



The State Grange News

The official publication of the Massachusetts State Grange

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November 2024

16 Pages

From the President's Desk

By Corey Spence



What an amazing time we had at State Session. I hope you were able to be there, even for a part of the proceedings. I had so much fun leading the parliamentary proceedings I lost track of time! Thanks to all the officers, committee members,

delegates, and others that joined us in Milford. It was great to see you all. My heart is full to overflowing with the joy of seeing my Grange family gathered and debating important issues, sharing meals, singing, and even dancing together. You all make this job worth it.

There are way too many people to thank individually, but there are a few I have to name.

Worthy Steward John Carter for making everything run smoothly and bringing me back from parliamentary land so we could move to the next event on the schedule.

The State Officers, especially the Secretary who helped me remember what needed to come to the floor of session.

Session Deputy George Thomas for leading the Deputies at Session. Thanks also to our amazing Deputy Corp. You made everything, including handing out papers, flawless.

Our Parliamentarian Kathy Peterson and her assistant Sam Manley. You were there with an answer almost before I was looking for one.

Our amazing committees, Juniors, Youth, Veterans, Ag and the Environment, Home and Community Service, Connections, and all the others that create programs to draw people to the Grange.

The amazing delegates who engaged with heart and voice in all the discussions in their session committees and on the floor.

When I get to lead Morning Prayer at my church, I love to end the service with the benediction I heard from the minister at the Cathedral of Hope in Dallas. It begins, "Our Worship has ended and now our service begins..." The big event has ended and now it is our turn to carry out the work determined upon us by our deliberations.

Go back to your Grange invigorated by new ideas you gathered from the session and your discussions with connections you cultivated both old and new. Start brainstorming ideas for resolutions now and start discussion how to word them and get them ready for next year.

Reach outside the hall to our Grange partners, your own community partners, or even new partners that can help you begin new ventures. Several groups can accomplish what one alone might not be able to. Reach out to your State Grange Committees and invite them to put on a program at your Grange.

See **PRESIDENT** Page 2

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Upcoming Events

Wednesday, November 6, 7 p.m. — Shelburne Grange Veterans Program, Fellowship Hall, 17 Little Mohawk Rd., across from the fire station.

Thursday, November 7, 6 p.m. — Sterling Grange Business Meeting, 14 Maple St.

Monday, November 11, 6 p.m. — Holden Grange Dues Paying Supper and Veterans Night, Holden Senior Center, 1130 Main St.

Tuesday, November 12, 7:30 p.m. — North Orange Grange, Community Church of North Orange & Tully, 48 Main St., Orange. Program by Quabbin Harvest Food Co-op. Please bring a nonperishable for the collection to support the Mahar Key Club's Thanksgiving Baskets. Suggested donations include: gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned fruit and vegetables.

Wednesday, November 20, 7 p.m. — Shelburne Grange Business Meeting and a short program on the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, Fellowship Hall, 17 Little Mohawk Rd., across from the fire station.

Thursday, November 21, 6 p.m. — Sterling Grange, 14 Maple St. Program: TBD

Monday, November 25, 7 p.m. — Holden Grange Meeting, Holden Senior Center, 1130 Main St. Program: Preventing Falls

Monday, November 25, 7 p.m. — Connecticut Valley Pomona Meeting, Fellowship Hall, 17 Little Mohawk Rd., Shelburne. Historical program, social time at 6:30 prior to the meeting. Members are invited to bring refreshments to share.

Please submit event information to:
stategrangenews@massgrange.org

PRESIDENT *From Page 1*

Our new Junior and Youth Committee will be helmed by Co-directors Roland Giguere and Karlana Henry. They are joined by Lori Alden, Lillian Giguere, Sandra Jefferson, and Justine Lovely. Look in the State Grange news and our Social Media for exciting new ideas and programs from this new committee.

As Spike and I prepare to leave for Bettendorf, IA, I know that we are buoyed by your good wishes and thoughts as we collaborate with our counterparts across the country. This is an exciting time to be a Granger!

Let us get out there, put our hands to the plow, point our hopes to the future, and put in the hard work of growing the Grange of the future on the fields of today.

Spike and I wish you all a happy Thanksgiving with you and yours.

Directory Updates

Connecticut Valley Pomona Secretary

Ruth Leahey

18 Long Plain Rd., South Deerfield, MA 01373

Hillside Pomona Secretary

Nancy Weston

160 Point Grove Rd. #8, Southwick, MA 01027

Ware Grange President

Terry Vaill

45 Roosevelt St., Palmer, MA 01069

West Stockbridge Grange (send to:)

Donald McClelland

260 Pittsfield Unit E16, Lenox, MA 01240

Easton Grange Secretary

William Ames

50 Main St., 4204 North Easton, MA 02356

If there any other changes please contact the State Secretary Lisa Johnson

MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE NEWS

Massachusetts State Grange Inc.

COREY W. SPENCE, Editor-in-Chief

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

From the Agriculture and Environment Committee

Hello Everyone! It was wonderful to see many of you at session. I'm hoping you had a chance to head to the display room to check out our, well, displays and were able to scoop up a calendar. I still have a box of them, so if you would like one, please let me know and we can figure out how to get one in your hands. I'm also hoping that you had a chance to check out the proposals from our partners. If you have any questions, please see a member of the committee. I'm also hoping that you had a chance to sit in on the program at session. Chris Lounsbury from Essex North Agricultural Technical School (Essex Aggie) gave a very interesting talk about the school. I have already heard from multiple Granges that are considering a tour. Anne Gobi, Director of Rural Affairs also spoke and discussed the opportunities available to rural communities.

Speaking of our partners, in the President's Address it was recommended that each Grange "consider inviting a Grange Partner to present a program at their meetings". We have established great connections with our partners and they all have welcomed the opportunity to talk to the Grange about their organizations. That is why we do this. If you need contact information, please contact one of the Co-Directors and we will get that information to you. We look forward to Granges partaking of the fruits of our labors.

On behalf of the committee, I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. See you all soon.

Matt, Kathy, Ann, Warren, Jessica, & Scott

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.

Massachusetts Agriculture in Action Expo

Hi Folks! Just a quick word from the Expo committee. We had a great meeting the other night and things are really starting to come together. The new magnets are in so make sure you pick one up to keep the date and location in mind. The Expo will be held April 26, 2025 at Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner. It is going to be an event you won't want to miss. More information will be coming out very soon.

Matt

Easton Grange Installation



Easton Grange 196 held its installation of officers at their monthly meeting on Monday, October 19th at the Oakes Ames Memorial Hall in North Easton. In addition to the installation, the new Easton Grange Hall sign was unveiled and celebrated by all members. The new sign will be hung on the Grange Hall, Washington Street, North Easton in the spring after the power washing of the building.

Thank You

I was delighted to serve as your Junior Grange Director for the last year. I would like to wish the co-directors of the Junior and the Youth Committee well. If I can do anything to help just call. I would also like to thank my Committee members for the last year, Justine Lovely, Sandra Jefferson, Lori Alden And Roland Giguere, as well as Ken Paulson for the help with the Junior projects. Again thank you.

Miriam F Caldwell

Lecturer's Corner

By Deborah Goodrich

During my first year as State Lecturer brought a few firsts for me. First the Extravaganza in May and the return of the North East Lecturer's conference after a five plus years hiatus hosted by the state of Connecticut in June.

This also signifies my first speaking role in the Sixth Degree as Lecturer at the 152nd State Session in addition to hosting the Friday night entertainment which featured "The Singing Trooper".



The State Lecturers contest winners for Photo, Art and written Essays are as follows:

Photography, Adults

People:

1st Daria D'Arienzo, Williamsburg #225
2nd Theresa Kenney, Holden #78
3rd George Kenney, Non-member/Holden #78
Honorable Mention: Kayle Gibson, Central Community #22

Landscape:

1st Daria D'Arienzo, Williamsburg #225, **Best in Show**
2nd George Kenney, Non-member/Holden #78
3rd Theresa Kenney, Holden #78
Honorable Mention: Steve Emerson, Chesterfield #83

Barns:

1st Daria D'Arienzo, Williamsburg #225
2nd George Kenney, Non-member/Holden #78
3rd Theresa Kenney, Holden #78
Honorable Mention: Carolyn Hastings, Holden #78

Animals:

1st Daria D'Arienzo, Williamsburg #225
2nd George Kenney, Non-member/Holden #78
3rd Emma Kane, Non-member/Holden #78
Honorable Mention: Theresa Kenney, Holden #78

Flowers:

1st Carolyn Hastings, Holden #78
2nd Amanda Gibson, Central Community #22
3rd Glenn Gibson, Central Community #22
Honorable Mention: Martha Emerson, Chesterfield #83

Clouds/Sky:

1st Sylvia Snape, Williamsburg #225
2nd Carolyn Hastings, Holden #78
3rd Daria D'Arienzo, Williamsburg #225
Honorable Mention: Theresa Kenney, Holden #78

Youth

Animals:

1st Michael Lupachini, Upton #125
2nd Sophia Garrepy, Upton #125
3rd Eleanor Krueger, Upton #125

Flowers:

1st Susan Barrows, Upton #125
2nd Michael Lupachini, Upton #125

Clouds/Sky:

1st Andrew Hall, Stockbridge #295

Landscape:

1st Andrew Hall, Stockbridge #295

Juniors (ages 5 – 9)

Animals:

1st Aeva Snyder, Upton Jr. #39

Barns/People:

1st Aeva Snyder, Upton Jr. #39

See **LECTURER** Page 5

From the Veterans Committee

Twenty veterans attended our committee's program on Friday during State Session. A brief history and song of each branch of the service were highlighted, followed by presentation of Quilts of Valor. We appreciate the many Grangers and family members of the recipients who participated in the program. Veterans were our guests at the dinner that evening, offering a time for social interaction with our members. After dinner, the Lecturer's program carried out the day's theme with Dan Clark, aka the 'Singing Trooper' whose energetic patriotic



Group photo of Quilt of Valor recipients:
 front row: President of Anawan Oakton Grange Mary Fay Perry (Navy), Larry Lindquist (Army), Joe McNeil (Air Force), Lisa Havens (Navy)
 back row: Easton Grange member Paul (Larry) Dahlgren (Army), Easton Grange member Earnest Smith (Air Force), Glenn Scott (Army), Wayne Seelig (Marines & Air Force)



Photo of individual presentation: Mary Clark, Dan Clark (Marines), QoV Foundation State Coordinator Theresa Perrault

LECTURER From Page 4

Clouds/Sky:

1st Aeva Snyder, Upton Jr. #39

Landscape:

1st Aeva Snyder, Upton Jr. #39

Flowers:

1st Aeva Snyder, Upton Jr. #39

Art, Adults

Oils and Acrylics (Landscape)

1st Erin Krueger, Upton #125

Juniors (ages 10 – 14)

Watercolor (Flowers)

1st Anabelle Krueger, Upton Jr. #39

Juniors (ages 5 – 9)

Oils and Acrylics (Flowers)

1st Jack Krueger, Upton Jr. #39

Oils and Acrylics (Landscape)

1st Jack Krueger, Upton Jr. #39

Pencil (People)

1st Jack Krueger, Upton Jr. #39

Create-a-Note Card

Congratulations

1st Daria D'Arienzo, Williamsburg #225

Veterans Day

1st Tonya Luce, Upton #125

Creative Writing, Adults

Essay

1st Daria D'Arienzo, Williamsburg #225 **Best in Show**

2nd Winneferd Gilchrest, Dunstable #31

See **LECTURER** Page 6



LECTURER From Page 5

Poetry

1st Daria D'Arienzo, Williamsburg #225 **Best in Show**

2nd Theresa Kenney, Holden #78

Outstanding Grange Awards

Veteran Award

1st Sterling #53

2nd Holden #78

3rd Upton # 125

Public/Community Service Award

1st Sunrise Pomona #9

1st Upton #125

Grange Fair/Festival Award

1st Upton #125

Grange Visitation

1st Williamstown #366

Lecturer's Annual Reports

Pomona Granges

1st Janet Segur, Worcester Central #7

2nd Ruth LaRagione, Berkshire North #6

3rd Caroline LaCroix, Sippican #31

4th Kristin Paulson, Sunrise #9

Subordinate Granges

1st Kathy Gibson, Central Community #22

2nd Lynn Jordan, Holden #78

3rd Amber Vaill, Ware #164

4th Ruth LaRagione, Pittsfield #19



Williamsburg Grange Community Service Winners.



Sixth Degree recipients and court.



Pictured are GROW club members recognized at State Session.

Contact the State Grange News

To submit news items, photographs and events for use in The State Grange News, please e-mail:

stategrangenews@massgrange.org

The deadline to submit content for publication in The State Grange News is the 20th of each month. If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to the above email.



LAST CHANCE GRANGE SPIRIT APPAREL

Show your Grange pride with these new State Grange apparel options. Orders are due by November 15th and will be delivered in early December.

If your Grange would like any of these products made with your Grange logo instead of the State Grange logo, please contact Chris Szkutak (crszku10@gmail.com) for more information!

We have a small selection of apparel in smalls and mediums available, contact Chris Szkutak if you are interested.

**Long Sleeve
T-shirt**

\$20



Polo Shirt

\$25



Fleece Jacket

\$35



Note: These are mockup designs, the exact coloring of the actual product may be different

Please return this form with checks made out to Massachusetts State Grange to Christopher Szkutak, 56 Rumonoski Drive Northbridge MA 01534 by November 15th. NO ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please write the number for each size for each product

Long Sleeve T-shirt (\$20 each) : S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL _____

Polo (\$25 each) : S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL _____

Fleece Jacket (\$35 each) : S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL _____

Total: \$ _____

MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE



WE ARE LOOKING FOR

PHOTOGRAPHS

Niles Larson from North Orange Grange is finishing up the 150th State Grange Documentary. He is now looking for members help with extra photographs that can supplement the movie.

- Grangers in Grange Halls
- Grangers out in the Community
- Grangers and Agriculture
- Junior and Youth Grangers

YOU CAN CONTACT NILES LARSON BY EMAIL OR
PHONE
nilesm.larson@gmail.com
978-424-1773

Niles will have a cloud link for digital photos and can arrange to scan any physical photos you have so you can keep them in your possession



RESOLUTIONS FOR THE 152ND ANNUAL SESSION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE

1. SUPPORTING COMPENSATION FOR GUARDIANS AND SPOUSES AS CAREGIVERS

WHEREAS, caregiving plays a vital role in supporting individuals who require assistance due to age, illness, or disability; and
WHEREAS, guardians and spouses often undertake caregiving responsibilities, dedicating significant time, effort, and resources to provide care for their loved ones; and
WHEREAS, caregiving duties can be financially burdensome, resulting in caregivers sacrificing their own professional opportunities, income, and retirement savings to fulfill their responsibilities; and
WHEREAS, compensating guardians and spouses as caregivers acknowledges the invaluable contribution they make to the well-being of their dependents and recognizes the importance of their role in society; and
WHEREAS, providing financial support to caregivers can alleviate economic strain, reduce caregiver burnout, and ensure the continuity and quality of care provided to those in need; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange support MA Bill S67/H216 An Act Allowing Spouses to Serve as (paid) Caregivers; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange encourage members to contact their local legislators requesting co-sponsorship and, if possible, provide personal stories how the legislation would benefit their families.

Submitted by Connecticut Valley Pomona #19

COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Social Services

FINAL ACTION: Adopted

2. ENHANCING ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION FOR RURAL SENIORS TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS BEYOND THEIR LOCAL AREA

WHEREAS, seniors often face significant challenges in accessing transportation services, particularly for essential trips such as specialized medical appointments; and
WHEREAS, access to transportation services is limited for seniors due to factors such as geographical isolation, lack of public transportation infrastructure, lack of social and familial support systems, lack of insurance coverage for transportation, and limited availability of affordable options; and
WHEREAS, providing convenient and affordable transportation options can help alleviate isolation and improve access to specialized healthcare services among seniors; and
WHEREAS, seniors must travel as far as one hundred miles or more to obtain expedient, specialized care; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange encourages the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to create a comprehensive Senior Transportation Initiative. This initiative will:
Create equitable access to transportation services for seniors across the Commonwealth, to medical services statewide and throughout New England. This initiative shall include the development of specialized transportation programs tailored to the needs of seniors.
Expand existing transportation options, such as shuttle services, rideshare programs, and volunteer driver networks, to better serve senior populations and provide them with convenient and affordable transportation alternatives to medical appointments.
Subsidize transportation programs specifically targeted toward all seniors, providing discounted fares or vouchers to alleviate the financial burden associated with transportation costs.
Ensure that transportation services are accessible and accommodating to the unique needs of seniors, including wheelchair accessibility, mobility issues, door-to-door assistance, and scheduling flexibility.”

Submitted by Connecticut Valley Pomona #19

COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Human Services

FINAL ACTION: Adopted as amended

3. REGARDING FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

WHEREAS, the National Grange has included legal dependents of any age in their legal guardians' family under family membership; and

WHEREAS, many family households include disabled adult relatives who have no legal guardians; and

WHEREAS, these disabled adult relatives may have limited income and resources; therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the National Grange amend the Digest of Laws article 4.6.6 (B) to allow disabled relatives of any age who live as a member of the same household to be included in the Grange's family membership; and be it further

RESOLVED, that article 4.6.6 (B) be amended as follows:

Delete the words "are defined as" in the second sentence and replace them with "shall include", and delete the third sentence "Legal dependents of any age shall be considered part of their legal guardians' family." and replace it with "Dependents shall also include disabled relatives of any age who live as a member of the same household." so that the amended paragraph will read as follows:

(B) A family shall consist of a couple and their dependents, or a single person and their dependents. Dependents shall include children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, foster, adopted or step-children under the age of 23, who live as a member of the same household or in absence due to illness, education or military service. Dependents shall also include disabled relatives of any age who live as a member of the same household.

Submitted by Connecticut Valley Pomona #19

COMMITTEE: Good of the Order

FINAL ACTION: Adopted

4. MEMBERS RESIDING IN LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES

WHEREAS, Subordinate and Pomona Grange members are required to pay annual membership dues; and

WHEREAS, some Grange members reside in long term care facilities; and

WHEREAS, many of these Grange members usually have limited assets; and

WHEREAS, until the year 2000, the National Grange and State Granges did not charge dues to Golden Sheaf members; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange amend the Digest of Laws article 6.6 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP by inserting the following paragraph:

6.6.4 Upon authorization of a State Grange, a Subordinate Grange within its jurisdiction may relieve a Grange member or members residing in long term care facilities from payment of Subordinate, Pomona, or State dues. and be it further

RESOLVED, that these members will continue to enjoy the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of Grange membership.

Submitted by Connecticut Valley Pomona #19

COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Social Services

FINAL ACTION: Rejected

5. THE BIBLE UPON THE ALTAR

WHEREAS, the National Grange's Commitment to Inclusion states "We have always welcomed and invited people of all races, creeds, religions and nationalities into our membership"; and

WHEREAS, the last paragraph in the Vision Statement of The National Grange states "As the premier progressive family fraternal organization, the National Grange is dedicated to using its solid, historical foundation to advance a widely recognized, welcoming, and cooperative Order that empowers people to pursue their ideas of entertainment, education, and enlightenment for all who desire to benefit."; and

WHEREAS, C. Jerome Davis, as Field Assistant to the National Master, once wrote "The teachings of the ritual enable our Order to be political without being partisan, religious without being denominational, and though it

binds its members with a strong fraternal tie, it assures a complete individuality.”; and WHEREAS, the Bible on the Altar and references to God make it appear that the Grange is only of Christian faith and not welcoming to non-Christian denominations and may offend those who are not Christians; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the National Grange amend the Digest of Laws article 11.8.3 by inserting, “and/or another spiritual book or text,” between the words “Bible” and “open”, so that the amended article shall read:

11.8.3 All Granges shall have the Bible and/or another spiritual book or text, open on the altar and the flag of the United States of America properly displayed in the Grange meeting room.

Submitted by Connecticut Valley Pomona #19

COMMITTEE: Good of the Order

FINAL ACTION: Adopted as amended

6. ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS PROCEDURE

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts State Grange uses a traditional gender-specific procedure for the Roll Call of Elected State Officers, the Roll Call of Appointed Officials, and the Roll Call of Youth Officers, that is the Assistant Steward reports for the males and the Lady Assistant Steward reports for the females; and

WHEREAS, there are subordinate Grange members in Massachusetts who do not identify with either the male or female genders; and

WHEREAS, Grange is an inclusive and progressive organization which respects all members’ beliefs; and

WHEREAS, the National Grange uses a procedure that is not gender-specific by having the officials report themselves as being present during the Roll Calls; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange use a procedure that is not gender specific to report on the attendance of its elected and appointed officials.

Submitted by Connecticut Valley Pomona #19

COMMITTEE: Good of the Order

FINAL ACTION: Adopted

7. DISTRIBUTION OF NATIONAL GRANGE MAILING LIST

WHEREAS, recently members have received letters from insurance companies bearing the National Grange logo attempting to sell policies to members; and

WHEREAS, while the purpose of these letters is not nefarious, its receipt caused questions and alarm among some members about the use of the National Grange mailing list by outside companies; and

WHEREAS, nowhere on the membership application does it ask members if they wish to receive marketing messages from outside companies and thus the membership roster should only be used for Grange related mailings and information and not be used by outside companies to sell anything; and

WHEREAS, the National Grange Digest gives the National Grange Master and the National Executive Committee the power to use the mailing list at their discretion with no restrictions; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Section 9.9 RESPONSIBILITY OF MAILING LISTS of the National Grange Digest of Laws be amended to read:

“9.9.2 Grange members must be given the opportunity to opt out of receiving promotional material in the mail from companies or partners that are not directly sent by the National Grange. This is not to preclude members from receiving mailings from the National Grange.

9.9.3 All communications received by members from outside companies or partners that have received authorization from National Grange to use the mailing list must bear the National Grange logo and have the following disclaimer: ‘This communication has been approved by the National Grange Master/President/Executive Committee.’

9.9.4 All State Masters must be notified of mailings going out to members at least 10 days before the mailing to ensure there is proper communication and to allow them to answer questions, if they arise from members, on the validity of the communication. “And be it further,
RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to National Grange for their consideration.

Submitted by Sunrise Pomona, No 9.

COMMITTEE: Budget, Building and Properties

FINAL ACTION: Adopted

8. INCREASING PROPERTY AND LIABILITY INSURANCE PREMIUMS

WHEREAS, Insurance companies have increased the premiums of both property and liability insurance a substantial amount over the last couple of years;

WHEREAS, Granges that own their halls have found that the increases in premiums have made it financially hard to pay for insurance;

WHEREAS, even Granges that rent a place for meetings have either personal property and/or liability insurance, also have received such increases; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange helps Granges by looking into an insurance company for a group insurance that would result in a lower premium for both property and liability insurance; with the State Grange presenting its findings at the 2025 Massachusetts State Grange Session; and further be it

RESOLVED, that those who only need personal property and/or liability insurance be included.

Submitted by Sippican Pomona Grange #3

COMMITTEE: Insurance, Legislation and Taxation

FINAL ACTION: Adopted as amended

9. USE OF GRANGE RITUAL DURING VIRTUAL MEETINGS

WHEREAS, the Grange ritual holds significant historical and cultural importance within our organization, fostering a sense of unity and tradition among members: and

WHEREAS, virtual meetings have become a necessary alternative to in-person gatherings due to inclement weather, illness, or other circumstances: and

WHEREAS, maintaining the integrity of the ritual is essential for preserving the values and principles of the Grange: therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange encourage the use of the Grange ritual during virtual meetings, and be it further

RESOLVED, that all members are encouraged to perform the ritual at virtual meetings as they would at in-person meetings.

Submitted by Guiding Star Grange #1

COMMITTEE: Good Of Order

FINAL ACTION: Adopted

10. INCLUSION OF AGRICULTURE IN THE INNOVATION CAREER PATHWAYS GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts State Grange is dedicated to promoting the agricultural interests and education within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a critical industry that supports the economy, provides essential resources, and fosters environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) of Massachusetts has established the Innovation Career Pathways grant program to provide students in non-vocational schools with opportunities

to explore high-demand industries through rigorous academic and technical coursework; and WHEREAS, the Innovation Career Pathways program currently focuses on priority industries such as information technology, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, life sciences, and business and finance; and WHEREAS, adding agriculture as a priority industry in the Innovation Career Pathways program will provide students with valuable knowledge and skills relevant to the agricultural sector, encouraging future careers in agriculture and related fields; and WHEREAS, the inclusion of agriculture in the Innovation Career Pathways program will help address the growing need for educated and skilled individuals in the agricultural industry, ensuring the sustainability and advancement of this vital sector; therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the President of the Massachusetts State Grange appoints a lead to strongly encourage the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to add agriculture to its list of priority industries for the Innovation Career Pathways grant program for non-vocational schools, be it further RESOLVED, that the President of the Massachusetts State Grange appoints a lead to actively advocate for this change by engaging with policymakers, educators, and other stakeholders to highlight the importance of agricultural education and its benefits to students and the community.”

Submitted by Sunrise Pomona, No 9.

COMMITTEE: Agriculture and the Environment

FINAL ACTION: Adopted as amended

11. LOCATION OF NATIONAL GRANGE SESSION

WHEREAS, The National Grange seeks to provide opportunities for its members to participate in annual sessions that are accessible and affordable for the majority of its membership; and WHEREAS, the current language of Article 4.9.5 of the National Grange Digest does not specify the location parameters for the National Grange Session; and WHEREAS, there is a plan to hold the National Grange Session on a cruise ship in 2025, which, while it could provide a unique and enjoyable experience for members, would also present significant logistical and financial challenges; and WHEREAS, Hosting the National Grange Session on a cruise ship would incur additional costs for delegates and members, including but not limited to, cruise fares, port fees, and potential travel expenses to and from the port of departure, thereby placing a financial burden on delegates; and WHEREAS, the additional costs associated with a cruise ship venue would likely reduce the number of delegates and members able to attend, thus limiting participation and representation at the National Grange Session; and WHEREAS, the mission of the National Grange includes fostering a strong sense of community and ensuring that all members have the opportunity to engage in its activities and governance processes; therefore, be it RESOLVED, That Article 4.9.5 of the National Grange Digest be amended to add to the end of the first paragraph the phrase “in a location within the borders of the United States that is affordable and accessible to members,” ensuring that future National Grange Sessions are held in a manner that supports maximum member participation and minimizes financial burdens on delegates and members; be it further RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to National Grange for their consideration.

Submitted by Sunrise Pomona, No 9.

COMMITTEE: Insurance, Legislation and Taxation

FINAL ACTION: Adopted

12. SUPPORT FOR FULL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS, the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization (NAITCO) plays a critical role in educating students and teachers about the importance of agriculture in our society and economy; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a cornerstone of our nation's economy, providing food, fiber, and jobs for millions of Americans; and
WHEREAS, NAITCO's programs enhance students' understanding of agricultural science, technology, and careers, promoting agricultural literacy and ensuring the future workforce is informed and prepared; and
WHEREAS, recent funding cuts by Congress have reduced NAITCO's budget by half, significantly hindering its ability to deliver high-quality educational resources and support to schools across the country; and
WHEREAS, full funding is essential for NAITCO to continue its mission of fostering agricultural literacy and supporting educators with the necessary tools and resources; there be it
RESOLVED, that the National Grange strongly supports the restoration of full funding for the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization by Congress; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the National Grange actively advocate for the reinstatement of these funds, including but not limited to, engaging with legislators, mobilizing members and stakeholders, and raising public awareness about the importance of agricultural education; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the National Grange urge all local and state Granges to join in this advocacy effort to ensure that NAITCO receives the necessary funding to continue its vital work in promoting agricultural literacy and education nationwide.

Submitted by Sunrise Pomona, No 9.

COMMITTEE: Agriculture and the Environment

FINAL ACTION: Adopted

13. USE OF HOISTING EQUIPMENT IN CHAPTER 74 VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts State Grange is committed to advancing the interests of agriculture, education, and community development; and
WHEREAS, vocational technical education plays a vital role in preparing students for careers in various skilled trades, including those involving hoisting equipment; and
WHEREAS, the safe and effective use of hoisting equipment is essential for many industries, including construction, agriculture, and manufacturing, which are key sectors in the Commonwealth's economy; and
WHEREAS, State regulators no longer allow vocational-technical and agricultural high school students to operate hoisting equipment as part of their studies; and
WHEREAS, there is movement in the State Legislature that aims to enhance the training and education of students in Chapter 74 vocational technical programs by ensuring they receive comprehensive instruction in the use of hoisting equipment; and
WHEREAS, this legislation will help ensure that students are better prepared to enter the workforce with the necessary skills and certifications, thereby improving their employment prospects and contributing to the economic growth of the Commonwealth; and
WHEREAS, the Massachusetts State Grange recognizes the importance of providing students with the tools and training they need to succeed in high-demand, high-skill industries; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange supports the use of hoisting equipment in Chapter 74 vocational technical education; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the Massachusetts State Grange urges the members of the Massachusetts General Court to pass legislation to enhance the quality and scope of vocational technical education in the Commonwealth.

Submitted by Sunrise Pomona, No 9.

COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Social Services

FINAL ACTION: Adopted

14. ENCOURAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL COMPOST OPERATIONS FOR COMMUNITY BENEFIT

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts State Grange recognizes the importance of sustainable practices to promote environmental health and community well-being; and

WHEREAS, composting is a proven method to reduce waste, enhance soil health, and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, many communities in Massachusetts could benefit from access to high-quality topsoil for gardening, landscaping, and agricultural purposes; and

WHEREAS, municipal compost operations have the potential to provide a local, sustainable source of topsoil while diverting organic waste from landfills; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Massachusetts State Grange encourages all towns and cities within the state to establish and support municipal compost operations where they do not currently exist; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Massachusetts State Grange urges municipalities to make the resulting topsoil available to community members free of charge, thereby promoting local food production, beautification efforts, and sustainable land management practices; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Massachusetts State Grange commits to providing Community Granges with educational resources and organizational connections to assist municipalities interested in implementing composting programs, including guidance on site selection, equipment procurement, operational best practices, and community outreach efforts.

Submitted by Charlton Grange #92 and Sunrise Pomona #9

COMMITTEE: Agriculture and Environment

FINAL ACTION: Rejected

15. MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE SASHES FOR MASS. STATE GRANGE DIRECTORS AND/OR COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

WHEREAS the State Granges, across the United States, have had a long tradition of allowing their State Committee Directors and/or Chairpersons to wear a State Sash, and

WHEREAS these Directors &/or Chairpersons are hardworking volunteers supporting all the Patrons of Husbandry in their respective State, and Whereas these Directors &/or Chairpersons fulfill their State Grange duties following the bi-laws and directions of the State Grange, and

WHEREAS these Directors &/or Chairpersons receive no salary or compensation for the countless hours they give for the services they provide for their Grange work.

RESOLVED that the Massachusetts State Grange purchase and provide Massachusetts State Grange Sashes for the use of the current Directors &/or Chairpersons with the provision that the State Sashes must be returned to the Massachusetts State Grange at the end of the Directors &/or Chairpersons term of service. And be it further

RESOLVED that the Massachusetts State Grange allow any duly appointed MA State Directors &/or Chairpersons to purchase their own MA State Sash with wording approved by the MA State Grange and to keep their Sash at the end of their term of service.

Submitted by Upton Grange #125

COMMITTEE: Budget, Buildings and Properties

FINAL ACTION: Rejected

16. DEPUTY'S REIMBURSEMENT

WHEREAS, the cost of maintenance on a motor vehicle can be prohibitive; and

WHEREAS, the price of fuel is exceptional and fluctuates often; and

WHEREAS, deputies of the Massachusetts State Grange are required to perform their Annual Visitation for the

sole purpose of reviewing the Treasurer's and Secretary's records as well as other things; and WHEREAS, some Granges are a distance away from the deputy's home; therefore, be it RESOLVED, deputies having to travel further than 50 miles or more per day to perform their annual require visitation and inspection be reimbursed for mileage, and be it further RESOLVED, reimbursement be implemented in the 2024-2025 year.

Submitted by: Berkshire North Pomona #6
COMMITTEE: Budget, Buildings and Properties
FINAL ACTION: Adopted as amended

17. BICYCLE SAFETY

WHEREAS the Grange is concerned with safety on the farm, in the home and the community; and WHEREAS, more people are using bicycling as an alternative mode of transportation; and WHEREAS, today's manual and electric bicycles have little to no reflective material on the front, rear and sides thereby rendering them difficult to detect in the dark creating a dangerous situation, therefore be it RESOLVED, the Massachusetts State Grange go on record in support of mandatory reflective material be permanently attached to bicycles, be it manual or electric, before leaving the point of purchase, and be it further RESOLVED, the Massachusetts State Grange be the impetus in putting this resolution into a bill form to be presented to the Massachusetts State House of Representatives and Senate on Beacon Hill in Boston.

Submitted by: Williamstown Grange #366
COMMITTEE: Insurance, Legislation and Taxation
FINAL ACTION: Adopted