



# The State Grange News

The official publication of the Massachusetts State Grange

Vol. 65, No. 12

December 2024

11 Pages

## From the President's Desk

By Corey Spence

### National Grange and More

Before I get to the report about National Grange, I want to address the spam that many of you have received in my name. Please always check the email address that these requests are coming from. If it is not my official e-mail, it is not from me. Also, I would never approach community Granges with requests for gift cards or weird meeting requests. If I want to have a meeting at a Grange Hall, I will work with the Executive Committee and the Grange to hold the meeting.

Spammers are getting increasingly sophisticated. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions about an email before you respond to that email address. If it seems fishy, it is most likely spammers phishing for your personal and financial information.



Spike and I had a wonderful time representing the Massachusetts State Grange at the 158th National Grange Convention in Bettendorf this month. It was great to reconnect with old friends and make many more new ones.

Our resolutions did not fare so well. The Agriculture Committee decided that the res-

olution about the National Agriculture in the Classroom budget needed rewriting to explain the issues more fully so I withdrew it so we can clarify and bring it back next year if a new resolution is brought back to our session.

The rest of the resolutions were voted down. Two did end up in the Grange Law Committee's Policy Statement. The first states that National Grange will give State Presidents ten days' notice before a mailing or email goes out so that we can be ready with answers arising from the communications.

The other issue to make it into the policy statement is that the Grange Law Committee recommends that future National Grange sessions be held in locations that are easily accessible and affordable to members of the Grange.

There were at least six resolutions regarding the site of National Grange and a lot of discussion about the unfortunate roll out of the information about the cruise next year. They were waiting until after this year's session to do the full advertising

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## Membership Recognition

### Welcome to our New Members

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Kirk Bodwell      | Sterling #53      |
| Susan Rugg        | Sterling #53      |
| Linda Jarmolowicz | Dudley #163       |
| George Wade Jr.   | Williamsburg #225 |
| Peter Geraigery   | Easton #196       |
| Mark Kackley      | Charlton #92      |
| Marcia Locke      | Guiding Star #1   |
| Rebecca Weiss     | Guiding Star #1   |

### 25 years

|               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| John Coan III | Guiding Star #1 |
| Roland Parent | Charlton #92    |
| Joyce Parent  | Charlton #92    |

### 75 yrs

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Barbara Gaspar | Rowley #204 |
|----------------|-------------|

### 80 yrs

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Marjorie Waston | Beverly #306 |
|-----------------|--------------|

## In Memoriam

|                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Ruth Morse     | Boxborough #131       |
| Lillian Martin | Stockbridge #295      |
| Stuart Shapiro | West Stockbridge #246 |
| Barbara Gaspar | Rowley #204           |



### 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.*

## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, December 4, 7 p.m.** — Shelburne Grange Business Meeting and a short program, Fellowship Hall, 17 Little Mohawk Rd., across from the fire station.

**Thursday, December 5, 6 p.m.** — Sterling Grange Business Meeting, 14 Maple St.

**Monday, December 9, 7 p.m.** — Holden Grange Holiday Music, Post Office and Penny Table, Holden Senior Center, 1130 Main St.

**Monday, December 16, 6:30 p.m.** — Shelburne Grange Holiday Party at Tom & Lisa West's home, 164 South Maple St., Hadley. All are welcome. Attendees are invited to bring donations for Jessie's House Family Shelter, along with refreshments and holiday stories and games to share.

**Tuesday, December 17, 7:30 p.m.** — Worcester Central Pomona joint meeting with Central Community Grange, Holiday Fun — Yankee Swap, Cookie Swap, Card Exchange, Boylston Town House, 599 Main St.

### 2025 Events

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

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

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

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**Please submit event information to:**

[staterangenews@massgrange.org](mailto:staterangenews@massgrange.org)

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

### 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***

Greetings everyone and Happy Holidays! As we transition to the colder months, this is a perfect opportunity to start preparing for the spring. The Agricultural and the Environment Committee has \$15,000 available in the budget for grants. We have already begun receiving applications. Please spend our money! This money is made available so that Granges can get more involved with agricultural and environmental projects and activities within their communities. We have had applications for ag tours, Grange programs, fairs, and other activities. Be creative. Make this something that you can hang your Grange's name on and make it something that can continue and make you a hub in the community. If you have any questions about the program, please contact a member of the committee. We are looking forward to what you can envision and we are ready to come along on the ride.

Matt, Kathy, Scott, Ann, Jessica, and Warren

## ***Massachusetts Agriculture in Action Expo***

Hello Everyone! Wow! I am wicked excited and very proud of the Expo Committee and all the hard work that went into the 2024 Agriculture in Action Expo. We knew we did a great job, and it is awesome to be recognized at the National level. I received an e-mail from Brother Spence that the committee won the 2024 National Grange Cultivator of the Year Award for our region! Congratulations to the committee and everyone that had a hand in making this event a success. Do you want to see what earned the State Grange that award? Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2025 Agriculture in Action Expo to be held April 26, 2025 at Mt. Wachusett Community College in Gardner. We are getting ready to turn into the home stretch and we hope you can all join us! See you there!

## ***PRESIDENT*** From Page 1

of what is happening. Look for more information about next year's session to come from National Grange.

The Massachusetts Agriculture in Action Expo Committee won the award for Northeast Grange Cultivators of the year, an award granted by the SHIPmates of the National Grange, for all their work to put on this past year's Expo. Planning is well on the way for Expo 2025 on April 26th at Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner. Our whole Expo Committee looks forward to seeing you all then!

The Expo Committee also won the second-place award for professional publicity for the radio ad created for the Expo. We kept Washington State Grange from sweeping the category.

Two Massachusetts Granges were again named Distinguished Granges, Upton for the ninth year and Sterling for the fifth year. Central Community, Easton, and Sunrise Pomona were recognized as Granges in Action.

In dues news, the Junior Dues issue was placed on indefinite hold until the discussion about the effect of those dues on Family Memberships was held to "our satisfaction." I am sure this means that the issue of Junior Dues will be tabled forever, at least on the resolution that brought them to the floor.

The delegates also voted for a \$6 increase in National Dues. It has been many years since the last increase and with inflation the dues collected no longer give us the buying power they once had. An increase of \$6 will put us on par with inflation this year. There was a suggested amendment to go up \$13-14 but that was lowered to the \$6 increase that passed. For the dues to go up, the delegates will have to vote on the resolution again at next year's National Session.

The National Grange held elections for two seats on the Executive Committee. Susan Noah of Oregon was re-elected, and Joe Stefenoni of California was elected to the seat held by Leroy

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## ***From the Veterans Committee***

### ***Remembering December 7th Military Events***

“December 7, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy,” the famous line from President Roosevelt’s speech to Congress. War was declared by the U.S. and three days later another declaration on Germany and Italy who allied with Japan. The U.S. officially entered WW II. The attack on Pearl Harbor began at 7:55 am. Japan’s strike consisted of 353 aircraft, launched from four carriers. U.S. casualties resulted in 2,403 killed and 1,178 wounded. What battleship remains sunken in Pearl Harbor with its crew onboard? Half of the deceased at Pearl Harbor were on the USS Arizona. An American flag flies above the sunken battleship, which serves as a memorial to all Americans who died in the attack.

Let’s take a look at one of the veterans on this infamous day. Dorie Miller, a steward on the USS West Virginia, showed courageous conduct and devotion to duty during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. First, he assisted his mortally wounded captain and then manned a machine gun, successfully destroying two Japanese aircrafts, despite having had no training in gunnery. He was the first African American awarded the Navy Cross, the service’s highest award, for his actions during the attack.

Going further back into history to World War I, let’s remember Cambrai. In April 1917, President Wilson declared war on Germany. Lasting eighteen days, the battle of Cambrai, a town in northern France, was the first large-scale effective use of combined arms. The battle began with a successful British offensive against the Germans which included infantry, artillery, tanks, and combat air support. The U.S. Army’s role in the fighting was fairly-limited with soldiers from the 11th, 12th and 14th Engineer Regiments who were engaged in railway construction work behind the trench lines in support of the British. It

was the first major battle for the U.S. since declaring war. On the last day of the battle of Cambrai, Dec. 7th, the U.S declared war on German ally Austria-Hungary.

And finally, let’s go back to the Civil War to remember the Battle of Prairie Grove in Arkansas. Nine months after their victory at Pea Ridge, the Union Army of the Frontier became divided. One division under Brig. Gen. James Blunt remained in the northwestern part of Arkansas, and the second under Brig. Gen. Francis Herron was stationed around the Missouri capital of Springfield. The Confederates under the leadership of General Thomas Hindman wanted to use Arkansas as a base for operations in securing Missouri, so his troops set out to defeat the Union armies in the area. Early on December 7, 1862, Hindman placed his large force of Confederate soldiers between the two Union divisions. With Herron and Blunt’s troops edging toward Hindman’s, both sides experienced advances and retreats as the opposite side counterattacked. Even though the battle ended as a stalemate, Hindman’s Confederates retreated at nightfall, allowing the Union to take control of northwest Arkansas.

## ***From the State Secretary***

We can't order the books shown below from National anymore, but PDFs will soon be available on the MA State Grange website ([www.massgrange.org](http://www.massgrange.org)) that can be printed off to use, or just use any receipts book. If you have any questions, please contact State Secretary Lisa Johnson.



## Outstanding Granger



*Nominated by Sterling Grange President Janet Segur, Carl Hewitt was presented the Outstanding Granger award by Past Youth Co-advisor, Theresa Kenney at a recent meeting.*

### **PRESIDENT** *From Page 3*

Watson of NH. The Grange thanked Leroy for his many years of service and his amazing depth of parliamentary knowledge that kept the session on track.

Phew, that is a lot to talk about. When I visit your Granges, feel free to ask me any questions you have about National Grange, and I will do my best to answer them.

In news closer to home, join in the Northeast Grange Leaders Conference in Danvers January 10-12, 2025. Registration forms and hotel information are included in this issue of the State Grange News. I hope many of you can come for the whole weekend or just the Saturday tour of the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School and workshops by Katie Gilfeather, our strategic planning consultant, who will talk about strategic planning and core values; and Theresa Kenney, SHIPmate for the Northeast Granges, joined by Mary Jordan, past State President, who will lead a workshop on finding the hidden potential in your Grange members.

The day this issue of the State Grange News goes to press, your State Grange leaders are gathering in Charlton to come up with ideas for the

new year. I know that they are always looking for new ways to hold current contests and events and even ideas for new ways to celebrate the Grange, agriculture, and the incredible talents of our members in Massachusetts.

As we enter the season of Advent and celebrate the return of light and hope to the world, Spike and I wish you love and joy this Christmas season and beyond.

## **Happy Holidays!**

### **Veterans Day Program**



*Seated: Ray Sherbourne, Alan Judkins  
Standing: Albert Dumas, Philip Cannell*

Veterans from Holden and Rutland were special guests for Holden Grange's pot luck supper and program on Veterans Day. In turn, a brief history of each military branch was read, the service song was played, and veterans introduced themselves along with the years they served. All eighteen veterans in attendance were presented certificates of appreciation. Following a description of the origin and mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation, quilts were awarded to Army veterans Albert Dumas (1962-1965) of Holden, Alan Judkins (1968-1971) of Rutland, and Philip Cannell (1967-1970) of Rutland, and Marine Corps veteran Ray Sherbourne (1960-1964) of Holden. Grange members, Carol Ann Keevan and Cindy Mason pieced and bound the quilts. Since 2019, Holden Grange has awarded 21 quilts.

## **Presidents Recommendation from his Address results**

I recommend that each Grange adopt or review their core values to ensure that they are still relevant to their Grange. **Adopted**

I recommend that each Grange adopt or review their Vision Statement to ensure that it still reflects the aspirations of their Grange. **Adopted**

I recommend that each Grange review and revise their by-laws and send them to the State President. Amended to add “within six months”. **Adopted as amended**

I recommend that each Grange create at least two new resolutions for the 2025 session with at least one on an issue outside the Grange. **Adopted**

I recommend that each Grange consider working with the mentor program. **Adopted**

I recommend each Grange share their news by sending information about their events in advance to the Communications Committee. **Adopted**

I further recommend that Granges write stories and send pictures of their events to the Communications Committee that show the amazing work of our Community and Pomona Granges. **Adopted**

I recommend that each Grange consider inviting a Grange Partner to present a program at their meetings. **Adopted**

I recommend that each Grange look around their local community to find ways to connect with those outside the Grange. **Adopted**

I recommend that each Grange explore programs to attract families and members of all ages to their Granges. **Adopted**

I further recommend that Granges that have youth encourage them to try out leadership roles and help keep their interest in our organization alive. **Adopted**

I recommend that Degree Days be held in at least two areas of our State in 2025. **Adopted**

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](mailto: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



# 2025 LEADERS CONFERENCE

JANUARY  
10-12, 2025  
DANVERS, MA



**THERESA KENNEY**

SHIPmate, class II  
Northeast Region Captain  
National Grange



**KATIE GILFEATHER**

Katie Gilfeather Consulting



**ESSEX NORTH SHORE  
AGRICULTURAL  
& TECHNICAL SCHOOL**

**MARY JORDAN**

Past President  
Massachusetts State Grange



**NORTHEAST  
GRANGE  
CONNECTION**





# HOTEL INFORMATION

JANUARY  
10-12, 2025  
DANVERS, MA



DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Boston North Shore  
50 Ferncroft Rd, Danvers, MA 01923  
\$119 per night plus applicable taxes  
Reserve your room before December 11

Book Online: [tinyurl.com/2025NEGrangeLeaders](https://tinyurl.com/2025NEGrangeLeaders)  
or call the hotel 978-777-2500



# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

**4:00 pm** Registration begins per attendee  
Dinner on your own

**7:00 pm** Opening Ceremony

**7:30 pm** Breakout sessions for Committees and State Officers  
Northeast Connection Meeting

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

Breakfast on your own

**9:00 am** Tour of Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School

**11:30 am** Lunch on your own

**1:00 pm** Afternoon Opening Ceremony

**1:30 pm Workshops**

Group 1 (ME, VT, RI, NY)

Aligning Your Strategic Plan to Your Core Values with Katie Gilfeather  
Group 2 (NH, CT, MA)

Finding Hidden Potential and Empowering Members  
with Theresa Kenney and Mary Jordan

**2:30 pm Workshop**

Group 1 – Finding Hidden Potential and Empowering Members  
Group 2 –Aligning Your Strategic Plan to Your Core Values

**4:00 pm** Breakout session for Committees  
New England Grange Building Trustees meeting

**6:00 pm** Banquet and Entertainment

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

**8:15 am** Worship Service  
Karlana Henry, Chaplain, MA Sate Grange

**9:00 am** Business Meeting  
Committee Reports, Evaluation

# NORTHEAST GRANGE LEADERS CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

**BANQUET MENU**

Salad

Airline Chicken, Roasted New Potatoes, Cajun Butter Sauce

or Pasta Primavera

Cheesecake with Fruit Compote

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee \$15 # \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet \$40 Chicken # \_\_\_\_\_

Pasta # \_\_\_\_\_

Total Due \_\_\_\_\_

Please send form and checks  
*made payable to the Massachusetts State Grange*  
*Meal Deadline December 15*  
*Registrations without meals available at conference*

to Brian Carr  
1C Griswold Drive,  
Salem, MA 01970-6702  
Questions to [bcarr01@outlook.com](mailto:bcarr01@outlook.com)