



The State Grange News

The official publication of the Massachusetts State Grange

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8 Pages

From the President's Desk

By Corey Spence

Happy New Year! The calendar page turns to a year full of possibility. What will your Grange do to embrace 365 new days to grow your Grange? Can you reach outside your hall and invite others in? Connect with other groups in town and put on a joint event? Let me encourage you to keep your minds and eyes open for exciting new projects you can start or ways to reinvigorate and improve your current events.

Massachusetts is hosting the Northeast Grange Leader's Conference January 10th-12th at the Doubletree in Danvers. Although the meal and hotel reservation deadlines have passed, you can still join us for the day on Saturday. We start the day at 9am with a tour of the Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School and the afternoon is devoted to workshops on Strategic Planning and Finding the Hidden Potential in your members. Registration is only \$15 and you can register that day. Email Brian Carr at bcarro1@outlook.com or call me with any questions.

The Youth and Junior Committee is planning a day in the snow on February 22. Look for more information in this edition of the News.

The Agriculture in Action Expo Team are hard at work planning an exciting and event-filled day on April 26th at Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner. Building on the success of the first Expo, this year will be even bigger and more exciting! For more information, if you know a group that would be a good fit as a sponsor or vendor or your Grange wants a table at the event, you can find that information at www.massag-expo.org/sponsors-and-vendors. I do hope you can all join us on the 26th!

The town of Lexington has invited us to join them for their Patriot's Day Parade celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the battle of Lexington on Monday, April 19. The Parade starts at 2pm. Last year parking opened at 11:45 am. Let me know if you are interested and as soon as the details for the day are released I will update it for you. They are expecting record crowds watching the parade. It would be great to have you marching with us!

Spike and I hope you had a happy Christmas and we wish for all of you a blessed new year. I love this thought by Howard Thurman of the work following Christmas:

The work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

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Executive Committee Quarterly Report - January 1, 2025

Immediately after the close of the 2024 State Session, the Executive Committee reorganized: Chairman - Kathleen Peterson; Vice Chairman - Allen Manley, Jr.; and Secretary/Auditor - Janet Horne. The Executive Committee authorized the payment of outstanding State Session bills after approval by the State President and Secretary/Auditor.

It was voted to send those resolutions requiring delegate action to the National Grange.

It was voted to confirm the State President's changes to the Youth and Junior Committee and the Home and Community Committee.

The State Session minutes for October 27, 2024 were approved.

The 2024 fair premium reimbursements were approved.

Westport Grange received approval for a Grange Hall Grant in the amount of \$15,500. Westport Grange also received approval for an Agricultural Education Grant in the amount of \$2,476.

The State President was authorized to invite 11 representatives to attend the Northeast Leaders Conference at the Double Tree Boston North Shore with two nights' lodging paid by the State Grange.

It was voted to transfer \$100,000 from investments to checking.

Mission Statement:

The Massachusetts State Grange brings people together to build stronger communities by encouraging agriculture and environmental sustainability, community service and fostering future leaders.

The Executive Committee extends to all members a Happy New Year!

Fraternally,

Kathy Peterson, Chair

Massachusetts State Grange Executive Committee

Happy New Year!

Upcoming Events

January 10-12 — Northeast Leaders Conference, Danvers, MA. See pages 8-11.

Tuesday, January 14, 7:30 p.m. — North Orange Grange program by The Farm School, Community Church of North Orange and Tully, 48 Main St., Orange.

Saturday, April 26 — Agriculture in Action Expo, Mt. Wachusett Community College, Gardner.

October 30-November 2 — State Grange Session, Devens.

Please submit event information to:
stategrangenews@massgrange.org

Submissions will appear in this section as well as on the Massachusetts State Grange website's calendar.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Rochester Grange will not be meeting in January or February

MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE NEWS

Massachusetts State Grange Inc.

COREY W. SPENCE, Editor-in-Chief

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Randall L. Vaill, Jr., and Lisa Johnson

Advertising from Grange affiliates, news items and photos solicited. Advertising rate: \$5 per column inch.

From the Agriculture and Environment Committee

Hello Everyone and Happy New Year! I wanted to share something that I received in an e-mail from one of our ag partners. As many of you know, the Ag Committee invited our partners to attend the 150th Anniversary celebration. Those of you that attended would have received a little flashlight. Mine is in my car. With that said, I wanted to share this to show how important making these connections are and the effect that the Grange can have on anyone at any time.

“Thank you also for the Grange flashlight from the dinner last year! I threw it in my suitcase for our big trip, and it was absolutely essential in achieving a major bucket list adventure: that little light got me (with my 80 year old mother in law on my arm!) up to the top of the Tikal Guatemala pyramid at 4am to watch the sunrise. Pitch black jungle path, and so many stairs, but we did it!

The Grange light and friendships go a long way!!”

Yes, that little light can certainly shine bright and lead the way. You just have to turn it on.

Looking forward to 2025.

Matt, Kathy, Ann, Scott, Jessica, Warren

Massachusetts Agriculture in Action Expo

Hi Folks! Have you made plans to attend the 2nd annual Agriculture in Action Expo on April 26th at Mt. Wachusett Community College? The day begins at 10:00 am and we would love to see you there. The schedule will be available shortly. Keep an eye out at your Granges for the sponsorship forms. That will be going out in the mail by the end of the month. You will also find one in this month’s News in case you would like to make an individual donation. Please contact any member of the committee if you have questions.



Quilt of Valor Awarded

On Sunday, December 15th members of Rochester Grange visited Alden Court in Fairhaven to meet and award A “Quilt of Valor” to 90 year old Henry Stopka, a Rochester resident. Henry is a veteran of both the Air Force and the U.S. Coast Guard. He served in the U.S Air Force from 1950 to 1954 as an Airman 1st Class and was a firefighting, crash and rescue Specialist. Henry attended fire-fighting school at Lowry Air Force Base in Colorado. As an Airman, he was attached to the 1100th Installations Squadron at Bolling AFB, Washington, DC. In the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, he served from 1965 to 1990 retiring as a Senior Chief Small Arms Instructor. Henry had been stationed at the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod.

Henry was very pleased with his quilt and the reason for it. As he left to return to his room he showed his appreciation with a thank you and a handshake. The Grange is both happy and proud to have been able to honor Henry Stopka for his service to our country and along with members of his family to present him with a lovely quilt to use and enjoy. His daughter immediately placed it on his bed where he now enjoys its warmth and caring feeling.

CONGRATULATIONS and MERRY CHRISTMAS Henry and all the Stopka family.

From the Connections Committee

Have you ever wondered how to write an article for the State Grange News but weren't sure where to start? Maybe you don't think you have anything new or exciting to put in the news?

A lot of the articles in the State Grange News come from the State Committees. They generally use their articles to share information about their upcoming contests and events or what news they have from the past month. Did you know that any Grange member can submit an article for consideration to the State Grange News. Does your Subordinate Grange have any events on the horizon that are open to either other Grange members or the public? Did you have an event or activity that your members really loved and you want to share information about it so other Granges can find inspiration? We are also open to stories and memories of past Grange events and activities that you'd like to share with your fellow Grangers

with the intention of inspiring new events or even a return of old ones.

Questions and Fun Facts are also interesting things to send into the news. Having little blurbs that can be used between the bigger articles is always useful! Do you have an interesting or useful fun fact relating to the Grange, agriculture, farming, etc? Member spotlights are also an option. Perhaps a member of your Grange or committee has been a "Real-Go-Getter" and you want to celebrate that.

Are you concerned about how long an article should be? How short? Did this article seem to be a sufficient length? For reference, it contains less than 300 words. Perhaps consider that fact when creating your next article.

We look forward to reading all your submissions!

Amanda Gibson

Connections Committee Director

Massachusetts State Grange News Article Writing Guidelines 2024

- Maximum size: 1 page or two columns (including any photos)
- Send Photos separately from the text of the Article (not as a pdf with the picture as part of the page)
 - Please include captions for photos (can be written in the email body)
- Preferred Article Format: Word Document

All Articles must be sent in to the Connections Committee by the 20th of the month before or the Article will not be published in that issue.

- Exceptions will only be made if the Connections Committee is informed before the **20th** that an article will be late.
- Late articles **will not be accepted** even with prior warning after the **25th** of the month and will wait to be published in the next issue.

These rules are due to time restraints and the amount of time it takes to format the State Grange News each month in order to publish one the 1st of each month.

~ All articles must be sent to Stategrangenews@massgrange.org ~

Highlight Your Grange's Events and Activities!

The Massachusetts State Grange Connections Committee is asking Grangers to share their Grange's events and activities so that we may help promote them to the public. Please contact the Connections Committee at maconnectionscommittee@gmail.com to have your event information sent out in an email blast.

Grange Experiences Survey

In an effort to make the Grange as transparent and approachable as possible so as to open the gate to new potential members, we are asking current Grange members to fill out a short survey so as to share their experiences and memories in the Grange. Please contact the Connections Committee at maconnectionscommittee@gmail.com to receive a link to the survey.

Massachusetts State Grange Social Media Posting Guidelines 2024

- Highlight events and contests related to your Grange.
- Send Photos separately from the text of the Post (not as a pdf with the picture as part of the page)
- Let us know if there are specific #hashtags or links that need to be included.
- Keep text as succinct and to the point as possible. Social Media doesn't like long walls of text.

It is asked that all Grange members send information about their upcoming events a month before the event occurs. This is so we can make sure the information is circulating with enough time for people to respond to it.

Please contact our Social Media Coordinator, Lauren Vaill, for assistance in the creation of images/graphics and the curation of social media posts in order to make sure all events and such are well promoted.

~ All information for posts must be sent to our Social Media Coordinator at lauren@thevails.com ~

Reminder:

The things you post on social media are representative of you and by extension, the State Grange.

If you post something specifically about the Grange, especially publicly, please keep it positive. We are trying to promote a united front and negative comments are hurtful to everyone involved. This is especially important if the grievance is something that could be easily fixed through open communication. Social Media is not a vacuum, there are repercussions to everything posted there.



EVENT BRIEFING

TIME & LOCATION

Massachusetts Agriculture in Action Expo

Saturday, April 26, 2025

Opening Ceremonies 9:30a

Doors Open 10a | Doors Close 4p

Mt. Wachusett Community College

444 Green St

Gardner, MA 01440

KEY

Event/Ag Committee Lead: Matthew Johnson

mattjohnson9@verizon.net | 978 - 423 - 3324

MassAgExpo.org

AGRICULTURE IN ACTION EXPO

We are proud to present the 2nd annual Massachusetts Agriculture in Action Expo, a celebration of the food and fun in our vibrant agricultural community in the heart of the Bay State. Hosted by the Massachusetts State Grange, this *free* event has something to offer the whole family and is a testament to our commitment to supporting and promoting the rich tapestry of agriculture that defines our great state.

Workshops | Vendor Fair | Connecting Consumers & Farmers

ABOUT THE GRANGE

The Grange brings people together to build stronger communities by encouraging agricultural and environmental sustainability, community service and fostering future leaders. By supporting the Massachusetts State Grange, you will support local farms; preserve heirloom skills and crafts; provide local activities for children and young adults and promote volunteer community service projects across Massachusetts

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

PRESENTING \$5,000

Opportunity to speak at Opening Ceremonies alongside Government & Grange officials
Repeat radio spotlights for 2 weeks leading up to event
Opportunity to host Speaker Workshop
Booth provided & premier placement at vendor fair
Premier logo placement on event website & materials, including on event T-Shirts
Premier logo placement at and around event
Premier listing in Annual Grange Donor Report Year-long ad space in Grange Monthly Newsletter

FRIEND \$2,500

Opportunity to attend Opening Ceremonies alongside Government & Grange officials
Repeat radio spotlights for 2 weeks leading up to event
Opportunity to host Speaker Workshop
Booth provided & premium placement at vendor fair
Premium logo placement on event website & materials
Premium logo placement at and around event
Premium listing in Annual Grange Donor Report
Six-month ad space in Grange Monthly Newsletter

WORKSHOP \$1,000

Opportunity to host Speaker Workshop
Booth provided & prime placement at vendor fair
Prime logo placement on event website & materials
Prime logo placement at and around event
Prime listing in Annual Grange Donor Report
Two-month ad space in Grange Monthly Newsletter

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

BANNER \$500

Logo and information placement on banner
Booth provided for vendor fair
Placement of logo on event website & materials
Listing in Annual Grange Donor Report

TOTE BAG \$250

Name placement on tote bag to be distributed at event
Placement of logo on event website & materials
Listing in Annual Grange Donor Report

VENDOR \$100

Booth provided for vendor fair
Name placement on event website & materials
Listing in Annual Grange Donor Report
Full Page Ad in Program Book

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025

Mt. Wachusett Community College
Doors Open 10am

MassAgExpo.org

Sponsorships & Vendors: **Matthew Johnson**

Event/Ag Committee Lead: **Matthew Johnson**
mattjohnson9@verizon.net | 978 - 423 - 3324

PROGRAM BOOK ADS

FULL PAGE \$100

Logo and information placement on full page ad in program book
(Included in VENDOR Sponsor Level)

HALF PAGE \$50

Logo and information placement on half page ad in program book

QUARTER PAGE \$25

Logo and information placement on half page ad in program book

SPONSORSHIP FORM

OFFICIAL SPONSOR NAME LISTING

(as it should appear in sponsorship listings)

SPONSOR CONTACT INFO

NAME

COMPANY

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

EMAIL

PHONE

SPONSORSHIP LEVEL (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

Presenting	\$5,000	Tote Bag	\$250
Friend	\$2,500	Vendor	\$100
Workshop	\$1,000	Ads	1/2 Page \$50
Banner	\$500		1/4 Page \$25
		Other	\$ -----

BILLING INFO

(if different from above)

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Visa Mastercard Amex Discover

CARDHOLDER'S NAME

CARD NUMBER

EXP. DATE

CARDHOLDER'S SIGNATURE

CV CODE

AMOUNT \$ -----

Visit MassAgExpo.org to process online.

PAYMENT VIA CHECK

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made payable to Massachusetts State Grange.

Please return this form to

MA State Grange
Attn: Lisa Johnson
22 Jordan St, Haverhill, MA 01830

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE