = ___ |
|   | Total \$ _____      |
| Name:   | _____               |
| Grange:   | _____               |

**RESOLUTIONS FOR THE 134TH ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE**

**SMALL SCALE AND ORGANIC FARMING**

1. **WHEREAS**, the Grange is predicated on agriculture and its basis as a way of life; and  
**WHEREAS**, New England agricultural endeavors rely greatly on small and part time family farming; and  
**WHEREAS**, the potential membership of Granges everywhere depends on those "who have an interest in agriculture", both large-scale, but more importantly, small-scale; and  
**WHEREAS**, the Massachusetts State Grange has seen fit to embrace the organic farm movement by taking a membership in the Massachusetts Chapter of the Northeast Organic Farm Association (Mass. NOFA); therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the Massachusetts State Grange recommend the National Grange add to its program a strong policy of recognizing and advocating for 1.) small-scale farming and 2.) the organic farming movement as an alternative option to current large-scale methods. In doing so, the National Grange and its membership will acknowledge that there is a place for all in agriculture, and it will acknowledge its progressive grass roots beginnings.  
**Submitted by: MSG Agriculture and the Environment Committee**

**SIXTH DEGREE CERTIFICATES**

2. **WHEREAS**, the degree of Flora is meant to be an inspirational and beautiful degree; and  
**WHEREAS**, the distribution of the sixth degree certificates to candidates during the degree is disorganized, time consuming, and detracts from the majesty of the degree; therefore be it  
**RESOLVED**, that the distribution of the certificates not take place during the degree;  
and be it further,  
**RESOLVED**, that the certificates be distributed in a more organized manner after the close of business immediately following the sixth degree.  
**Submitted by: Chebacco Pomona #26**

**CONSTITUTION CHANGE FOR LOWER QUORUM**

3. **WHEREAS**, the number of Subordinate and Pomona Granges in the State is steadily declining; therefore be it  
**RESOLVED**, that section 2.3 on page 2 of the Massachusetts State Grange Constitution be amended by striking the words "Seventy-five" and replacing them with the word "Fifty" so that it now reads:  
"2.3 *Fifty* delegates shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business in the State Grange."  
**Submitted by: MSG Executive Committee**

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAW CHANGE FOR ASSOCIATE  
MEMBERSHIP**

4. **WHEREAS**, Associate Membership will be beneficial both politically and financially to both Subordinate and Pomona Granges by permitting other organizations, personages and businesses to join and support us; therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the Constitution and By-laws of the Massachusetts State Grange be amended by making the following changes:  
**On page 18**, adding section 4.14 as follows:  
"4.14 *Associate Members* – Associate Subordinate membership is permitted in accordance with the National Grange Digest of Laws." (see National Grange Digest page 18, 4.6.12 and page 21, 4.8.2)  
**On page 13**, adding section 6.6 as follows:  
"6.6 *Associate Pomona Grange membership* is permitted in accordance with the National Grange Digest of Laws." (see National Grange Digest page 18, 4.6.12 and page 21, 4.8.2)  
**On page 10**, adding section 11.11 as follows:  
"11.11 *Dues for Associate Members* – Dues for Associate Members shall be \$50.00 per year with \$10.00 payable to the Massachusetts State Grange and \$10.00 payable to the National Grange, the remainder to be retained by the host Grange." (see National Grange Digest page 21, 4.8.2(E))  
**Submitted by: MSG Executive Committee**

**CONSTITUTION CHANGE FOR DATE OF  
ANNUAL SESSION**

5. **WHEREAS**, It is becoming more and more difficult to schedule our State Session for the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of October; therefore be it  
**RESOLVED**, that section 2.1 on page 2 of the Constitution of the Massachusetts State Grange be amended by striking the words "commencing on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday" and replacing them with the words "during the month" so that it now reads:  
"2.1 *Annual* – This State Grange shall hold its annual meeting *during the month* of October at such place as the Executive Committee may determine."  
**Submitted by: MSG Executive Committee**

**ANNUAL WORD AND SALUTATION**

6. **WHEREAS**, at times we have open meetings as well as closed meetings with non-members in attendance; and  
**WHEREAS**, members need to take the four degrees (or be obligated) to know the salutation; and  
**WHEREAS**, members are required to pay annual dues in order to receive the Annual Word; therefore be it  
**RESOLVED**, that the word and salutation be omitted at meetings where non-members are in attendance.  
**Submitted by: Minuteman Pomona #16**

**Continued on Page 6**

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION – EDUCATION OF PROPERTY ASSESSORS**

34. The Chapter 61,61A and 61B assessment programs are important tools to keep the taxation of farmlands in line with their economic value. The Massachusetts State Grange is supportive of educational programs instituted by the DOR to bring all town assessors up to date with the farmland values and how to apply them. The goal being to fairly enforce the law in all towns across the state, this is especially important where many farms straddle town lines.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION – EMINENT DOMAIN LAWS**

35. The Massachusetts State Grange supports the revision of the eminent domain laws within this state, so as to provide greater protection for private property rights especially a mandatory requirement to look for other potential non-agricultural properties before taking an active agricultural property. If at all possible the splitting in two of agricultural properties should be considered only as a last resort. The Grange further supports changes to the definition of public purpose in light of the US Supreme Court Ruling.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION – ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**

36. The Massachusetts State Grange supports the reformation of the Endangered Species Act into a more regionally based policy. There is a need to reform the Act as it is currently too restrictive and not locally based. There needs to be an element of common sense added to the regulatory policy. The burden of proof needs to be shifted to the regulatory agency to prove a species actually resides on the property. This is especially important in an era of eco-terrorism, where species have been planted on properties to stop development.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION – IMPORTANCE OF FAIRS**

37. The Massachusetts State Grange supports and understands the cultural and financial importance of fairs in Massachusetts. Fairs educate the general public on the values inherent in the agricultural lifestyle in an ever increasing urban environment, and introduces them to the many and varied animals, fruits, vegetables and other farm products raised by farmers. We also recognize the financial opportunities that fairs provide by providing a place for people involved in agriculture a place to exhibit, advertise, and possibly merchandise their products. Fairgrounds provide and maintain open space at no cost to the towns where they are located.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION – FAIR FUNDING**

38. The Massachusetts State Grange requests the full restoration to the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture for the payment of the premiums to the exhibitors at all Adult and Youth Fairs in the Commonwealth.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION – EXHIBITION OF LIVESTOCK**

39. The Massachusetts State Grange opposes any legislation restricting the exhibition of livestock at Fairs.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION – DAIRY**

40. The Massachusetts State Grange supports the concept of the Northeast Dairy Compact where the premium raised through the sale of milk in the Northeast and distributed among the farmers in the Northeast, the MILC program on a national level where the milk price is set according to the Boston zone price and a percentage of the difference between that and \$16.94 is paid to farmers from the government, the CWT (Cooperatives Working Together) where members pay through a milk check deduction (now at \$.10/ hundred) to support a farmer funded whole herd buy out, a herd size reduction, or exports of dairy subsidies, and/or any other program on a state level that would add to a dairy farmers income during a period of low prices.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION – AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONS**

41. We support the formation of the Agricultural Commissions at town levels. This gives the Agricultural community a voice on town issues which may affect local agriculture. This also provides a support system for farmers dealing with issues and perceptions of the general public. We also encourage these communities to pass the Right To Farm By-Law to make people aware of the fact that they live in an agricultural community and make them aware of the issues connect with that.

48 Resolutions and Policy Recommendations where submitted. Policy Recommendation 42-48 will appear in the October Issue. Recommendations are from Agriculture, Deaf and Family and Community Committees.

**Events and Activities****September 30**

**Young Adults Plimoth Plantation Trip** - Meet at 9:30 at Plimoth Plantation front entrance. OPEN TO ALL MEMEBERS AND FRIENDS. MUST MAKE RESERVATION. Call Matt and Lisa Johnson 978-272-8845 by September 27th. Group rate for 15 or more: Adult \$14.00 Child (17 and under) \$8.50. For directions go to [www.Plimoth.org](http://www.Plimoth.org).

**October 4**

**SHELBURNE #68** - Meets at 7:30. Speaker Marion Holbrook "Volunteers for Medial Transportation."

**OCTOBER 13,**

**DUNSTABLE #31** - Annual Raffle for Heifer Project along with program on Farm and Home Safety and Environmental Concerns chaired by Charles Tully, State Agricultural and Environment Committee Chairman.

**October 14**

**NORFOLK POMONA #27** - Luncheon 12:00 PM. Fire and Ice Caterers. Installation of Officers of Norfolk Pomona #27 and Norfolk Grange #135 by Ken Skinner, Past State Master.

**October 18**

**SHELBURNE #68** - Harvest Potluck Supper followed by Harvest Games and Pumpkin Decorating.

**October 23**

**HOLDEN #78** - Meets 7:30 PM in Town Hall. Speaker from our community or local business.

**Mark your 2006 Calendars**

**Oct. 26-29** - 134th Annual State Session - Radisson Hotel, Milford, MA

**Nov. 14-18th** - 140th National Grange Annual Convention - Springfield, IL

**State Session**

**Youth and Young Adult Dinner - Pool Side**

**Friday, Oct. 27, 2006**

Open to ALL participants at State Session. Reports and Awards will be presented for Mr. & Mrs. Granger, Youth Ambassador and Outstanding Granger.

**MEDIA CAMPAIGN**

7. **WHEREAS**, there has been a significant decline in membership over the past few years; and **WHEREAS**, many Granges have been forced to close causing our organization to start to disappear; and  
**WHEREAS**, the majority of ordinary citizens do not know the Grange exists; and  
**WHEREAS**, the per capita paid to the Massachusetts State Grange is ultimately for the support of the local community Granges; therefore be it  
**RESOLVED**, that the Massachusetts State Grange begin a media campaign on radio and/or T.V. similar to that of other fraternal organizations. With the goal to better educate and encourage the ordinary person to join our organization.

**Submitted by: Hanover Grange #206**

**POMONA GRANGE STATUS**

8. **WHEREAS**, Pomona Granges are becoming increasingly smaller; and  
**WHEREAS**, the Massachusetts State Grange requires there be three Subordinate Granges to be a Pomona; therefore be it  
**RESOLVED**, that if there is one or two strong Subordinate Granges remaining in a Pomona and they are capable of and are actively pursuing the work of a Pomona, they be allowed to continue as that Pomona Grange; and be it further,  
**RESOLVED**, that in order for these Granges to continue in this capacity they must have a full slate of officers and meet at least on a quarterly basis; and be it further,  
**RESOLVED**, that if these same Granges are unable to hold two consecutive meetings because of a lack of a quorum, they should consider consolidation with another Pomona.

**Submitted by: Sippican Pomona #31**

**FAMILY DUES**

9. **WHEREAS**, the National Grange has adopted a Family Dues plan under Section 8.6.1 of the Digest of Laws of the National Grange of "...sixteen dollars (\$16.00) annually per family of which four dollars (\$4.00) is to be paid quarterly..."; and  
**WHEREAS**, the current dues structure of the Massachusetts State Grange may be prohibitive to attracting new families and a burden on current membership; and  
**WHEREAS**, the Family Membership Committee appointed in 2003 whose report and recommendation were received in 2004 did not have adequate information regarding current Grange families or first-hand knowledge of potential new families that might join the Grange; and  
**WHEREAS**, it is the goal of the Massachusetts State Grange to increase its membership; therefore be it  
**RESOLVED**, that the Massachusetts State Grange adopt the family dues plan of the National Grange cited in Section 8.6.1 of the Digest of Laws of the National Grange to become effective January 1, 2007.

**Submitted by: Sippican Pomona #31**

**OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUGS**

10. **WHEREAS**, most over-the-counter drugs have small print on the labels and inserts ; and  
**WHEREAS**, many senior citizens have failing eyesight and cannot read the warnings and other information because of the small print; therefore be it  
**RESOLVED**, that the Massachusetts State Grange go on record as supporting an effort to have drug companies use larger, bold print on labels and inserts; and be it further,  
**RESOLVED**, that the Massachusetts State Grange request the National Grange to support this endeavor.  
**Submitted by: Sippican Pomona #31**

**HOME HEALTHCARE BENEFITS TO SPOUSES OR PARENTS**

11. **WHEREAS**, the Mass Health Personal Care Attendant (PCA) program and the Caring Homes program now allow children or sons- and daughters-in-law to be paid caregivers; and  
**WHEREAS**, there may not be a child or son and daughter-in-law available to give such care; and  
**WHEREAS**, in-home care is very beneficial to the patient; and  
**WHEREAS**, in-home care is not as costly as a nursing home or other facility; and  
**WHEREAS**, a spouse, adoptive parent, or parent of a minor may be available and capable of giving proper care to an individual; therefore be it  
**RESOLVED**, that the Massachusetts State Grange support legislation to include a spouse, adoptive parent or parent of minor in the PCA and Caring Homes programs as paid caregivers.

**Submitted by: Sippican Pomona #31**

**GRANT PROGRAM**

12. **WHEREAS**, many Granges in the Commonwealth own their own halls and the maintenance of said halls has become burdensome because of rising costs of materials and labor; and  
**WHEREAS**, the Massachusetts State Grange ultimately benefits from the sale of any hall; therefore be it  
**RESOLVED**, that the Massachusetts State Grange institute a grant program to aid in the maintenance of existing halls, said grants to be used for repairs; and be it further,  
**RESOLVED**, that any Grange requesting a grant must submit in writing the purpose for which said grant will be used together with an estimate from the company that will be completing the work if appropriate; and be it further,  
**RESOLVED**, that there be a cap of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to any Grange that requests a grant; and be it further,  
**RESOLVED**, that there be a five year hiatus between grants to any one Grange; and be it further,  
**RESOLVED**, that a maximum of three grants be awarded each year by the Massachusetts State Grange beginning January 1, 2007.

**Submitted by: Sippican Pomona #31**

**EXEMPTION FROM DUES**

- 13. WHEREAS**, the National Grange provided in Section 6.6.3 of the Digest of Laws that Golden Sheaf members could be relieved from paying Subordinate, Pomona or State dues; and  
**WHEREAS**, in order to qualify for such exemption said members must have become Golden Sheaf members prior to January 1, 2001; and  
**WHEREAS**, the majority of members who qualify as Golden Sheaf members are retired and on fixed incomes; and  
**WHEREAS**, many people in the age bracket of Golden Sheaf members are unable to work to augment their income; and  
**WHEREAS**, living expenses and medical costs are escalating for these members; therefore be it  
**RESOLVED**, that the Massachusetts State Grange request the National Grange to amend said Section 6.6.3 of the Digest of Laws by deleting the words "Such member must have received the Golden Sheaf award prior to January 1, 2001."; and be it further,  
**RESOLVED**, that this By-Law change shall become effective January 1, 2008; and be it further  
**RESOLVED**, that this Resolution if passed shall be irrevocable.  
**Submitted by: Sippican Pomona #31**

**BALANCED BUDGET**

- 14. WHEREAS**, the budgets currently being presented to the delegates at State Session show a deficit spending; therefore be it  
**RESOLVED**, that starting in 2007, the State Grange Executive Committee present a balanced budget, including interest and dividends from invested funds if applicable to balance the budget.  
**Submitted by: Mayflower North Pomona #40**

**NEW FORMS**

- 15. WHEREAS**, the Secretary's duties are the most arduous of all; and  
**WHEREAS**, it is necessary that the secretary complete vouchers after the Executive Committee has approved bills at a meeting and in order to facilitate the work of the Secretary and Treasurer and to alleviate much repetitious writing and required signatures of the Secretary and Master; therefore be it  
**RESOLVED**, that new forms be devised so that all the bills/orders for each meeting of the Subordinate and Pomona Granges be listed on one page thereby requiring the Secretary and Master only having to sign one form at each meeting; and be it further,  
**RESOLVED**, that the Treasurer be issued new forms so that she/he can list the moneys received designating the proper category for which they were received as well as the total amount for each meeting to be given to the Secretary.  
**Submitted by: Norfolk Pomona #27**

**CONTACTS FOR EVENTS IN STATE GRANGE NEWS**

- 16. WHEREAS**, the primary communication tool for Grange members concerning meetings and events around the state is the Massachusetts State Grange News; and  
**WHEREAS**, the information is due to the State Grange News two months in advance; and  
**WHEREAS**, due to various circumstances meetings and events may be changed and not all members have access to State Directories; therefore be it  
**RESOLVED**, that a contact name and phone number be included in the listings of meetings and events to be used by Grange members for confirmations of time and directions, as needed.  
**Submitted by: Mayflower North Pomona #40**

**STATE COMMITTEE AND ACTIVITY ACCOUNTABILITY**

- 17. WHEREAS**, each State Committee or State Activity is funded by the State Grange and a line item for each is presented in the State Grange yearly budget; and  
**WHEREAS**, the delegates are asked to approve spending recommendations in Sessions Committee meetings; therefore be it  
**RESOLVED**, that each committee or activity present a detailed accounting of how the money is spent and that it be included in the delegate package with the proposed budget; and be it further,  
**RESOLVED**, that the budget be presented with columns including last year's budget, last year's expenses, and the proposed budget for the new year.  
**Submitted by: Mayflower North Pomona #40**

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION - TAXES**

- 18.** The Massachusetts State Grange supports fair taxation of all residents to support local and state governments. We oppose the continued diversion of taxes into the Boston tunnel system.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION - AID TO SCHOOLS**

- 19.** The Massachusetts State Grange supports increasing State Aid to rural school districts to improve the quality of education in these rural communities. The 2.5% override is not a free tool for shifting money away from these school districts.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION - WATER AND YOUR RIGHTS**

- 20.** The Massachusetts State Grange supports property owner rights including the ability to draw as much water as needed to support the property operation, be it a farm, a home or a business.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION - DRIVING AGE**

- 21.** The Massachusetts State Grange continues to support the current driver's license age of 16 1/2. Our rural members need the ability to transport themselves to work and to operate farm machinery on our roads.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION – SENIOR CARE**

22. The Massachusetts State Grange supports a change in the laws allowing patients in long term care to keep an account allotment of \$100 per month for personal needs such as hair care, etc.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION – OPEN SPACE**

23. The Massachusetts State Grange supports increased aid to farmers and other open space owners to help maintain the open vistas that make Massachusetts a tourist attraction and provides its citizens with fresh produce and homegrown products.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION – FOSTER CARE**

24. The Massachusetts State Grange supports increased funding of the Division of Social Services to provide the best care possible for our children in need of support.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION – ANTI-DRUG POLICY**

25. The Massachusetts State Grange supports testing for drug and alcohol abuse in the work place but especially those who operate mobile equipment of all types. The Massachusetts State Grange supports counseling and rehab without prejudice for the first offence. The second offence should be permanent loss of license to operate.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION – CHARTER AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONS**

26. The Massachusetts State Grange supports the charter of local Agriculture Commissions to aid all our citizens in rural communities deal with the issues surrounding agriculture.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION – RIGHT TO FARM**

27. The Massachusetts State Grange supports the right to farm by-law.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION – RIGHTS OF DEAF/HARD OF HEARING PERSONS**

28. The Massachusetts State Grange strongly supports legislation to protect the rights of deaf and hard of hearing persons. The Massachusetts State Grange supports legislation which aids in the betterment of the lives of the deaf and hard of hearing.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION – INSURANCE COVERAGE**

29. The Massachusetts State Grange supports legislation that would require all health insurance companies to cover hearing screening, testing, surgery, and hearing aids, including mandatory regular hearing screening and hearing aids for children.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION – EDUCATION OF DEAF/HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN**

30. The Massachusetts State Grange favors an educational environment for deaf and hard of hearing children where their unique communication mode is respected, used, and developed to an appropriate level of proficiency. Placement in this environment should be best suited to the child's individual needs, which include, but are not limited to, social, emotional, cultural needs, age, hearing loss, academic level, modes of communication, styles of learning, motivational level, and family support.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION – EDUCATION OF EMERGENCY RESPONDERS**

31. The Massachusetts State Grange favors the education of persons relating to the Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) in sign language and deaf culture; especially those working in areas highly populated with deaf people.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION – PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE**

32. It is the policy of the Massachusetts State Grange to work with other agricultural organizations to promote good agriculture, a safe environment, and a rural character that all of the citizens of Massachusetts can be proud of. This should be accomplished through legislative actions/policies, education of both agricultural professionals and the general public, and the protection of our state's precious farm and forest lands.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION – APR PROGRAM**

33. Access to usable, reasonably priced land being essential to the continuation of a viable agricultural base in this state, the Massachusetts State Grange supports the continuation of the APR program. Foremost is the need for fair treatment of the farmers already enrolled in the program, no retroactive changes to the agreements already made. The State Grange supports the need to keep prices of farmlands accessible to those actively involved in farming as opposed to the creation of large gentlemen farms. Key to any APR program is the need to protect private property rights especially the right to restrict access to properties actively used for agricultural purposes.

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**MASS STATE GRANGE NEWS**

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