

NH STATE GRANGE

**FAMILY & COMMUNITY
SERVICES**

2018-2019



The following program will outline what the components and contests are for the committees that make up the Family and Community Services Committee. The committees that this department consists of are Family (formerly Home Economics), Community and Health Issues. Each grange should have a chairperson for each committee and one person responsible for overall annual reporting for all committees within each Grange. An annual report form is also enclosed. Please encourage your grange to participate in these projects.

HEALTH ISSUES

The Health Services chairperson in each grange should report at each meeting on a health issue of interest to all. This could be a current health concern in the community or tips on preventing heart disease, diabetes, etc. Something informative should be presented at each meeting.

You might want to consider inviting a health care worker to talk about diseases affecting our society. Concerns of diseases from other countries infiltrating the US are of great concern. Perhaps even consider a program on the pros and cons of having a flu shot, pneumonia shot or shingles shot.

Other ideas: Assist with Red Cross blood drives in your area, flu shot clinics; assist the Visiting Nurse association in your areas.

FAMILY SERVICES

NEEDLEWORK CONTEST

The following contests for New England judging will be held for 2019. The categories are as follows:

Class A: Afghans- knitted, crocheted, woven etc using yarn

Class B: Doilies – knitted, crocheted or tatted

Class C: Embroidery – any embroidered item but **NOT** counted cross stitch –

Back of work must be visible

Class D: 3 Piece Baby Set – bonnet, jacket or sweater, booties, mittens etc. –

Must be 3 pieces **NOT** including baby afghan/blanket

Class E: Plastic Canvas – any item using yarn or thread

Class F: Counted Cross Stitch – Any item using any thread product –

Back of work must be seen – pictures may be on stretcher strips or
framed and/or matted but **NO GLASS**

Class G: Adult Garment – may be knitted, crocheted.

Must be worn on the body – sweater, dress, cape, poncho, vest etc. – does
not include accessories such as mittens/gloves, scarves, socks, hats/caps,
collar, belt etc.

Class H: Latch Hook – any item made with any pattern using any yarn

Class I: Quilted Wall Hangings – hand or machine quilted and any product may be
used for filler

Class J: Stuffed Toy – May be knitted, crocheted, stitched **Toys should be child safe.**

Class K: Baby Afghan – may be knitted, crocheted, woven and must appear
suitable for a baby – choice of color, selection of yarn product etc.

The rules for each category are outlined in the Northeastern Needlework Contest Rules which will be provided to each Grange at a later date. **All entries must have been completed within the contest year which is August 1, 2018 through July 31, 2019.**

All entries will be due by **August 1, 2019** so they can be judged timely.

State Contests will also be held for the following categories:

Quilts- either hand or machine sewn

Woodworking

Other crafts that do not fit into any other category

Non-members are also welcome and encouraged to enter these contests.

BAKING CONTEST

Brownies – There are many recipes out there for homemade brownies. (NO BOX MIXES) Find a good recipe and share it at your subordinate Grange. Nuts are optional but if you do put them in please indicate that so that anyone judging or enjoying the bread after judging who might have an allergy is aware.

Contest should be held at the subordinate level. The winner should go on to Pomona. All Pomona winners will be asked to bake again for State Grange and the opportunity to be the State winner in October 2018. The winning recipe will be published in the GSG.

EASTERN STATES

To help support the Grange Building at Eastern States, we are asking for handmade items that can be sold there: Baby articles, nylon scrubbers, stuffed animals, dolls, pot holders, knitted or crocheted dish cloths, afghans, mittens, scarves, hats, knee warmers, booties, vests, aprons, wall hangings, pillow cases, bureau scarves, crafts, etc. **Please mark your items that are for Big E.**

Please do not send items with the Grange emblem on them as they do not sell well. Please turn in your items by **August 1, 2019**.

MOUNTAIN OF MITTENS

This worthwhile project will be continued to 2019. We are asking for handmade, sewn or knit mittens or purchased mittens for our Mountain of Mittens we will have at State Grange in October 2019. The more mittens we can collect the higher our mountain but most importantly, the more children's hands that are kept warm. Thank you for all you do to help with this need throughout our state. Tell your friends who aren't Grange members about this. They may want to help!

NIGHT NIGHT HUGS PROJECT -

This program will continue in 2019. There are shelters and domestic violence crisis centers that unfortunately have many children enter their doors. Most of these children arrive with nothing but the clothes on their backs. This project should be easy for all of us to execute. All sacks will be donated to shelters and centers in NH.

This project will provide each child with a blanket, stuffed toy and a book in a sack. It will be up to each subordinate to put these sacks together. Please give completed sacks to the committee chairperson representing your area.

Stuffed Toy – These can be handmade, can be a sock monkey or a hand sewn, pre-printed stuffed toy or a purchased toy. All toys should be NEW and should be medium in size. If too large they won't fit in the sacks and if too small they will get lost in the sack.

Blanket – Most common is fleece blankets for children. This is relatively easy as they are just cut and tied. Crocheted children's afghans are also welcome. Blankets should be 50" X 60" or a little smaller. If using fleece generally 1.5 yards works. These can also be purchased.

Book – You can either purchase new books or go to your local library for good used children's books.

Sack – Please use a pillowcase or sew a sack to hold the blanket, book and toy. Or you can find sacks in Oriental Traders for about \$1.00 per sack.

We sincerely hope you will continue to rally behind this great project! Just think how many children will be comforted by this small gesture.

FUDGE, TRAIL MIX & OTHER SNACKS

We are requesting granges to provide fudge and trail mix for sale at our State Grange convention in October 2019. Other snacks such as cookies or brownies would be gratefully accepted as well.

FAMILY SERVICES NIGHT (formerly known as Home Ec Night)

Your grange should plan to have a Family Services Night. You could invite other grangers and plan a well-balanced program or invite a speaker in. You could hold your baking contest this night.

KELLEY FARM

We will of course continue to support the Kelley Farm. Please continue to support this historic part of our organization by send an annual donation to:

National Grange Kelley Farm Fund
1616 H Street NW
Washington, DC 20006-4999

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

The Community Service projects sponsored by the Grange whether it is in the Nation, State, County, City, or town continues to show how much the organization cares about the people of our communities. It does not matter if the Grange has 15 or 115 Members; the projects sponsored by this organization make a difference in many people's lives.

Each Grange is encouraged to sponsor a project whether large or small. Your Grange might want to co-sponsor an event with another organization. As long as the event is successful and announced or advertised that it is jointly sponsored by the Grange it is certainly Community Service.

GRANGE SPONSOR COMMUNITY AWARENESS MEETINGS

It would be a great Community Service Project if a Grange would like to sponsor a series of Awareness Meetings or even just try to have one. This would be an Open Meeting in which you would invite citizens of the Community to come. Please involve the Lecturer if you wish for this project. Some of the topics that effect people are;

1. **Bullying** of students in Schools and or abuse of Senior Citizens who live alone or in a nursing home. The students in school continue to bully certain classmates. As horrible as it is, the result could lead to the student being bullied to commit suicide or do something different that will affect the school.

Senior citizens who live alone or are patients in a nursing home can be prime candidates for scams, abuse, or burglaries. There are some cases that patients in a nursing home could be considered abused. This is due to a facility being understaffed. It is up to a family or someone appointed to care for them to be on guard for their family member or friend who has concerns for their care.

2. **Drugs** - a major problem in the community, schools, etc. Heroin, marijuana, methadone overdoses, which can be fatal in many cases are on the rise. See what your Grange can do to help keep your community safe. It might be nice to have an Appreciation Night for the Police Department or combine it with the Fire Department or Rescue Squad.

3. Community Outreach - How about developing a Community Garden or inviting the Refugees or Immigrants in your community to your meetings. Let them come in and see what the Grange is. The Garden could be a great project for all to become involved in.

For the Granges who don't feel they can do a project such as above, please think about doing one of these or more if you wish.

FILL AN EMPTY PLATE and HOMELESS SHELTERS

Hopefully your Grange will Fill an Empty Plate once a month at your meetings and either begin a food pantry or support a local food pantry or soup kitchen with your donations.

Your Grange might be willing to donate manpower to assist serving meals or cleanup. There are some communities that only provide meals while others also provide a shelter for the homeless. Your Grange may provide new pillows, linen, blankets, children games, books, and much more.

It is very sad that we have people of all ages who do not have food to eat or a place to sleep at night. Your Grange can make a huge difference in your community.

LIBERTY HOUSE, HARBOR HOMES, NH SOLDIERS HOME IN TILTON

Each of these facilities is an excellent project to let our beloved Veterans know they are not forgotten. They have done so much to preserve our freedom. The sad part is they have given so much but when they come home, they find no spouse, no home to live in, no job, and very little to be happy about. It is up to us as Grange members to show them we do care and are there for them.

You can send greeting cards; surprise them at special times like Christmas, Valentine's, Easter, or Halloween. Liberty House in Manchester has been the state project but now will become an Optional Project. We have been delivering Santa Stockings filled with goodies to the veterans at Liberty House and they are very much appreciated. Granges are encouraged to support a Veterans Shelter in their area. Let them know they are not forgotten but very much respected and held in high esteem. Whatever as Grangers we can do to make their day a little brighter, then let's do it.

DICTIONARY PROJECT

Donating student dictionaries to third grade students in public schools has become a major project for Subordinate Granges. Please contact the Principal of the school in your community to let them know you wish to provide these wonderful books to students.

If your Grange cannot afford them, you might consider asking another organization to co-sponsor them with you or you might consider have a fundraising project to purchase them. The other alternative is to purchase a cheaper dictionary.

When you go to the school, be sure to be friendly with the staff and the students. Give them a nice greeting, talk very briefly about the Grange, and make sure the dictionary has a label inside showing who has provided them.

Please contact Hannah West to place your order.

STATE PROJECTS

SANTA REMEMBERS TEENS AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a time when so many people look forward to celebrating with family gatherings, decorating the Christmas tree, singing Christmas songs, and shopping for gifts. No matter what age you may be, the majority of people look forward to receiving a Christmas gift to open on Christmas morning.

Teenagers from 12 to 18 tend to be forgotten at Christmas. Teenagers are the last to get taken from the public trees in the stores. Younger children are chosen first. Teenagers would be happy with a gift card to go to the movies, or McDonald's, Burger King, Subway etc. or they love to go to shopping. Walmart, Target, Best Buy are great options.

This is the fourth year in which we have asked the Grangers to support Santa Remembers Teens at Christmas. The gift cards are given to Operation Santa Claus, a statewide organization, and they distribute to teens throughout the state.

Please send or bring the gift cards the State Grange Session or send them to your Community Service chairperson if your Grange is not going to the session. Please indicate the Grange they are coming from so they will go to teenagers in your area. All Gift cards must be received by November 30, 2019. Remember we were all teenagers once!

LOOSE CHANGE FOR GRANGE

If your grange would like to raise funds for your Grange's donation to Santa Remembers Teens perhaps your Grange could have a glass jar to collect Loose Change for Grange. Pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters etc. It all adds up! Maybe once a month you could ask your members to check their pocketbooks or men's pockets for loose change. This change could be used to either buy your gift certificates or send your donation to the State Community Service chairperson to purchase the cards. Thank you!

LOCAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Each year for the past 31 years, it has been an honor to recognize the men and women who serve our communities as police officers, deputy sheriffs, teachers, and firefighters. There may be complaints at Town Meetings because of budget issues, but when there is an emergency, they are there. They place their lives on the line every day not knowing what they are responding to. Granges, please show these folks your support and recognize those who go beyond the call of duty.

The Recognition Awards categories have changed a little.

FIRST RESPONDER AWARD

This award can be presented to a police officer, firefighter, ambulance /or Rescue personnel, deputy sheriff, state police, nurse, or a doctor. It could be a private individual who comes upon someone who is in need of help. This person may be on duty or off duty or someone who happened to come upon an accident or some other type of emergency and help is given.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

This award can be presented to a police officer, deputy sheriff, or State Police officer. There are many towns that do not have their own police department. They are covered by State Police or Deputy Sheriff for emergency calls. This is a great way to say thank you for what they do putting their lives on the line to keep us safe.

FIREFIGHTER/EMS OFFICER

Firefighters and or EMS officers, whether full time or part time provide a service that can't be matched. Can you imagine when the fire alarm is received what must be in the minds of the men and women who serve as firefighters and or EMS? They are a very dedicated group of people and are to be commended for their profession.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Education has played such a critical role with the Grange over the years. Education is a critical path to success and since we are a family organization committed to the future of our children, it is the hope that your Grange celebrates this profession and submits a nomination. It is fitting that we continue to honor an outstanding educator.

Please submit all nominees by August 31, 2019. Please do not put these nominees in your booklets. Please submit the form separately to your State Community Service Chairperson.

On the State Level, we will continue to honor someone from the State Police, Fish and Game, and Lifetime Achievement.

POMONA GRANGE PROGRAM

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL SPCA OR HUMANE SOCIETY

Each Pomona Grange will hopefully consider supporting a SPCA or Humane Society by collecting items they might need for the animals, such as dog food, cat food, rags for cleaning, cleaning liquid materials, offering to take the animals out for a walk etc.

Since some have birds, bird food could be provided or toys for the animals.

If you aren't sure, then please contact the director for the local SPCA or Humane Society for their wishes or needs.

BE A SECRET PAL FOR A NURSING HOME SENIOR

This project involves members of the Grange voluntarily adopting a senior citizen who is a patient or resident of a nursing home. Perhaps you could talk to the nursing home to see if there are seniors who do not get any visitors and would welcome a greeting card, a surprise visit, or receive a small gift at Christmas or Hanukah.

For many residents, most special holidays are just another day. Think of what it means for a senior citizen to have a surprise visit and the thought that someone is thinking about them. If your Grange would like to be a Secret Pal and send a card on special days, it will make a difference. Remember some day we may be that senior citizen hoping someone will remember us.

ADOPT A SPOT/ROADSIDE CLEANUP

Please work with your subordinate granges to choose a spot in your community or along a state road/highway to maintain the cleanliness of this area. Picking up trash alone can truly beautify that spot. If it is a local spot, consider planting flowers to add a little extra beauty to the area and for the community to enjoy.

