

2024-2025

CT State Grange Family Activities Action Packet

The Family Activities Committee is having so much fun and we would like to continue by keeping all of our members interested. We have updates to our contests and the prize money that will be awarded. First, we would like to thank everyone who took part in our teacup auction at the CT State Grange Family Festival as well as our yearly basket raffles at State Session. The money we made will go a long way to help us with printing costs as well as prize money to help keep costs down with regards to the CT State Grange budget. We hope that you will all continue to do your very best with this year's efforts. It really is greatly appreciated. If you have any new items that you would like to donate to next year's teacup auction, please let us know so we can make arrangements to pick them up.

A small note on your meetings. Most have adapted the hybrid (some in person with others on zoom) meetings. If your Grange is one, please be sure to send out the information so that Terri Fassio (information@ctstategrange.org) can get that out to all members. You never know who will **POP** into your meetings. It gives people who can't travel a means to visit you.

We have a new charity that we are promoting. It's called "The Hole in the Wall Gang." I have provided a separate sheet of paper to describe this wonderful charity which was started by Paul Newman in 1988. Many of you have heard of this and we have a camp in our State.

In addition, we continue to support three other important programs. The first is the CT State Grange Scholarship committee. For this, all money collected goes into an escrow account which adds to the principal of the account, generating additional investment income. The investment income is what actually funds the scholarships we give out.

The Connecticut Granger, has a similar situation. The more the Granger escrow increases, the better the income from investments will be. If the investment income continues to grow, it should keep pace with the normal rate of increase in expenses. By sending out a free newsletter to each Granger, we are making good on the original promise of the Granger's founders, that investment and donations in the name of the Granger would eventually lead to making the Granger free to all members, and we are doing that. We can only continue to do so if there is a fund that is keeping pace with the rate of inflation.

And last but not least is the Connecticut State Grange Foundation. It is a statewide nonprofit, public charity created by the Connecticut State Grange to promote and facilitate philanthropy through community leadership, grant-making and donor funded stewardship.

The Blue Book had been written for 2 years. You will be getting a shorter version next year as everything will be posted in the blue book for both years. We would have you continue to encourage your members in the support of various community programs as specified in the Blue Book. Your packet contains the report forms as well as all of the contests. For the next 2 years, our Theme contest is "Everything Gnome". The baking contest for the first year (2025) is a one-layer cake with frosting. The First year (2025) Craft will be of your choosing but you must make it from something you have recycled. Google this and find so many fun things!



Best Ideas to Reuse Old Clothes 🤩👉



I have also included my letter as Craft Manager at the NEGB that I sent out to all 7 State Directors. It lets people know that everything is greatly appreciated. The letter discusses suggested items for our members to make. Some items we could really use again as they went fast and some may not know what to donate.

The New England Needlework contests categories have been updated as we made adjustments for the following:

Class B: Doilies: Max size is 20" X 20",

Class D: Baby set: wording changed so that all understand a blanket is not included.

Class H: Latch Hook: no backing is required but rug binding is.

Class I: Quilted Wall Hanging. Wording changed: sleeve must be on the backside

Class M: Miscellaneous: Anything that is not included in Class A-L

(The New Class M is replacing the craft contest.)

There was also an increase for the prize money:

For Adults:

Needlework: 1st Place-\$20.00, 2nd Place-\$15.00, 3rd Place-\$10.00, BOS -\$30.00

Baking and Craft Contests 1st Place - \$15.00, 2nd Place - \$10.00, 3rd - Place \$5.00

For Juniors: 1st Place - \$10.00, 2nd Place - \$5.00, 3rd Place - \$3.00

Each Chairman will have the new brochure in their packet so that you can copy it for your members. Once the Family Activities section of the State Grange website has been updated, it will be available in the download section and I will send out an email to let you know it's available. I will also send an attachment in the emails so that you can also forward it. I know you always work to the best of your abilities and I am grateful that you keep the Grange and this Committee thriving. I look forward to working with each of you and am excited to see all of your work in the months to come.

Fraternally,

Dawn R. Percoski

CT State Grange Family Activities Director