

2022-2023

CT Women and Family Action Packet

The Family Activities Committee has had an incredible year. The money we made on our raffles has given us the opportunity to assist other committees and in our small way help with the state budget. It allowed us to purchase items needed for our crafts and the projects that we support. We hope that you will all do your very best to continue to promote this year's efforts. It is greatly appreciated.

We continue to be challenged with COVID and its variants. However, we held more events and more meetings were held in person. It was great to see so many faces. In winter we find that with zoom meetings, we can be safe and warm in our own homes while still being in contact with our fellow Grangers. So there have been some things to come out of the pandemic that were positive! If you can't get to a meeting and your Grange wants to try a zoom session you can contact Todd Gelineau. Also, if you advertise your zoom meetings in advance, many other members across the state can "op" in to join in your meeting.

This year's prices are still rising, everything from medical bills to heating oil continue to go up and up, it's outrageous. Many people are food insecure and relying on foodbanks. We find people, especially our seniors and veterans, need assistance in receiving a meal once a day and in some cases, it may be their only meal. We will continue to support Meals on Wheels in CT as our special project thru the organization called The Community Renewal Team, which services veterans and seniors. Please send your donations for the Meals on Wheels to the state secretary as it's vital to their wellbeing.

Other donations that we continue to support is the Scholarship and Student loan 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 and makes the student loans possible. In this way we are able to grant loans and scholarships without taking from the principal.

In addition, 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. But we can only continue to do that if there's a fund that is keeping pace with the rate of inflation.

And last but not least is the Connecticut 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 was written for 2 years, so 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 bluebook. Your packet contains the report forms as well as all of the contests. For the next 2 years, our Theme contest is "Let's make Snowmen". The baking contest is for the first year is Coconut Snowballs.

I have also included some patterns for your membership. They may like to make for donations to the Big E. There is a letter in the packet discussing suggested items that we could really use this year 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 A: Afghan

Width is a min. of 45 inches and a max of 60 inches

Length is a min of 60 inches and a max of 75 inches

Class B: Doilies: Max size is 18" x 18",

Class I: Quilted Wall hanging. 36" x 36"

Class K: Baby Afghan. max size of 35" x 40",

Class D: 3 Piece Baby set: Added skirt

There was also a **new Contest** created by the state directors: Tea cup and saucer. Cup must be glued to saucer. Tea cups may be painted or use the existing design, and decorate as an arrangement. Winner will go on to the Big E.

Each Chairman will have the new brochure in their packet so that you can copy for your members. Or once Todd has updated the state website for CFA, it will be available as a download. I know you will always work to the best of your abilities to 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, State Director