New York State Grange
Lecturer’s (Program Director’s)
Handbook 2020-2021
NEW YORK STATE GRANGE

LECTURER’S HANDBOOK

2020-2021

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Lecturer’s Committee:

District I (’21) Carolyn Kay Bailey 315-573-6408  email: okay631900@hotmail.com
 District II (’22) Anna Ritchey   607-563-1104  email: 755ritchey@frontiernet.com
 District III (’20) Bonnie LaSalle 315-281-6619  email: Jakelas41@gmail.com
 District IV (’22) Sarah Barber  518-698-1811  email: sassy12037@yahoo.com

The Lecturer/Program Director holds one of the most challenging and rewarding positions in the Grange. The job is two-fold. First of all, it is the Lecturer’s responsibility to present or arrange for a program at each regular Grange meeting. Lecturers should strive to have well balanced programs, which include elements of educational information, fun activities and inspirational messages. Music should be included whenever possible. Recorded music is perfectly acceptable. Consider having a program that helps promote the various contests such as a mini photography or art class. Perhaps an acting workshop would encourage some members to work on a skit or monologue for the talent contest. It is important to foster a good relationship with the Grange Master/President so that time for the program does not become an issue.

Secondly, the Lecturer/Program Director is a liaison to the community. Invite members of the community to share their talents with the Grange as part of a program. Respond in kind by being willing to present a program for other community organizations and/or sponsor educational programs for the community.

Guidelines for Pomona Lecturers

• Present or arrange for a well-balanced program at each meeting.
• Work with other Grange officers and committees in building a successful Grange.
• Communicate with and offer assistance to the Community Grange Lecturers.
• Promote various contests and hold county contests if warranted.
• Be a liaison between Community and Junior Granges and the State Grange by disseminating information and sending necessary reports to the State Lecturer.
• Fill out the annual report and send it to the State Lecturer by September 15th.

Guidelines for Community Grange Lecturers

• Present or arrange for a well-balanced program at each meeting.
• Cooperate with other Grange officers and committees to plan a yearly program for the Grange.
• Survey the members to learn about their individual interests.
• Encourage individuals to expand and share their talents.
• Promote the various opportunities provided through the Lecturer’s Department.
• Fill out the annual report and send to the State Lecturer by September 15th.
2020-2021 Theme: **Embarking on Your Granger-SHIP**

Theme Songs:  
- Good Grange Spirit  
- It’s a Good thing to be a Granger  
- Be Boosters

**PROMOTING GRANGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

**Poster Contest:** Design a poster not to exceed size 22” x 28” advertising/promoting the Grange. Hang it up in your community where it is visible for the public to view.

**Tri-fold brochure:** Create a tri-fold brochure to include the Mission of the Grange, objectives of your Grange to reach this mission, and include a local contact for potential members to reach for additional information. This brochure should describe what YOUR local Grange does for YOUR local community.

**Newspaper Article:** Submit an article for the Empire Granger and local Newspaper. Theme/Subject: **Civility**. Civility is defined as “formal politeness and courtesy in behavior or speech” (Oxford Dictionaries). Discuss what civility means to you. How has the Grange taught you civility? How has the Grange influenced your community? What can the Grange do for your community?

**NEW YORK STATE GRANGE ART CONTEST**

Division I – Community Grange members  
Division II – Junior Grange members – ages 5-9  
Division III – Junior Grange members ages 10-14

*A Junior Grange member’s age will be determined as of January 1st prior to state judging.

Category A – **“Watercolor Set to Music”**: paint a picture using watercolors on a piece of sheet music. An entry must not be larger than 24”x36”x1”.
Category B – **Rock painting** – size of rock not to exceed 6” x 6” x 4”
Category C – **Art on Canvas** using mixed media using the theme: Hope. An entry must not be larger than 24”x36”x1”.

Each member may submit one entry in each category and must be the original work of the member. All entries must be completed between May 1st and April 15th of the current contest year. A work of art may only be entered once. An art entry must not be larger than 24”x36”x1”. There is no minimum size. Do not mount an art entry on a backing larger than necessary. DO NOT SEND GLASS WITH THE ENTRY. Judging criteria will include composition, use of mediums, creativity and overall effect of picture. Please see below for information to include with the submission.
NEW YORK STATE GRANGE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Division I – Community Grange members
Division II – Junior Grange members – ages 5-9
Division III – Junior Grange members – ages 10-14

*A Junior Grange member’s age will be determined as of January 1st prior to state judging.

Category A – Grange Action in the Community
Category B – Agriculture
Category C – Time lapse (2020 only) submit 4 – 4”x6” pictures of an action in different stages
Four Seasons (2021 only) submit 4 – 4”x6” pictures of the same location or item in each of the four seasons. This is the exception to the pictures taken during the contest year (must not be taken prior to Fall 2019).

Size: minimum 4”x6” to maximum of 11”x14” including matting, except Category C please see above for details.
Category C pictures are to be mounted on poster board to enhance presentation

Each member may only have one submission for each category and it must be taken by the member. The photo must be taken between May 1st and April 15th of the current contest year and only be entered once. Matting is strongly advised as it enhances the appearance of the photo and is required for National Grange judging. Frames are not allowed, but the photo must have a rigid backing. Both film and digital photos are allowed.

Additional Art and Photo Contest Information

***Professionals are NOT eligible to participate in the art or photo contests. A professional is defined as someone who receives significant financial gain from the sale of his/her work or acting as an instructor.

***On the back of ALL entries in ART and PHOTO list:

Division
Category
Name
Address
Grange
County

Of the member submitting the entry.

***Pomona Lecturers will conduct a Pomona level art and photo contest (including Junior entries) and send first place winning entries in all divisions to the State Grange Headquarters by April 15th of each year. Mark the outside of the package with “ART and/or PHOTO ENTRIES.”

***State awards may be certificates, ribbons and/or cash prizes. The Division I “Best of Show” in photography will be eligible for National Grange competition.
TALENT SHOW

Category A – Instrumental (solo or group)
Category B – Vocal (solo or group)
Category C – Skit/Variety

Any Community or Junior Grange member or group of Grange members is invited to perform in the State Grange Talent Show. Pomona Lecturers may hold a Pomona Level Talent Show or contact Community Grange Lecturers to determine those interested in performing at the State Talent Show. Pomona Lecturers will complete a form provided by the State Lecturer listing those interested in performing in the State Grange Talent Show held during the Lecturer/Family Activities Conference. This conference will be held the last Saturday in April at the State Grange headquarters. Pomona Lecturers will send the form to the State Lecturer by April 15th each year. **The maximum time for each act is 5 minutes.** There is no minimum time limit.

Professionals are NOT eligible to participate in the talent contest. A professional is defined as someone who receives significant financial gain from performance or acting as an instructor in a particular category.

Judging will be done by qualified individuals. State awards may be certificates, ribbons, and/or cash prizes. The “Best of Show” winner will receive $50.00 and will be invited to perform at the State Fair on Grange Day, State Grange Session, Northeast Lecturers’ Conference and at the National Grange Talent Showcase during the National Grange Convention.

OPPORTUNITIES AND PROJECTS FOR LECTURERS

**Discussion Topics**

**Opioid Crisis:** According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, “every day, more than 130 people in the United States die after overdosing on opioids” (2019). There has been a 30% increase in opioid overdoses from July 2016 to September 2017. This is a national crisis that needs attention with access to treatment and recovery services; promoting use of overdose-reversing drugs; better public health surveillance; provide support for cutting-edge research on pain and addiction; use of better practices for pain management – without narcotics ([https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis](https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis)).

The National Grange sponsored training through CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America) for 3 Grange Youth in July 2019 – including Britney Mercado from New York (Stanford Grange #808, Dutchess County). The Youth Leadership training puts the power of social change in the hands of Youth to create a multi-faceted coalition within their communities in order to decrease the use of drugs.

Find ways to reach out and inform your community of resources that you may find to help decrease the use of drugs in YOUR community.

**CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events):** There have been multiple shooting events reported across the United States putting civilians at risk for harm in stores, schools, churches, and other areas in the community once considered safe from harm. CRASE is a training that law enforcement is trained to provide and can teach the civilians within their communities how to respond to an active shooter event. How civilians respond during the active shooting event could mean the difference in survival for those put in harm’s way. Contact your local law enforcement to find out if this training is available in your community.

**Emergency Services:** Emergency services and response times in Rural areas can be limited by geographical location and limited resources available to a large area. It is imperative for communities to educate and prepare citizens to help in the initial response before emergency services arrive which can help increase the chances for survival. Contact the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, local hospital, fitness centers, or schools to set up trainings for First Aid, CPR,
and AED courses in your community. Visit https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/emergency-medical-services for more information and resources. Help spread awareness and support for local EMS (Emergency Medical Services) with your Grange!

**Native vs. Invasive Plants:** Visit the New York State DEC website or visit your local Cornell Cooperative Extension website for information regarding native vs. invasive plant species in New York. Learn how to identify invasive plant species that can be found in your area and learn about any precautions to take if they are found. Even invite representatives from the DEC or Cornell Cooperative Extension to give a presentation about native vs. invasive plants. For the DEC: http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/275.html. For Cornell Cooperative Extension: http://cce.cornell.edu/localoffices (select your local office to find out more information about invasive plants in your area).

**Connecting With Future Leaders**

Consider connecting with your local chapters of the following organizations to reach out to the Youth leaders in your community. Co-sponsor joint activities to get the word out to the community about the Grange and how they can continue their use of leadership skills!

- FFA (Future Farmers of America) – local school or BOCES
- 4-H – contact your local chapter
- Boys and Girls Scouts – contact your local troop
- Interact (youth program with Rotary Clubs – contact your local Rotary club)
- Envirothon (www.nysenvirothon.org)
- Agriculture in the Classroom (www.agclassroom.org/ny)

**The Dictionary Project** (www.dictionaryproject.org) P.O. Box 1845 Charleston, SC 29402; Phone (843)856-2706 OR (843) 388-8375; email: wordpower@dictionaryproject.org. The Dictionary Project is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization with a goal “to assist all students to become good writers, active readers and creative thinkers by providing students a gift of their own personal dictionary.” Consider having your Grange sponsor your local school’s donation of dictionaries to third graders. Visit the website for more information in how this can be done or contact the organization by phone or email.

**New York State Grange History**

New York State Grange Historian, Carol Bailey can provide historical information to help Lecturers enhance their programs. Check out the Historian Handbook for ideas or contact Carol Bailey.

**Dates to Remember**

- **April 15, 2020 & 2021** – Art and Photo entries due at State Grange Headquarters
- **April 15, 2020 & 2021** – Talent Entry Report sheets sue to State Lecturer
- **April 24, 2020** – Lecturer/FAC Conference – NYS Grange Headquarters
- **April 25, 2021** – Lecturer/FAC Conference – NYS Grange Headquarters
- **September 15, 2020 & 2021** – Lecturers’ reports due to State Lecturer
  Northeast Lecturers’ Conference Date TBD