

STATE GRANGE



Worthy President

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NEWS FROM STATE

CULTIVATING RECONNECTIONS

The State Grange doesn't serve in a vacuum, and we support many connections for our members around the region. I encourage you all to look into these programs. By getting outside our halls and joining with other states in our region, we can return with new and exciting ideas and ways to be Grange.

Committee leaders from around the Northeast Region gathered in Concord NH in January for the first Leaders Conference since the pandemic closed the world down. It was great to get to see each other in person after four years. Our hosts, the New Hampshire State Grange dubbed the weekend "Cultivating Reconnections".

The Northeast Connection, composed of Presidents and Vice Presidents of the New England and New York State Granges held elections and discussed region-wide issues. We decided that since our region and our committees want to stay with having three conferences – Leaders, Lecturers, and Youth – that we would continue our tradition of supporting them.

This article is an excerpt from the Massachusetts State Grange News, the official Monthly Publication put out by the Massachusetts State Grange and can be read online at <https://www.massgrange.org/state-grange-news>

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.

CHARLTON GRANGE PAST MASTERS

1875 thru 1933

W. Lewis Prindle
Osgood Freeman
Esther D. Moriarty
Merton Hubbard
Everett S. Adams
Doris H. Adams
Joanne V. Grniet
Richard Bowers
Lewis C. Prindle
A.M. Dodge
Carlos Bond
Harris M. Dodge
Chauncey W. Pike
H. F. Clark
George R. Taylor
Henry H. Baker
Edward M. Bowers
Loren Stevens
William Casey
John G. Hammond
Myron P. Baylies
Ernest Rich
Rosa E. Bowers
Joseph Carrington
William E. Taft
Albert Freeman
Rufus Brown

Walter Bates 1934
Cyrus Bond 1935
Herbert Gale 1936-38
Raymond Davidson 1939-40
Lincoln Adams 1941-42
Rodney Fiske 1943-44
Marion Martel 1945
Rodney Fiske 1946
Edith Hammond 1947-49
A. Warren Carpenter 1950-52
Mathilda Sheridan 1953
Florence Carpenter 1954
E. Dorothy Smith 1955-56
William Walker Sr. 1957-58
John Wright 1959
L.F. McCloud Sr. 1960-66
Lester V. Stanley 1967-68
Raymond Davidson 1969-86
William Walker Sr. 1987
Ruth Davidson 1988-91
Gertrude Lacey 1992
Raymond Gilbert 1993
Mildred Gray 1994-97
George Tucker 1998-2005
Norma Bouchard 2006-09
Barbara Zajac 2010-11
Rhoda Taylor 2012-13
★ Roland Parent 2014-21



★ living Past Master

CHARLTON GRANGE OFFICERS 2023-2024

Worthy President / Master

Eric Borgeson 508-248-1001



Vice President / Overseer

Scott Herbert 508-847-4493

Lecturer

Rich Laba 508-505-5159

Steward

Eric Willard 774-334-1973

Asst. Steward

Joel Desrochers 508-248-3082

Lady Asst. Steward

Jayne Kackley 508-248-7813

Chaplain

Craig Bellisario 508-410-3122

Treasurer

Evelyn Seelig 774-200-1694

Secretary

Matt Carlson 774-200-6754

Gatekeeper

Joseph Gaucher 774-239-1604

Ceres

Elizabeth Herbert 508-847-4493

Pomona

Melissa Borgeson 508-248-1002

Flora

Brodi Willard 402-699-9448

Musician

Evelyn Sellig 774-200-1694



CHARLTON GRANGE #92

THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

CHARTERED APRIL 6TH, 1875

FEBRUARY 2024 COMMUNICATION



Monthly Business Meeting
First Tuesday of Each Month

A MEMBER OF

SUNRISE POMONA GRANGE #9

MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE



GRANGE HAPPENINGS

GRANGE MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday February 6th, 2024 at 6:30PM

Our January meeting concluded with a short discussion on backyard chickens and their benefits. The highlight of the evening included a story from our secretary of when he lived in Holden. He had a partner that had an indoor pet rooster that wore a diaper, and the shenanigans of that experience were very entertaining.

An Obligation Ceremony previously scheduled for two new Grange Youth members will take place during the business meeting. Following the business meeting this month, the Charlton Grange Lecturer is planning a preview of a Grange documentary being produced by State Grange Assistant Steward Niles Larson.

A light collation will follow the meeting

GRANGE HOSTS SCOUT ACTIVITIES

Our Grange has been the host for a number of exciting Cub Scout and Boy Scout activities in the past month.

On Friday January 26th Cub Scout Pack 165's Bear Den (3rd graders) completed their Baloo the Builder adventure requirements by building a toolbox with help from adult leaders in the basement of the Grange.

On Saturday February 3rd the Grange hosted the entire Cub Scout Pack as they worked on cutting and shaping their Pinewood Derby cars for their upcoming 2024 Pinewood Derby at the Overlook on March 9th.

Our Grange also hosted BSA Troop 165 for a short overnight "lock-in" on the evening of Saturday February 3rd after a full day of outdoor activities at Treasure Valley Scout Reservation in Rutland during the annual Klondike Derby. The Klondike Derby activity is hosted by the Heart of New England Council and tests BSA Scouts on teamwork and Scout spirit in a friendly competition with Troops from around the area.

GRANGE PHOTOS



Pack 165's Bear Den with their new toolboxes



Candidates Dave Adams and John Marsi

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March Seed Swap.....March 5th
- Sunrise Pomona Meeting (Upton).....March 8th
- April Meeting.....April 2nd
- Grange Degree Day.....April 6th
- Massachusetts Ag in Action Expo.....April 20th
- May Meeting.....May 7th
- Sunrise Pomona Degree Night (Ware).....May 17th

GRANGE HOSTS FARMERS FORUM

CANDIDATES DISCUSS AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

6th Worcester District Candidates Face Off

The Republican candidates for the 6th Worcester state rep seat faced off Jan. 25 in a focused forum exploring farming issues at Charlton Grange. Voters will choose between Southbridge Councilor David Adams and Dudley Selectman John Marsi on primary day Tuesday, Feb. 6. The primary is likely to decide who gets the seat in the March 5 special election.

"Over the past few years there has been an increasing interest in the agricultural community for solutions aimed at advancing value-added food processing and marketing," said Pamela Paquin of Meadowhead on Cedar Farm in Southbridge, who moderated the forum. "Ideas such as a slaughterhouse and a shared-use commercial kitchen to process local meat and produce have been put forth, but we want to better engage with our area legislators to help make these plans a reality," she added. Last year, Sen. Ryan Fattman met with area farmers and growers to hear about their needs.

The district includes precincts 1, 2, 3, and 4A in Charlton, Dudley, Southbridge, and precinct 1 in Spencer.

A full article discussing the issues presented to the candidates at the farmers forum is available in the "Thursday-Friday, February 1-2, 2024" edition of the Charlton Villager newspaper. It was written by fellow Dudley Granger Gus Steeves. A live stream of the event is also available on the Grange Facebook page.

POSITION OF THE MONTH

What is the role of the Grange Grace, Ceres?

Along with the other "Graces", Pomona and Flora, Ceres adds beauty and grace to our meeting by symbolically representing both agriculture and the best virtues of women. Ceres is represented by grain.

The position assists in ritualistic ceremonies as may be required, including flag presentation and welcoming of new members.

NECROLOGY

Past Master Rhoda M. (Gray) Taylor

Rhoda M. (Gray) Taylor, 80, passed away on Sunday, Aug. 9th 2020 after a brief illness. Rhoda was born in Boston, the daughter of Avery A. and Mildred E. (Sprague) Gray. She graduated from Charlton High School and worked her entire life as a caregiver. Her love of helping others was seen not only in her lifelong career as a nurse's aide, but also in her unwavering care for her family and friends. Rhoda enjoyed crocheting, reading and playing Bingo. She was a longtime member of the Charlton Grange, having joined in 1954 and serving as Master from 2012-2013.

NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Membership fees for 2024 are now due, please see the secretary to submit payment. Dues cards are currently being mailed out.

NOTE FROM SUNRISE POMONA

Conferral of the first four Grange degrees will take place at Charlton Grange on Saturday, April 6th. More information will follow.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE SOMETHING INCLUDED IN THE NEXT COMMUNICATION

PLEASE EMAIL ERIC WILLARD AT ERWILLARD@GMAIL.COM