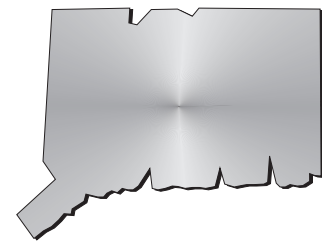




# Connecticut Granger



Vol. 49, No. 7

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

APRIL 2009

## State President



**Robert Sendewicz**  
State Master/President  
president@ctstategrange.org

Ahh April, spring and warmer weather. I'm sure everyone is glad it's here. April is also Grange month and each Grange should have received a packet from National Grange announcing it. The packet is labeled "opportunity knocks". Inside is much useful information to help your Grange in planning its celebration. Each Grange should celebrate because we have much to be proud of and it's time to let the rest of the world know. So bring the packet to your Grange and plan for your activities.

If your Grange cannot organize activities for

April, use the information in the packet later on this year to plan a membership drive. This is the time of year to start the planning, in fact Granges will begin their evaluation process soon and it is always great to bring in new members. Many Granges took in new members quickly last year because National Grange was coming to Connecticut. If you initiated them through the obligation or welcoming ceremony, now is the time for them to witness the four degrees. I would encourage you to put on at least one degree on your evaluation night.

Other Granges will be conferring the degrees, so bring your new members to one of them. You can also help them with the presentation. Remember, you can get points on your Honor Grange report for putting on degrees whatever time of year you do them.

Although the Board

of Directors are in the process of hiring a full time director for Camp Berger, we do have a director in place for this year. Preparations are under way for opening the camp in July. The camp brochures are out and if your Grange does not have them you can get some on camp clean-up day. The call is going out for able bodied persons to lend a hand to help in cleaning up our camp. It has been a long standing tradition, after the clean-up, to have a dinner and Pink Sash meeting at Winchester Grange hall. The dinner is well priced at \$5.00 and the meeting follows the dinner. Even if you do not assist in the clean-up at camp and you do not have a Pink Sash you are still welcome to the dinner and meeting that follows. Come and see what your State Grange is doing. It would help to drop Todd Gelineau a line and let him know if you are attending the dinner.

Ahh, enjoy the spring.

## Tyson withdraws from Grange filing

Tyson Foods has withdrawn its filing to register and trademark the term "Grange and Grassland" on a new line of natural meat products. The world's largest meat packer filed an "Express Abandonment" with the U.S Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, thus ending more than a year of administrative actions and negotiations with the National Grange, which holds the trademark rights to the term "Grange." According to legal sources, Tyson Foods is now precluded from registering the same or substantially identical mark in the future.

The National Grange challenged Tyson's use of the mark on the basis that its loss to the food company would hamper the many grassroots educational and community services programs put on by approximately 2,700 local Granges across the United States, of which food is a crucial part. The National Grange gathered evidence on literally thousands of Grange sponsored community events to support their position. The parties were unable to come to any kind of licensing agreement.

National Grange President Ed Luttrell stated, "We appreciate Tyson Foods' recognition of the importance and value of this mark to the National Grange and especially to our grass-roots based community Granges that use it in conjunction with their many educational and community service projects." Luttrell went on to point out that if the Grange does not defend its trademarks, it can lose them to other organizations and companies. "If we had lost the name "Grange" to Tyson Foods, local Granges were concerned that they might have had to get permission to use the term on their fund raiser breakfasts, dinners and pot luck suppers. Can you imagine that?"

While the term "Grange" can mean an old English farm, dictionaries also recognize it as the title for our national, state and local organizations. To many the term means an organization dedicated to the betterment of local communities through public service projects, rural advocacy, scholarship funds and other positive activities. Grange leaders are well aware of the meaning and importance of the mark and, over the years, have defended it against numerous infringements ranging from restaurants to housing developments and even

...continued on page 2

## Legislature to make tough decisions



**Gordon Gibson**  
Legislative Director  
legislative@ctstategrange.org

The public hearings are mostly over and the General Assembly will soon start meeting in full sessions to debate the many bills that have been reported on favorably by the committees. This is similar to Friday afternoon and Saturday at our annual State Grange session when the sessions committees report on

the resolutions and the delegate body acts on them. The big difference is that at State Grange we act on every resolution presented, but at the General Assembly there are so many bills that there is not enough time for action on all of them, so many die for lack of action when the General Assembly adjourns in June. As this year's deadline of midnight on June 3 approaches, the lobbying efforts to get everyone's important bills on the floor for action will become more and more intense.

The Grange is lobbying for bills to help the dairy

farmers who are losing money on all the milk they produce. The price the farmers receive for their milk as it leaves the farm is set by the federal government, but the prices the farmers must pay for grain, hay and energy are set by the market. Bills have been introduced to subsidize the farmers so they can at least break even on the milk they sell. Without these subsidies our dairy farmers will be forced to sell their herds and go out of business.

The Department of Agriculture sponsored the annual Ag Day at the Capitol March 18. All of

...continued on page 3

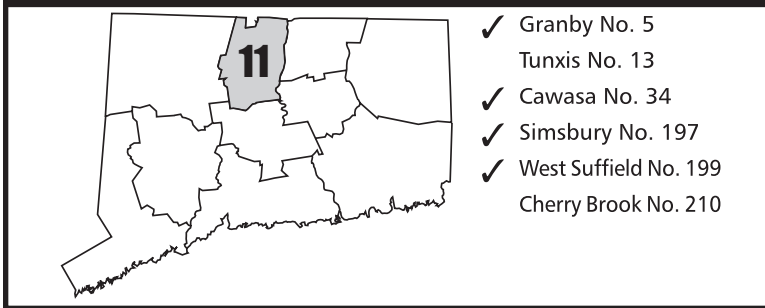
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**Deadline for the MAY Issue: APRIL 5.**



## Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11



- ✓ Granby No. 5
- ✓ Tunxis No. 13
- ✓ Cawasa No. 34
- ✓ Simsbury No. 197
- ✓ West Suffield No. 199
- ✓ Cherry Brook No. 210

### FARMINGTON VALLEY POMONA #11

Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner

Apr. 22: "April Showers"

We look forward to spring more than we do any other time of the year. It's especially welcomed because it follows the long, cold, drab winter with its ice and snow. It's when things are renewed in the Grange and in our lives. Let's all get to work and make this lovely season a productive one. It's good to get projects underway to keep our Grange doing good things. We need ideas and help from everyone.

We were well represented at the state meeting for Pomona Lecturers and Camp Berger Trustees. Plans for the year were introduced and discussed.

Our April program, "April Showers" reminds us the beautiful May flowers are on the way!

Hope to see you at our meetings. Remember... the door is always open.

### GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: Vivian C. Shaw

For the Month of April, Granby Grange exhibits at the Granby Cossit Library

Apr. 2: Easter Open Meeting and Neighbor's Night

Apr. 16: Deputy Evaluation

Apr. 25: Public Setback Card Party at 7:00 P.M.

We held three Saturdays Cabin Fever tag sales. Granby Grange sponsored a Red Cross Blood Drive on Feb. 20.

Fran Brockett, Director of Women's Activities had an interesting Kitty Cat Program. Also, Joe Rudzik talked about Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday. We have heard that William Colton has died, he was a Treasurer

of Granby Grange several years, then moved to Vermont many years ago.

### CAWASA GRANGE #34

Corr: Maggie Schofield

Hello all! My daffodils are up. Don't you just love to see things pop up? Pretty soon the grass will be green. Our April meeting was held on the 2nd with a little April fool's joke for all. We are saddened by the loss of a dear friend and Sister Jean Hudon who passed away. She will be missed by all. She had a wonderful sense of humor that will be missed as well.

### SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner

Apr. 8: Taxes and Showers

Apr. 4, 11, 18: Card Parties

Our April 8th lunch (at 12:00) will be potluck instead of a brown bag lunch. It will be the annual official visit by Deputy Doris Shaw. We hope the flowers will be out to help welcome her.

We have kept busy planning our spring events and working on Community Service Projects. Al Kansas has delivered several boxes of foodstuffs to the Simsbury Town Pantry. Wanda's count of lap robes for the convalescent home for this year is already more than twenty. She has discovered the veterans in the group love to have their afghans in red, white and blue.

Winnie Carter is very much missed as she has not been feeling up to par. Let's hope she will be back with us by the time this "Granger" reaches you.

### WEST SUFFIELD GRANGE #199

Corr: Pam Covington

Apr. 14: Tulip Time

Our February meeting turned out to be a lot of fun. We were glad to have a nice day to have it and no snow or ice to make us cancel the meeting.

Dan Mutchler and Ronald Purinton came to neighbor with West Suffield and brought along

their flute and harmonica. We had a sing-a-long with some of the songs out of the Grange Songbook, and everyone enjoyed it so much. They play so well, and I hope they can come again and we can have another sing-a-long. Thank you both for helping to make our meeting such a success for everyone!

In April we will be going back to Academy Hall for our meetings. We will still have the same schedule with lunch at 12:00 and the meeting at 1:00. We welcome anyone who can come as we enjoy having visitors come! Happy spring, everyone!

## Tyson withdraws

Continued from page one... to a line of imported cigarettes.

"Trademark defense is an ongoing effort," Luttrell stated. "Next we have to deal with a large European-owned supermarket chain that is using the term 'Granger' on a line of meat, a dairy producer that wants to market milk under the mark DE LA GRANJA which means 'from the Grange, and a winery that wants to label its

product LA GRANJA which means The Grange. He expressed his thanks to the many community Granges that supplied examples of how they used the term 'Grange' in their fund raising activities. "These literally thousands of examples played an important part in resolving the conflict with Tyson Foods. We appreciated the support from our grassroots-based community Granges, and

many thanks to Tyson Foods for their decision," he concluded.

Despite Tyson's withdrawal, National Grange has had to spend a great deal of money to see the case through to this point and expects to spend additional money defending its trademark against companies like the European businesses listed in this article, making fundraising an ongoing need.

## Farewell to the Hanahoe Clinic



Joan Ziegler, State W.A.

Spring at last and time for fresh new projects and I have just the thing for you to do. Take a look through your favorite recipes and pick out your best appetizers, soups and salads. This year the New England Granges are going to publish a cookbook to be sold at the Grange Building at the Big E. So many people ask if there is a Grange cookbook they can buy so this year they've decided to have one printed containing appetizers, soups and salads and if

this is successful other books will follow containing main dishes, desserts etc. If you would like to have one or more of your recipes included in this year's book please send them to Betty-Jane by May 1st for consideration. This project should be a good money-maker for the Grange Building. Cookbooks always sell well and Grangers have a reputation for making good food.

On a different note - I received a letter recently from The Hanahoe Children's Clinic. As you probably remember the Clinic was one of our State CWA Projects a few years back. I thought the letter might be a request for a donation so I was surprised to see that after 35-plus years and over 88 thousand patient visits Dr. Hines is going to retire and after much consideration has decided to close the Clinic as of June 30th. There

are several new medical providers in the Danbury area now that offer low cost or free pediatric care so she felt that her clients would be taken care of. The last paragraph of her letter says "This is a difficult letter to write because I feel much sadness at leaving the patients and saying goodbye to you, my friends. I hope they and you know that I have done my best and that you will feel very happy for the good that your donations have done over all these years. My thoughts and prayers are always with you all".

Any time that I stopped at the Clinic to bring your donations of money, baby things or all those nice stuffed toys you made she was most appreciative. I'm sure we all wish her a wonderful retirement.

And I hope you all have a purrfectly beautiful spring and summer. After all you are the "Cat's Meow".

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### DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the **5th Day** of each month except July and should be sent to:

Connecticut State Grange  
P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033

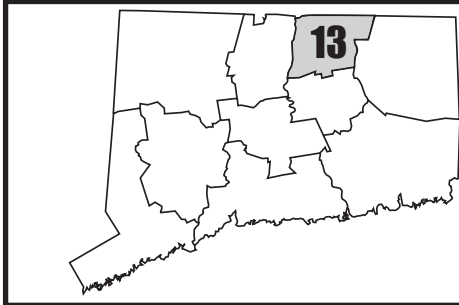
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170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790

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Vice President . . . . . Brian Carpenter  
Secretary Treasurer. . . . . Edith Schoell



## North Central Pomona No. 13



- ✓ Stafford No. 1
- ✓ Tolland No. 51
- ✓ Vernon No. 52
- ✓ Enfield No. 151

### NORTH CENTRAL POMONA #13

Corr: J. Jordan

**Apr. 16:** Skit Time- In the Garden

Please join us for our April meeting as guests of Enfield Grange. All Subordinate Granges should be working on skits to present at this time. We will continue to hold our auction at the end of the meeting. Tolland Grange is in charge of the auction items this month. Hope to see you all in Enfield on the 16th of April.

### STAFFORD GRANGE #1

Corr: Maude Emhoff

**Apr. 21:** Slide Show on Wild Flowers, 7 P.M.

By the time this article has been written and read two of our members; Sandra and John Emhoff, Chaplain and Steward have been to visit their son and daughter-in-law in Dubai. What a grand adventure. The world has gotten so much smaller. We had a guest speaker, one of our tenants, Jacker Bonn, speak about the dire situation of bees and how extinct they are becoming. A world without bees could be rather catastrophic. She felt that the Grange in general could do a lot to promote their growth. It makes us realize how much we should get involved with the environment. Three more applications for membership have been accepted. To date we now

have 9 members in waiting to take the degrees. Mark, our Master, has vowed to make us #1 in number in the state. We received the notice of the death of two of our members; Gladys Heck, G.S. and Edgar Hunnicutt.

Our next meeting will feature a corned beef and cabbage supper for our members.

It looks as though Spring is finally arriving and this is no April food.

### TOLLAND GRANGE #51

Corr: J. Jordan

**Apr. 7:** Pastels are Soothing

The grass is showing!!! Isn't it wonderful??? As I write this column the weatherman says snow again for tonight into tomorrow. How can that be? We've had enough- it's supposed to be spring.

Join us for our monthly meeting at the Hall on the Green in Tolland. We are still "working" on colors. Come help us discuss pastels. Call Worthy Master Robert West and let him know you will be with us. Happy Easter to all from Tolland Grange.

### VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

We had an extremely interesting meeting in which people shared their hobbies. It's amazing the number of different and interesting things people do outside of the

Grange. We had antique surveying equipment and book, smocking, quilting, crocheting, knitting, violin playing, writing, crossword puzzles and computer scanning. We had 4 entries in our banana cupcake bake-off and all were good. Geraldine Strong won this year. Our next meeting we should have something special going on. It's in the works!

### ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

**Apr. 18:** Away We Go- Ref. Dawn and Irene

**May 9:** Memorial Tribute & Evaluation, Ref. Julianna & Judy

As I write this there is still a lot of snow on the ground and very cold temperatures. Hopefully our birthday celebration will be somewhat warmer. Our February meeting

was canceled, so it will be good to get together again. The winter blahs do get you down. As our Evaluation draws near we need to make sure all committee written reports are ready to be turned in to the Deputy.

Dawn and I would like to thank you for all your kind calls and cards of sympathy.

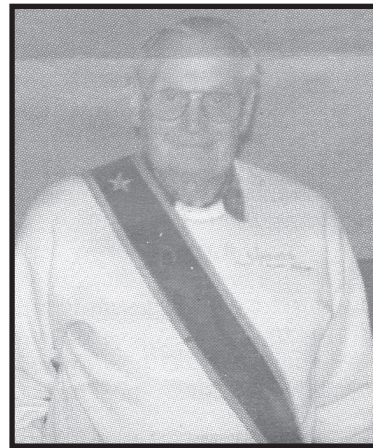
## Grange seeks new members

by Wally Robinson, *Reminder News*

The Stafford Grange #1 is so-named for the simple and straightforward reason that it was the first Grange established in the State of Connecticut, way back in 1874. Members of the long-standing agricultural organization met on Jan. 20 at the Grange Hall to discuss plans and projects for the up-coming year.

Though membership in Stafford Grange #1 has dwindled in recent years, as more and more area farms have given way to development, the current roster of 46 members is no less dedicated and enthusiastic about the organization and its activities than their predecessors. The group now includes non-farming rural family members who either grew up on farms or are simply interested in the activities offered by the Stafford Grange.

There are now fewer than a dozen active farms in the area, the largest of which is Avery Farm on the border between Stafford and Somers. Myron Avery is the current owner and serves as Overseer of the Grange. "My ancestors got the property in a land grant from King George the Third," Avery said proudly,



Stafford Grange Overseer Myron Avery.

It was one of the first organizations to admit women on the basis of equality with men, and founded the Rural Free Mail Delivery System.

Current issues important to the Grange are climate control, farmland preservation, roads and infrastructure, rural schools, dairy issues and food safety.

The Grange is also a fraternal and social organization. Before the meeting, members enjoyed a slide show on English horticulture by Joanne Noris of Stafford Springs. A high school biology teacher in Wethersfield, Noris put together the program while on a field trip to Great Britain.

Stafford Grange #1 is actively seeking new members. For more information, contact Myron Avery at 749-9781.

## Scholarships available



Edith Schoell  
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

Spring is here and soon we will be thinking of summer and the end of school for the year. If you have members in college, have them apply for a scholarship. They do not have to attend the University of Connecticut to receive a scholarship. Students that have completed a semester may apply for a student loan. Contact the Central Office (860) 633-7550 for scholarship applications or student loans.

There are still many placemats with the Grange logo for sale. Do you need resolutions of respect? They are available too.

I hope you will attend Grange Sunday and have a look at the Central Office.

## Connecticut Granger

WE STILL HAVE SEVERAL GRANGES WHO HAVE NOT SENT IN THEIR SUBSCRIPTION LISTS AND PAYMENT FOR THE 2008-2009 SUBSCRIPTION YEAR.

IF YOUR GRANGE HASN'T YET... PLEASE DO SO.  
IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SENT IT IN...  
THANK YOU!

## Thank you!

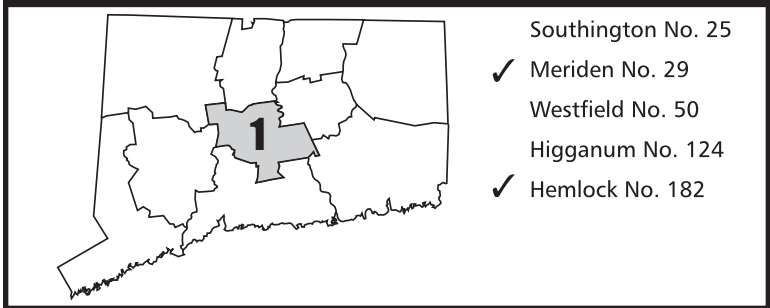
We wish to continue to thank "our Grange Family of Friends" for your continued thoughts and prayers, cards, calls & emails that you all continue to send.

Henry returned home on the 16th of January & has finished his 14 days of intensive radiation to his spine on February 17th. He will have finished his outpatient PT/OT when this Granger comes out & hopefully by then, he will be able to use a walker in the house, yet his main form of transportation will be his wheelchair.

Fraternally,  
Henry & Barbara  
Kulisch, Jr.



## Central Pomona No. 1



### CENTRAL POMONA #1

Corr: Dianna Clark

Central Pomona No. 1 will meet on April 16th at Meriden Grange Hall at 7:30 P.M. Co-hosted by the Executive Committee

and the Graces. Program is on "As Time Goes By." Fifth Degree.

We won't have a table. The regular meeting was canceled because of Holy Thursday. Have a happy

## Legislature's tough decisions

Continued from page one...

the major agricultural organizations had displays in the Capitol to acquaint the legislators and their staffs with Connecticut's agriculture industry. The Grange was well represented with a display on Grange programs and activities. Adding to the day this year was a rally by the dairy farmers outside the Capitol including a live cow. Many legislators are sympathetic to the farmers' plight, but there is always the question of where the money will

come from to do anything to help them.

The coalition that supports the community investment act took advantage of the day to hold a press conference and meetings with many legislators in an effort to prevent the funds generated for this program by the \$30 dollar surcharge on every deed and mortgage recorded in Connecticut from being diverted to the State's general fund. There has much talk lately about economic stimulus

Easter.

### MERIDEN GRANGE #29

Corr: Dianna Clark

Apr. 5: 2:00 P.M., Easter Time/CWA Report

Apr. 24: First & Second Degrees/Inspection

Feb. 13th we had a play on Sweethearts, Valentine Celebration, "The difference a Valentine Makes." Snow day, Jan. 23, so we can combine programs on Martin Luther King.

Cindy Hupper gave

wooden cats and swell figure dolls with the Grange emblem to the State Grange.

March 13 we had agricultural night, and March 27th Murray Newton presented the program for Youth Night and neighbors were invited.

Because April 10 is on Good Friday, we are changing the program to April 5th at 2:00 P.M.

May 8th we will have a Mother's Day program

and on May 22 we will have a Memorial Program put on by Chaplain Cindy Hupper.

We hope to have some dinners on the first Saturdays or Second Saturdays of the month in April.

### HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Apr. 10: Omit- Good Friday

Apr. 24: Inspection-Coffee and refreshments will be served.

but it is also the least expensive land to develop, whether the development is for housing, stores or industry. The Grange is working with other groups concerned with preserving our farmland in support of bills that will require the State to preserve the farmland it already owns and require the towns to have a local program in place to preserve farmland before using any State grant money for projects that would result in the loss of prime farmland. Underlying all of these bills and the efforts to pass them is the problem of money. Like many households, the State's income is down while its costs are up. Everyone agrees something needs to be done to bring expenses in line with income, but no one has an answer

that will work. Every bill considered by the General Assembly that has an additional cost to it will have to be reviewed to see if the necessary funds can be included in the State budget.

Many good programs will not pass in this year's General Assembly because there will be no money to fund them. Some of you may think I have rambled on several topics in this article, but that's the way it is at the Capitol. There are a lot of problems and a lot of solutions that would work if the money was available. The biggest problem of all is that the funds just are not there. In many ways, running the State is just like running our households. If only we had the money we need.

## Green horse awards offered

The Horse Environmental Awareness Program (HEAP) is now accepting applications for its 2009 Horse Farms of Environmental Distinction award program. This program honors those horse owners who own one horse or more and who take pride in being good stewards of the land and good neighbors to those who share our common water resources.

Horse owners that qualify for the award are those who implement good manure, pasture and facility management practices. Practices such as

covering manure piles, diverting rain water away from barnyards, installing fencing to keep horses out of ponds and streams, utilizing a sacrifice area, installing gutters on barns, and testing pasture soils.

Evaluators will review the practices being implemented and provide a score based on how these practices decrease or eliminate impacts to the environment. If a qualifying score is achieved, the horse owner will receive an attractive, aluminum 18" x 24" Horse Farm of Environmental Distinction sign to proudly display at their facility. Those




that do not receive a qualifying score will receive recommendations on how to improve their horse keeping operation to help protect the environment with encouragement to re-apply the following year.

The HEAP program is a coalition of federal and state agencies, organizations and individuals interested in protecting the environment by educating horse owners on good horse management practices. It has no regulatory authority and its only interest is to help horse owners improve their management practices.

Deadline for applying is April 3, 2009. To learn more about the program call Mark Cummings at 203-284-3663 or email carol.donzella@ct.usda.gov.

Carol Donzella, Community Planner  
USDA Natural Resources  
Conservation Service




1 Bradley Road, Suite 506-A  
Woodbridge, CT 06525  
203-389-6925 phone  
203-389-6946 fax  
www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov

## THE PATRONS GROUP

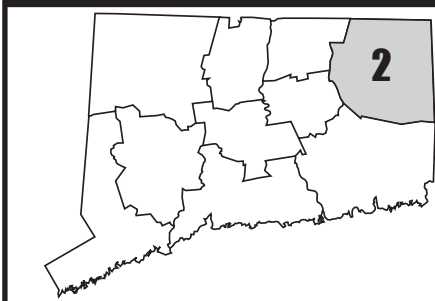
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## Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- Senexet No. 40
- Brooklyn No. 43
- ✓ Wolf Den No. 61
- ✓ Ekonk No. 89
- Ashford No. 90
- Putnam No. 97
- Killingly No. 112
- Echo No. 180

### WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: *Elsie M. Johnson*

**Apr. 8:** Name that Tune-Dick; Ref. Everyone

**Apr. 22:** Potluck Supper, 6:30 P.M., April Fool's Fun

Has spring finally arrived? Hope so- had enough winter! Pussy willows are out. Been picking up sticks from all the winter winds. Seeds have been started and are up.

Lois of the CWA, urges everyone to be busy working on this year's projects. Joan says the Juniors are workong on this year's contests. Some of us went to Quinebaug Pomona's Dinner and a Movie and had a good time. We have a bake sale on Saturday, April 4 and with Pomfret Senior Center a tag sale. Come help. Tabs are still coming in. On April 9 we will have evaluation night. Last word is we need to move our possessions out of the building as renovations are going to start in May. If information is needed, please contact the Master or Secretary. Happy Easter to All!

### EKONK COMMUNITY GRANGE #89

Corr: *Sue Gray*

**April 18:** Roast Beef Supper 5-7 pm

**April 19:** 51st annual Olde Tyme Fiddlers

Concert 1pm

**April 26:** 120th #89 & 30th #101 Anniversary! 1:30 pm

**May 4:** "The New Millennium!" meeting & program 7:30 pm

**May 17:** Grangers march in Sterling Memorial Day Parade

The Junior Leaders, Mike & Betsy Molodich, led a large delegation of Juniors on a hike, which began and ended at the Grange Hall: pizza party followed the hike! The Juniors second annual Spaghetti Supper/Reptile Show was another great success, with all proceeds donated to Juvenile Diabetes! We are so proud of our Junior Grange and its Leadership!

April 26th is fast approaching...the planning committee is ready...our 12 living Past Presidents; 12 living Past Junior Leaders and 20 Past Junior Presidents have all received invitations: hope they can ALL attend! A wonderful program has been planned and will begin at 1:30 p.m. A history has been written, but will not be read; a copy will be given to each family interested as well as one to the Sterling Historical Society, which, happily, has been reactivated. Ekonk Past President, Deborah Sharpe, is President and

doing an exemplary job in this capacity.

Our Grange catered a meal for "Fieldworks" in March. Hungry farmers sure enjoy the hearty meal that we provide!

We draped our Charter

for Henry G. Moon in March. Henry was a WW11 veteran and Golden Sheaf Granger. He first joined Little River Grange in Hampton, then Canterbury and then came to Ekonk. He never

missed a Strawberry Supper and was a truly delightful man!

Come up on the Hill and visit Ekonk Grange. Like Motel 6, the light is always on!

## Free seeds for community groups

The National Grange is happy to announce our partnership with the America the Beautiful Fund, which will allow Granges to participate in their seed program. Local Granges can get 100 packets of vegetable, flower or herb packets for free only paying \$14.95 for shipping and handling. This program's main goal is benefitting the community, whether it is teaching local school children about

growing a garden or growing a vegetable garden to help the local food bank or to fundraise. All you need to do is write a short letter describing what you will do with the seeds and fill out the application from America the Beautiful Fund. So far this program has saved more than 800 tons of seeds and 7 million flower bulbs from going to waste in landfills and has grown 1.75 billion pounds of food



for the hungry. To get more information please contact Samantha Johnson at 888-4-GRANGE ext. 109 or e-mail [sjohnson@nationalgrange.org](mailto:sjohnson@nationalgrange.org).

How to obtain free seeds:

1. **Write** a short letter describing your project.
2. **Fill** out the application form below or download it from [america-the-beautiful.org](http://america-the-beautiful.org).
3. **Enclose** a check for shipping and handling.
4. **Mail** your letter, application and check to:  
725 15th St., NW, Suite 605, Washington, D.C. 20005 • (202) 638-1649

ConactName: _____	
Organization Name: _____	
Project Name: _____	
Street Address for UPS Delivery (No P.O. Boxes) _____	
City _____	State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____	Email _____
First set of 100 packets =	\$11.95
_____ Additional set(s) of 100 x \$5 each =	_____
Vegetable _____	Flower _____
Herb _____	
(limit 25 Herbs packets per request)	
Green Earth Guide Paperback (\$10); CD-ROM (\$12.95) =	_____
Gardening for Optimal Nutrition	
10 for \$10; 30 for \$25; 250 for \$125=	_____
Gloves _____	Sets of 12 for \$10 ea. (mixed sizes & styles) = _____
<b>TOTAL=</b> _____	

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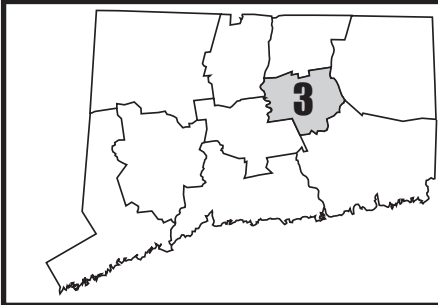


MAIN OFFICE:  
521 Cromwell Avenue, Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
BRANCH OFFICES:  
270 Broad Street, Manchester • 55 Curtis Street, New Britain





## East Central Pomona No. 3



- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Coventry No. 75
- ✓ Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Marlborough No. 205

### EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3

*Corr: John Waterhouse*

**Apr. 4:** Meeting, 5:00 P.M., Potluck Supper 6:00 P.M., Degree 7:00 P.M.

**May 2:** Regular Meeting

April is our Spring Degree Meeting. It is also our annual inspection by Pomona Deputy West Todd Gelineau. We hope to have a big class of candidates to take the beautiful and impressive Fifth Degree.

Please note that the April meeting starts at 5 P.M., with the degree at 7 P.M.

The good cooks of East Central Pomona #3 will hold a potluck supper at 6 P.M. Looking forward to seeing you at Good Will Grange Hall on April 4th.

### GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

*Corr: Kay Ruff*

**Apr. 2:** Easter Baskets, 7:30 P.M.- CWA Bake Off

**Apr. 11:** Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7:00 P.M.

**May 2:** Food Sale and Unique Boutique, 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

I sure hope our winter weather is over by the time you are reading this. It is raining here, but some places in the state are getting snow. I sure hope April flowers are poking their heads up.

In March we delivered 10 homemade fleece throws to Gilmore Manor in Glastonbury. The Manor has 21 in residence, so next fall we will complete this community service project by making throws for the remainder of the residents.

The Youth Committee has been collecting old towels, blankets, and sheets. They will be delivered to Beckett &

Associates Veterinary Services located at 1269 Main St., So. Glastonbury. They are used for bedding for the animals they are caring for. We expect to deliver them by April 1st.

The members are busy working on two fundraisers to raise funds for National Grange, and also making the necessary plans for our second Power Point Program. It will be held on May 16th beginning at 5:00 P.M.

I wish everyone a "happy spring."

### COVENTRY GRANGE #75

At a recent meeting of Coventry Grange #75, State Representative Joan Lewis presented Master Lucy Smith Haloburdo, who accepted on behalf of the Grange, a framed citation in recognition of the Grange Hall being the oldest continually used hall in the State of Connecticut.

The Coventry Grange received its charter from the Connecticut State Grange in 1888 and purchased the hall in 1890 and it has been used ever since for regular Grange meetings and other community events.

It was also noted that the first pay telephone in Coventry, Connecticut was installed by Southern New England Telephone (SNET) on the east, outside wall of the Grange Hall, for public use in 1949.

### HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

*Corr: Rita Schaefer*

**Apr. 9:** "Dressing Up for Easter"

**Apr. 23:** "A Little Bluegrass for You" Open Meeting, Refreshments, All Members

As I look out my window I don't see spring is here,

I guess more cold weather is coming in a day or so.

Just another year for the farmers to be late, but I guess that's Mother Nature.

Some of our members were able to go to the School of Instruction.

I keep asking our members at home or who live out of state to please drop me a line to let us know how they are doing. If they are unavailable someone could do it. We lost another member this past month. Marie Slate

passed away in Florida. She was one of our Past Lecturers and will be missed by all who knew her.

I hope the weather gets better so we can get together to see what we are going to work on for projects. Once the snow goes then quickly we will have hot weather and complaining.

Our Corned Beef Dinner was held and our next dinner will be Chicken & Strawberry Shortcake

### MARLBOROUGH GRANGE #205

*Corr: Ruth Posuniak*

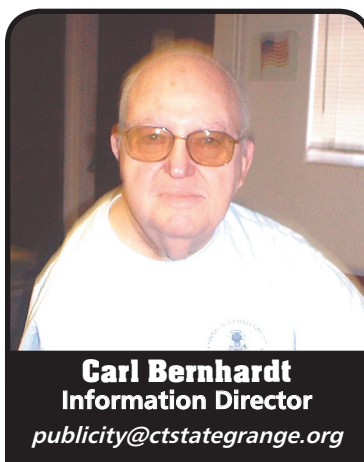
Regular Meeting - Time 11:00 AM - Marlborough Cong. Church Youth Room. Evaluation and Program - Share a Pet Story - Ref: Laura Combs

Marlborough Grange hosted East Central Pomona Grange Meeting on March 7th. It is hoped that all are working on CWA Needlework entries for the July judging.



Coventry Grange No. 75

## Sell the Grange



**Carl Bernhardt**  
Information Director  
[publicity@ctstategrange.org](mailto:publicity@ctstategrange.org)

*Geno Piacentini, Info./ Publicity Comm. Member*

I hate watching commercial T.V. ....all those advertisements. You could watch a movie that starts at 8:00 and ends at 11:00. Most movies are less than two hours long, do the math, you're watching more than one hour of commercials.

Community.

As much as I dislike commercials, it is a necessary evil. If you want people to know about your product you have to advertise. Our product is the Grange. We want to advertise the Grange. How do we do that? Let me count the ways. Here's one way, word of mouth.

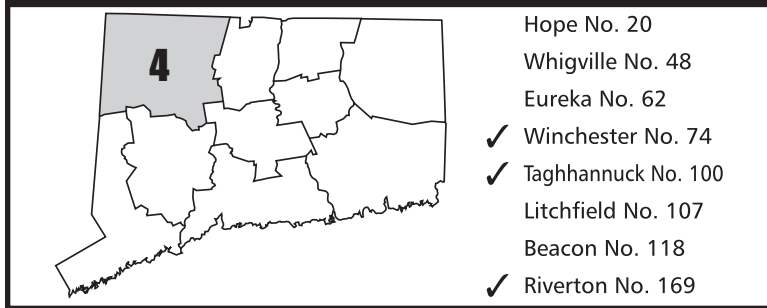
You are a Granger. Let people know you are a Granger every chance you get. When they ask you; what is the Grange? Well, that's when you become a salesperson for the Grange. Tell them what we are all about....what a great organization we are, all the fun we have, and the good things we do for the

Tell them about the many services available to members such as insurance, prescription drug services, mortgage services, student loan services and so much more. Don't pretend to be an expert in all these areas, just let them know that they are services available to Grangers. Convince them to come to a meeting so they can see for themselves. Encourage them to join the Grange. That is your ultimate goal. Don't stop until you have reached your goal. The future of the Grange is new members, new members to carry on the tradition. The tradition of the Grange.

This is one way to get new members. Try it.



## Mountain County Pomona No. 4



### MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

*Corr: Todd Gelineau*

**May 2:** Rehearsal for 5th Degree, 7:00 P.M., Winchester Grange Hall

**May 11:** Fifth Degree Conferral, 7:30 P.M., Dinner, 6:30 P.M., Winchester Grange Hall

Mountain County Pomona held its annual Day Meeting on Wednesday, March 25 with a good attendance. The meeting is always much more relaxed as most people have the morning and afternoon set aside for the meeting and don't need to rush home to get up early the next day. The price for paid dinners was recently increased to \$5.00, giving the Granges much more freedom in menu planning and Riverton Grange really outdid itself with delicious meatloaf, potatoes, corn casserole, salad and dessert on the menu. We always look forward to their Day Meeting meals, but this was the best ever. Thank you, Riverton Grange!

We were pleased to have Sister Amy Whitcomb back with us for the Day Meeting. Our thoughts are with Ruth Schnell who was involved in a very bad car accident in February. She is doing well but has a way to go. Cards and prayers should also be given to Jerry Lemieux and David Geddes. Our Chaplain, Helena, is anxious to receive updates on members who may be in need of a call, card or prayer.

Mountain County Pomona does not meet during the month of April due to the Day Meeting traditionally falling at the end of the previous month. Our next event will be the

rehearsal for the Fifth Degree on Sunday, May 2 at Winchester Grange Hall. This has been moved to the week before to avoid conflict with Mother's Day.

We will welcome Pomona Deputy East Jim Palmer and Quinebaug Pomona Deputy Pat Palmer on Monday, May 11 for our annual Inspection, Degree Conferral and Dinner. Any Granges that have candidates for the Fifth Degree should contact the Master or send word along to the Rehearsal on May 2. This will allow the Worthy Pomona plan accordingly for the Degree.

The annual Spring Gift Drawing will be held at the June meeting of Pomona. Tickets will be going out to Granges as soon as they become available with all Granges having them no later than the May meeting. This drawing is the only actual fundraiser for the Pomona and we hope all will generously support it again this year.

**BY-LAW CHANGE:** It was voted to consider a change to the Pomona By-Laws at the May meeting. We are required to convene the Day Meeting at 10:30 A.M. on the last Wednesday of March. For several years now, 90 minutes has been too much time for the first half of the meeting. It has been suggested to change that time to 11:00 A.M., bringing the lunch break closer to the noon hour. The vote will be taken on May 11. This serves as the official notice of the By-Law Change.

### WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

*Corr: Todd Gelineau*

**Apr. 14:** Join Us!, Ref.

Joan & Dom Campi

**Apr. 25:** Camp Clean Up & Pink Sash Dinner

**Apr. 28:** Welcome!, Potluck Harvest Supper, 6:30 P.M.

**May 15:** Super Prize Party, Grange Hall, 7:00 P.M.

Please note the date for the Super Prize Party has been changed to May 15. The VoAg department of the regional high school had already planned on holding a Teacup Auction on our original date so we decided to move to the following week. Please join us for this exciting event. All members are asked to contribute prizes of any value. We need smaller prizes and the "Super" prizes of 15-25 dollar value (or more). We haven't held one in many years, so it will be interesting to see how successful it will be this time around. It will take the efforts of all members to make this the great fundraiser that we know it can be. Refreshments will be available throughout the event, so please join us.

Our thoughts are with Brother Jerry Lemieux. He has been fighting health issues for some time now and we send our best wishes to him and Sister Shirley.

We will serve dinner on Saturday, April 25 for the Camp Clean-Up Day and Pink Sash Meeting. The dinner and meeting will be held at our hall following clean-up (approx. 3:00 or 4:00 P.M., depending on how work progresses at Camp). Cost for dinner is \$5.00.

We will not confer degrees in April, so those dates have changed to regular meetings. The Harvest Supper, however, will be held as scheduled on April 28. We welcome Deputy Earl Phillips to our hall that evening for the annual Evaluation.

Happy Easter to all from Winchester Grange.

### LITCHFIELD GRANGE #107

*Corr: Sara Lee Fischer*

**Apr. 9:** Speaker- Gary Brown(?)

**Apr. 23:** Citizen of the Year Celebration, Dinner at 6 P.M.

At our Jan. 26 meeting the charter was draped in memory of Sisters Jean DaRoss and Catherine Fabbri and Hazel Perret. Our deepest sympathies extend to their families and friends.

Feb. 12 was a day meeting where hot dogs and sauerkraut were served. This was followed by a very informative program about the history of candy making.

Our Feb. 26 meeting began with a delicious potluck supper. Members outdid themselves with a wide selection of casseroles and desserts. Dinner was followed by an excellent program "Feeding the Birds." We all received tips on making our own bird treats. Sister Helena also made an excellent "Humming Bird" cake.

Get well wishes are sent to Eleanor Fabbri who is recovering from a fall and to Bud Bunnell and John Magyar who are

a bit under the weather.

### RIVERTON GRANGE #169

*Corr: Gail Prelli*

On March 6th we held a regular meeting starting at 7:30. The program was "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" presented by our lecturer, Sister Shirley Moore. We would like to extend a cordial invitation to all to join us on Friday, March 20th for a special musical program. Sister Mary-Lou Keefe will be accompanying Jerry Alonzy who will be singing Broadway tunes. This is an open meeting. We invite you to attend the Pot Luck Dinner before the program at 6:30.

Two other special programs are planned for our open meetings. Please save the dates!

May 15th Rev. Dr. Randall Neuhoff - Photographs and information about Israel.

June 19th Fred Newman-Railroads

Degrees will be confirmed in April

Plans are underway for many events planned for the spring.

## The Grange Growth Summit

What is the GGS? The Grange Growth Summit is an exciting program organized by the National Grange that is dedicated to teaching Grangers how to scout a community, recruit new members, and set up an organizational meeting to start or reorganize a Grange.

Attend a Grange Growth Summit near you!

**Grand Island, NB** - Apr. 3-5, 2009

**Dubuque, IA** - June 12-14, 2009

**Wytheville, VA** - Sept. 11-13, 2009



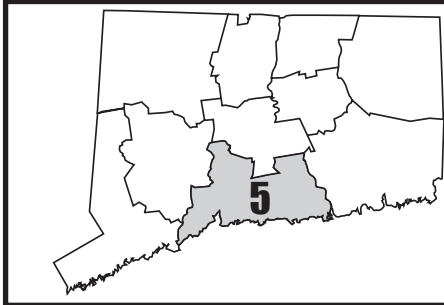
Learn how to start and reorganize Granges. Receive helpful tools and tips. Participate in practical field training. Practice teambuilding techniques.

Questions? For more information, please contact National Membership/Leadership Director, Rusty Hunt at 509-632-5600.





## New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- ✓ Cheshire No. 23
- Wallingford No. 33
- ✓ North Haven No. 35
- Totoket No. 83
- ✓ Old Lyme No. 162

### NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

*Corr: Charleen Dimmick*

**May 11:** 5th Degree at Wallingford

**June 9:** Regular meeting at Cheshire. Gift Card Drawing

The March meeting was the Pomona Talent Runoff.

Totoket won the 'A Number' competition with "Take It Again," a reprise of Lucille Ball's 'Vitameatavegamin' routine. Cheshire came in 2nd with "Our Garden."

For the 'Talent;' competition, Cheshire won with a violin solo, "The Ashokan Farewell," familiar to all who saw Ken Burns' series about the Civil War,

The Fifth Degree will be conferred in May. Try to get some new members.

### CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

*Corr: Charlene Dimmick*

**May 6:** Competitive Night. Men's Bake-Off

**May 20:** Awards Night. Open Meeting. Tea Cup Auction

**June 3:** Election. Memorial Program. 6pm - Pot Luck dinner

**June 17:** Mystery Ride

The first meeting in February was a box dinner exchange. Maryalyce Lee presented a St. Valentine's Day program. The second February meeting was canceled because of the weather.

The first meeting in March was our Youth Program.

### NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35

*Corr: A. Tolette*

**Apr. 7:** Visit from Deputy

Winteristryingtoleave.

The sap is running. This is old news but somehow I forgot to say that Debra Case received the Seventh Degree in Hartford. Way to go, Deb.

We are saddened by the passing of our Treasurer, Donald McCall. This happened just a few days after he and Ruth had their 60th wedding anniversary. Our Lecturer, Emily Alexander, is back on duty after recent surgery.

Hoping this springtime will bring happier news next time.

### OLD LYME GRANGE #162

*Corr: Barbara Kulisch*

**Apr. 10:** Omit--Good Friday

**Apr. 19:** Sunday Grange Month's Open House at 2:00pm

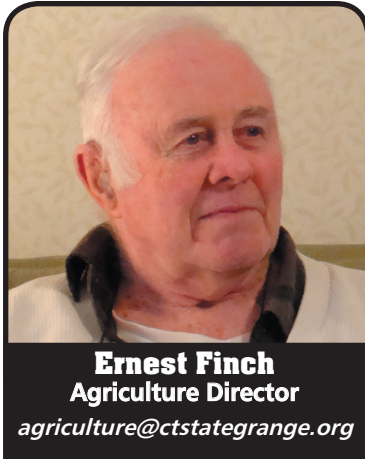
**Apr. 24:** CWA Night with Bake Off & Visitors

Sunday, April 19th at 2pm, we will honor 3 members, one being our Master, Ross Stands, for their 25 years of membership and 1 member will receive her 50th! We also will be dedicating the plaque that was presented to us by the Historic District of Old Lyme.

We continue to work on our hall to get it updated. We will soon welcome back our Florida members. We hope by this meeting, Bro Henry Kulisch will be back with us. The members have truly missed him at our meetings.

We received word that our member, Tom Norton, has now become the Master of the Orange Blossom Pomona in Florida. We wish him well on his new journey as Pomona Master.

# AgNews



**Ernest Finch**  
Agriculture Director  
[agriculture@ctstategrange.org](mailto:agriculture@ctstategrange.org)

*Jonathan Hermonot, Ag. Committee Member*

As a proud Grange and Farm Bureau member and a farm owner, I believe it is my obligation to stay up to date with ever changing agricultural issues. The statistics show that most families are three to four generations from the farm. This means more people are becoming disconnected with agricultural issues and practices.

This can result in misconceptions leading to rules and regulations that can cause businesses to lose viability in a competitive market.

I just traveled out to Sacramento, California for a Farm Bureau leadership conference where 1,200 members from almost 40 states gathered. We listened to many talks about communicating your farm story, agricultural grant opportunities, animal welfare, economic outlooks, developing a proactive business plan, and many other issues that affect farmers. We also toured some impressive

farm operations. I took much away from this conference, most of all the need to have a business plan and to tell your farm story. This gets the consumer emotionally connected to the farm and become friendlier to farming practices.

Our state does a good job promoting CT Grown products and farm markets but I believe we can do more to educate the public. I hope our committee can develop ideas and receive suggestions from you that will help improve Connecticut's agriculture. Some ideas are developing the right to farm act, protecting land rights, having more open house events at farms, pushing agricultural stories in the news, and expressing the benefits of farming to the public. I talked with many individuals from many states that held optimistic views and excitement towards agriculture but are dealing with pressure to change practices from certain groups with opposing agendas.

It's a volatile time in our country for all business; especially agriculture! The big question is how can we help improve agricultural prosperity in CT? Should the government take a bigger role or do they hinder the process. For example, there is a proposed bill

that addresses low milk price through dramatic increases in the milk license fee that stores pay to sell milk. This money would be used to help dairy farmers stay viable as their industry becomes more competitive! Is that the answer to our problem? By solving one problem do you create another?

You may create a backlash from store owners who are trying to promote and sell the milk and who are facing their own issues of viability. Is the state going to support the store owners when they go through rough times? We need to create synergy when creating policy, not policy that works against each other creating good guy, bad guy stereotypes!

My final thought is as government intervention increases we may need to structure more policy when impacted businesses get into trouble. I'm passionate about less regulation over business. I believe manipulating the free market creates problems and leads to inefficiency. The free market and capitalism works wonders and it seems to be under assault through government growth!!! We need to keep agriculture strong through good leadership and stewardship.

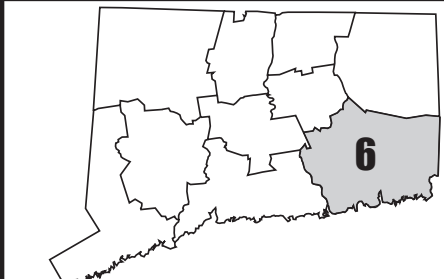
Feel free to contact our committee or the Grange website with thoughts or suggestions!



(l to r) Ron Purinton of Lyme Grange; Dan Mutchler, member of the state Ag. Committee; Ernest Finch, State Ag. Director and Gordon Gibson, State Legislative Director at the State Capitol for Ag Day on March 18.



### New London County Pomona No. 6



- Lebanon No. 21
- ✓ Colchester No. 78
- Pachaug No. 96
- Preston City No. 110
- ✓ N. Stonington No. 138
- ✓ Lyme No. 147
- Stonington No. 168
- Norwich No. 172

**NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6**

*Corr: Nancy Weissmuller*  
**June 11:** Identity Theft- How to Prevent It- Stonington Grange

If you missed our "Dinner and Movie" night, you missed a great meal and movie. Nineteen and 1/2 people, attended, representing six Granges. (Natasha's baby didn't seem too interested in the movie, but everyone enjoyed her). There was a nice mix of entrees and desserts, and Debbie and Jeff provided the popcorn (buttered or not) and bags of candy for the movie. Arlie got his wish. The movie was about airplanes. Hope this will become an annual event.

Many thanks to Deputy Debbie Barnes for arranging our School of Instruction, and thanks to Norwich Grange for hosting. State Master Bob Sendewicz was on hand to fill us in on the latest, and the Pomona Officers demonstrated correct form in Subordinate Grange ritual. Deb also arranged for a delicious array of refreshments to follow so no one would go

home hungry.

In June our program will address a very important subject - identity theft. this is one we should not miss. More and more people are becoming victims to this ever-increasing threat.

So come on to Pomona, Do, please, give us a try.

Dan makes a super Master, Now that I'll certify!

**COLCHESTER GRANGE #78**

*Corr: Joan Toomey*  
**Apr. 13:** Chaplain's Night- Let's Be Thrifty. St. Andrew's Hall, 7:00 P.M., 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester.

During the first three months of this year our Grange started with a supper of homemade soups, crusty breads, desserts and coffee. There are two members who provide the homemade soup while others bring bread and homemade desserts. It's a nice family way of starting off our meeting and there is no charge. Everyone enjoys Polly Leonard's beef stew. As Jeff Watson says "it is awesome." You bet it is Jeff! Polly is one

fine cook- the best in our Grange. It helps to be French too. Everyone knows the French are the best cooks in the world. Try to come and visit us and make your own judgment. It is always nice to have visitors. We welcome you to come. It was so nice to have Ron Purinton, Dan Mutchler, Debra & Jeff Barnes, Lois Evankow and Ted Beebe who visits us often and is always willing to help out. She also provided us with music in the absence of our own Roz Etra. Thank you, Edith, Marion Culhane, Eve O'Connell, Diane Leith, and Charlotte Locke for all you do for our Grange.

**N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138**

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*

**Apr. 10:** "Here Come the Girls- 1953"

**Apr. 24:** "Singin' in the Rain - 1952"

We have lost two members to the Great Grange Above this month. Donald Jones was a 65 year member of our Grange. Bill Crandall, a fifteen-year member, served on our Fair Committee. He was instrumental in establishing the blacksmith shop at our Fair, and forged the beautiful cross that graces our Chaplain's station in the shop during one of the fairs.

On Feb. 13 David Pastemski filled us in on Gardening Made Easy. We learned about seeds, weeds, pests, fertilizers and insecticides. If we can't be better gardeners now, it's not David's fault. thanks to the Ag. Committee for a great program.

On Feb. 27 we learned more about Alzheimer's Disease, a sobering experience as we inch closer to "that age."

Calling all "girls" for

the first meeting in April. We have the program, and we need your help. If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, this would be a great time to come. (Guys, you have the refreshments that night!). We will honor our Community Citizen on April 24, and recognize long-time members. This is always a special program. Please come. And if those hardy little crocus bulbs can just push up through the snow from the Nor'easter that's due, maybe spring will be sprung by the time you read this.

**LYME GRANGE #147**

*Corr: Dick Chapman*

**Apr. 2:** As American As Apple Pie

**May 7:** Program by the Chaplain and the Three Graces

Happy Birthday to us on April 9- like the Energizer bunny, "still going strong" at 113! Hurray!

Twenty-three (so far) is the number of pajamas we've got for the "Cat-Nap" project and twenty-three volunteer hours were done at the recent Extreme Makeover Project in Voluntown by our own Ted Powell. He also logged well over one hundred volunteer hours in both December and January! He's also our Hamburg Fair President. Bless his heart!

Dick Chapman will present a "complete program" at the April meeting. Interesting to note that "As American As Apple Pie" is an expression we started using in the 1960's.

More Cat's Meow quotes: What greater gift than the love of a cat? Charles Dickens

People who love cats have some the biggest hearts around. Susan Easterly.

## 50 years in Pomona



Rose Jean Berg, recognized as a 50 year member of New London County Pomona No. 6. (l to r) Nancy Weissmuller, LAS; Rose Jean Berg; M. Eugene Bromley, AS; Daniel Mutchler, Master. Taken at North Stonington Grange Hall. Rose is a member of N. Stonington. Her daughter, Cheree-Anne Miner served as pianist for the meeting.

## Ag Day in Hartford



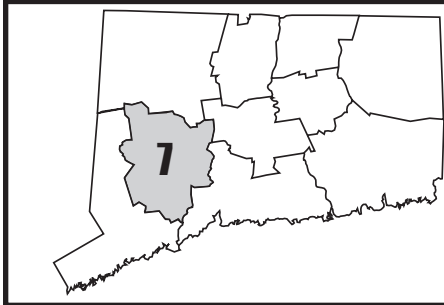
Robert Charbonneau, member of the State Agriculture Committee, poses in front of a tractor on display for Ag Day at the State Capitol on March 18.



### Deadline for the next issue is May 5



## Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 107
- ✓ Watertown No. 122
- Prospect No. 144
- Bridgewater No. 153
- Wolcott No. 173
- ✓ Oxford No. 194

### EXCELSIOR POMONA #7

*Corr: Mary Dubay*

Excelsior Pomona No. 7 does not meet in the month of April, so we would like to wish all of our Grange friends a Happy Easter.

### BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

Our April meeting is on the 17th and all the "Committees Shine." Each Committee is asked to put on part of the program. We will have the judging of the CWA Baking Contest. Judy and Tom Morse will serve refreshments following the meeting.

Plans are progressing for the celebration of our 120th Anniversary. Please save the date Friday May 29th. We will have final plans in the next issue of the Granger.

Our Grange was saddened by the death of our Ceres Sister Carolyn Maile. Carolyn came to us via Seymour Grange then Rock Rimmon Grange and has been an active member since join us. She is missed.

### BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

*Corr: Linda Coad*

**Apr. 4:** Annual Flea Market, 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.

**Apr. 27:** Inspection, Country Store, Ref. Ellen & John Samoska, 7:30 P.M.

**May 26:** TUESDAY MEETING, Memorial Program, Ref. Buzz & Linda Coad, 7:30 P.M.

### WATERTOWN GRANGE #122

*Corr: Mary Dubay*

**Apr. 3:** Cherry Blossom  
**Apr. 7:** Inspection

April showers bring May flowers!

The program for our first meeting in April is

called Cherry Blossom-Cherry Pie Feast. Sounds delicious.

Our second meeting is Inspection by the Deputy. A reminder for those who have to write a report, the Deputy will be looking for them. The theme for the program is Strawberry Shortcake, and will be in the charge of the Past Masters, Sharon, Fred, Bill, and Mary.

We had to cancel a few meetings between January and February. First was snow, then more snow, ice and bitter cold, then a number of our members were ill, but back to normal, planning a tag sale. Our annual Winter Tag Sale that we always have in February never came to pass, so we moved it to March. Can't give up our Tag Sales.

Our CWA Chairman Malinda is still collecting tooth brushes and small tooth pastes for the Foster Children's pajama bag. She is hoping all are doing their needlework which will be judged at the May meeting.

Watertown Grange wishes all our Grange friends a Happy Easter! Come and join us when you can, we love company.

### OXFORD GRANGE #194

*Corr: Phil Rowland*

**Apr. 3:** Agricultural Program

**Apr. 17:** Open House / Community Citizen Award Presentation. Refreshments- everyone

The above calendar differs from that in the Program Book, but with luck it will be accurate. We are anxious for a good turnout at the Open House. Visitors are always welcome, but are especially so at that event!

Spring cleaning is coming along, with many unneeded items removed from the Hall. Clutter is a problem here because organizations such as Boy Scouts, 4-H club and Park & Recreation's Karate Classes are using the Hall-free of charge as a Grange community service. Some

of these organizations are very helpful in making hall improvements and monetary donations however. Scouts have been transforming appearance of the downstairs area. Karate members and parents plan to replace our front steps this year, and they

recently conducted a can and bottle drive to raise funds.

The Game Program at a recent meeting was very enjoyable. Most members hadn't played dominoes in years, and that game turned out to be a surprising treat.

Happy Easter to all!

## National Grange applauds Congress

The National Grange along with 22 other like-minded organizations commended House and Senate conferees for their leadership on the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act." The groups urged the conferees to accept the language in the Senate Bill, as well as the Senate Report, which ensured that the comparative effectiveness research (CER) provisions establish a legislative framework that was strong and patient-centered. The changes adopted by the Senate were of vital importance to patients and providers, and promoted government-supported CER that is

focused on improving the quality of patient care and empowering provider and patient decision-making.

Specifically, the National Grange strongly supported the improvements in the Senate Bill and accompanying report language that focused CER on comparative clinical effectiveness, and protected against the use of CER to deny access to care based on cost. The Grange stated the importance for patients and health care providers to have clinically-based information to facilitate decision-making and improve care. The Senate changes ensured that

CER focus on medical outcomes and contained the flexibility to take into account variations among different patient populations.

The National Grange asked that any recovery legislation guarantee the transparency of medical research by including patients and providers in the process.

We urged clarifying provisions in the bill requiring openness and transparency, and suggested patients and providers have representation in setting priorities, conducting research, and communicating results.

## New National Grange meeting planner

During the planning and presentation of the 142nd Annual Session of the National Grange, the members of the Northeast Hosting Committee relied greatly on the support and expertise of the National Meeting Planner. Jessica Cope has recently joined the National Grange as the new Executive Assistant and Meeting Planner.

I'm thrilled to join the team at the National Grange office as the Executive Assistant and Meeting Planner. I've learned so much already and I'm most excited about planning the annual convention. I've been an event planner in higher education for the past 15 years and I hope my expertise will serve the members well.

I currently live in Maryland, but my travels brought me through 30 other states before settling here. I was born in Brooklyn,

New York and went to college in New Jersey. I earned a Bachelors degree in Communications from Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey) and a Masters degree in Counseling and Personnel Services from the same institution. After graduate school I moved to Farmville, Virginia where I worked at Longwood College with the student union and student activities program. My most recent position was as the Director of Special Events for the Chancellor and Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland.

When I'm not at work, I keep busy with all kinds of activities. At any given moment I have at least a half dozen ambitious projects simmering. I like to say I can handle everything from power tools to powder puffs! I'm active in my community,

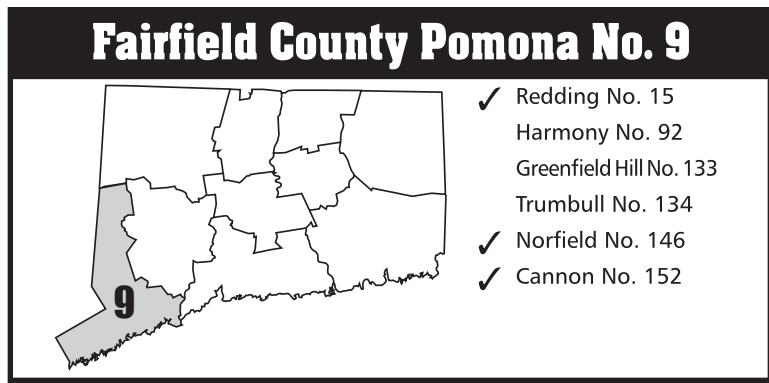


Jessica Cope

with tasks like planning the pig roast for the neighborhood pool, and serving as a chief election judge in my district. When I have a little down time, my true hobbies include bargain hunting, organizing social outings, and making the perfect cup of coffee.







**FAIRFIELD COUNTY POMONA #9**

*Corr: Karen Macdonald*

April brings our annual evaluation on the 1st, at Redding Grange at 7:30, with conferring of the fifth degree. Please hold the date to visit us for our Pomona Tag Sale, to be held on May 9 at Harmony Grange in Monroe. Recently, Geno and I were walking a trail, and who did we see but Brother Bruce Jersey coming along. The next time we saw him, he gave me a fascinating handout describing the history of Parlor Rock hiking trail in Trumbull. The former amusement park even had a toboggan slide! You never know what you may learn from another Granger! Our last Pomona meeting was well attended and we enjoyed Geno's talk on the Golden Age of Hollywood. Now, we are hearing more about crafts, baking and other contests coming up, make sure you enter some, they are fun and interesting! They ehlp to define the Grange as unique.

**REDDING GRANGE #15**

*Corr: Marge Sendewicz*

**Apr. 13:** Health Awareness

**Apr. 27:** Evaluation Night

**May 9:** Annual Spring Fair—10:00A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

I apologize to those who wanted to attend our 4H club meeting that we didn't have. Unfortunately we could not get them for that night. We will work on it for next year.

At our first April meeting the program will be on health awareness. That's an interesting topic that we all should be concerned with as we

grow older. Since that is most of us we will give you some information on the subject.

At the last meeting of the month we will welcome our Deputy and show him how well Redding Grange operates.

May 9, we will be holding our annual Spring Fair. We have a lot to offer. We have plants, baked goods, agricultural exhibits, needlework, books, a tag sale and refreshments. It is spring and what a better way to start it off then at a fair. So come out and enjoy yourself and meet the cheerful people of Redding Grange.

**NORFIELD GRANGE #146**

*Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox*

**Apr. 14:** Neighbor's Night, Dinner 6:30, Country Store

**May 12:** Memorial Night, Evaluation, Second Degree

Even with the raising of the rates for some rentals, our Grange hall has been a very busy place. New rentals have come in, and the hall has become a real center of community.

We have new members, too. Emerson and Connie Phillips joined our ranks at the February 10 meeting. Also at that meeting we voted to give \$30 to Heifer International for the purchase of a swarm of honey bees. The CWA Baking Contest was held as well, with a first prize going to Sue Sulla and second to Lyn Kimberly.

As you will notice by our May schedule, we are boning up on Degree work. We will run through the Second Degree in May. (The First Degree was presented in March). The Third Degree will follow in July, and the Fourth Degree on September 8.

Finally, we are embarking on a new endeavor this year: an indoor Winter Farmer's Market. It will be held on four consecutive Sundays in March. When you read this, the series will be over. Let's hope it was a successful endeavor! Tune in to the May Connecticut Granger for details.

**CANNON GRANGE #152**

*Corr: Don Offinger*

**May 2:** Dinner Party Celebrating our 110th Anniversary

**May 7:** Business Meeting

**May 21:** Business Meeting with Program "Jukebox Jamboree"

**June 4:** Business Meeting with Program "Travels to Italy"

**June 18:** Election of Officers for 2009-2010

We're finding that children and adults really enjoy watching "silent movies" as we welcomed 92 people to our annual movie night in February. The hall was filled with laughter and amazement during the films that featured Charlie Chaplin and buster Keaton. An added bonus for our Grange was to welcome John Mucci as our newest member; John being the piano player and source of our silent movies the past six years! Welcome, John.

The two renovated washrooms have been admired by our members and party renters. The work was coordinated and done by our General Contractors in residence, Doug Shepherd and Michelle McDonald, and Don Offinger. We have installed all new fixtures, handicap railings plus a baby changing station. Thank you to Doug, Michelle and Don.

Our May 2 event will be a celebration dinner for our 110th Anniversary. A special dinner committee is planning the menu and entertainment for the evening.

Already, our fair committee is hard at work

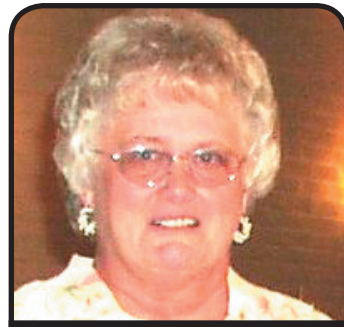
with laying plans for our 77th annual Cannon Grange Ag. Fair. The date will be Sunday, August 30th- we hope you will circle the date on your calendar.

We have recently had our phone line moved to another side of our hall, which allows us now to connect it to an answering

machine. Soon we will be adding in a high-speed internet connection which will provide WiFi service to our party renters and also for our own programs.

Our meeting and event schedule is noted in the calendar. Visiting Patrons are always welcome- *won't you join us?*

# State Lecturer



**Marge Bernhardt**  
State Lecturer  
[lecturer@ctstategrange.org](mailto:lecturer@ctstategrange.org)

Joining the Grange was something I looked forward to in High School. I attended a Grange Fair annually, and loved the focus on nature, activities, and their community of men and women. Years later, at the same fair, a Granger asked, "Why don't you join the Grange? So, I did!

You have just learned why Karen Macdonald joined the Grange. This should be a lesson to all of us. Ask someone to join. They may have been waiting for just such an invitation.

And, why are you waiting to enter this year's Essay Contest. The title for this year is "What The Grange Means to Me...". The limit is 100 words. (I was just looking in the bluebook and it says 50 words. This is wrong. It is 100 words. They will be accepted either way.) Why not take the time today and jot down a few words. This contest comes complete with prize money at State Session. The deadline for entries is October 1st.

Do you have any realistic looking Halloween costumes that we could borrow for Lecturer's Conference? Our program is entitled "Let's Celebrate Halloween". Anything that you can let us borrow would sure be appreciated. Better yet, why not come to conference and wear the costume yourself. Bridgewater, Massachusetts isn't that far away.

My sincere thanks to everyone who has sent me cards the last few weeks. Not being allowed out of the house was a lot better than the hospital and rehab center, but I found myself going crazy with nothing to do. Actually, nothing I was allowed to do would be more like it. The cards were a wonderful diversion and very much appreciated. I have been set free with a lot of restrictions but at least I can get out and I can drive. By the time you read this, I will hopefully be able to go to more Grange meetings again and look forward to seeing you all around the State.

## Who is this couple?



The answer is on page 12.



## Chaplain's Message



**Amy Whitcomb**  
State Chaplain

chaplain@ctstategrange.org

release any concern and open ourselves to peace, wisdom and joy. With our hearts attuned to God we are at peace.

We can enter this new season with confidence, knowing that God lights our way. God is our strength and our source of direction in all situations.

We pause for a moment and rest in the awareness that God truly is within us as a loving presence and guiding light. With our hearts attuned to God we are filled with gratitude, knowing that we are being guided to our good. We gently release any doubt or concern and allow confidence to fill our minds and hearts. God lights our way and illuminates the path before us. We know what is ours to do. With faith in God and in anticipation of answered prayer, let us return to the stillness of that prayer.

Looking forward to the Easter celebration we center our minds on the renewal of our faith. Soon we will experience the miracle of rebirth in the Spring flowers, all the new buds and the birth of all the new little birds. At this time we can center ourselves on the grace of God. Being one with the all encompassing presence of God, we are at peace. Peace fills our hearts as we relax, breathe deeply and rest in an awareness of the presence of God within. God is our strength and our assurance of unlimited good. We gently

*Thank You!*

I would like to thank everyone who sent cards, offered prayers and made many phone calls during my recent illness. Your thoughtfulness is sincerely appreciated.

Amy Whitcomb

## Youth News



**Donald Lanoue**  
Youth Director

youth@ctstategrange.org

Hi everyone I hope that you are enjoying the start of spring. I would like to thank everyone that either took part in bowl-a-thon or pledged a participant. This money will be put to a good use. It is not too late for the youth to think about entering some of the youth

contests like public speaking or sign-a-song just look up the rules in the blue book or give me a call.

Though at this time I still only have three people interested in the camping weekend in August if I do not have any more interest for this weekend I will be cancelling it. I hope that more people will think about it and give me a ring.

The final topic of this article is that on Grange Sunday the youth will do something for lunch on that day not to worry I will soon talk to the cook.

## Answer to Mystery Couple

The Mystery Couple pictured on page 11 is Past State Master Frank Warner and Sister Margaret Warner. The picture was taken on Sept. 12, 1948 at a Grange Weekend at Camp Hazen in Chester.

## In Memoriam

Gladys Heck, G.S.	Stafford Grange No. 1
Edgar Hunnicutt	Stafford Grange No. 1
William Colton, G.S.	Granby Grange No. 5
Florence Raccio	Cheshire Grange No. 23
Jean Hudson	Cawasa Grange No. 34
Donald McCall	North Haven Grange No. 35
Marie Slate	Hillstown Grange No. 87
Henry G. Moon, G.S.	Ekonk Comm. Grange No. 89
Carolyn Maile, G.S.	Beacon Valley Grange No. 103
Bertha A. Legendre, G.S.	Beacon Grange No. 118
William D. Crandall, Jr.	N. Stonington Grange No. 138
Donald Jones, G.S.	N. Stonington Grange No. 138

G.S. denotes Golden Sheaf (50 Year) Members

Please keep us notified of deceased members.  
Use the email or the regular mailing address listed on page 2 of this issue. Thank you.

## Junior Grange Corner



**Joan Perry**  
Junior Director

juniors@ctstategrange.org

Congratulations to both Hillstown Jr. and Ekonk Jr. for participating in the National Grange Jr. contests. In Creative Art, a Junior Outstanding Achievement Award was received. A 1st by Alissa Lacasse of Hillstown Jr. Participation Recognition was also received by Shannon Mathews, Mary Burlette, Angelina DeDominics and Noella Burlette of Hillstown Jr. and Clifford Gervais and Trevor Gervais of Ekonk Jr. In Creative Writing, Junior Outstanding Achievement Awards were received. A 1st by Mary Burlette of

Hillstown Jr., a 2nd by Trevor Gervais of Ekonk Jr., and a 3rd by Clifford Gervais of Ekonk Jr. Congratulations again. The National Contests will be judged on July 25th by Ct. Jr. Committee at Celebration Day then sent on to National. You may still enter National on your own if you want. Check the Blue Book for themes and rules. Have a good Spring.

### HILLSTOWN JR. GRANGE #87

Corr: Rita Schaeffer

Our Junior Grange has started to meet now that the weather is better. They have been working on painting bird houses. That will keep them busy for a while.

They are also planning a trip to sugar making event in the area.

When the sickness leaves and the Juniors are on the mend, they will really be active!

### NORTH STONINGTON JUNIOR GRANGE #105

Corr: Vilma Gregoropoulos

North Stonington Jr. Grange welcomed New Members Anne and John Drago on March 13th. Ceres Jessica Dame and her mom got us started on a scarf making project for orphans in Lusaka Zambia (find out more at chikumbuso.com) which we hope to present in April to two women from their community. On May 3rd we co-host a Bike-a-thon to raise money for the same village - entry fee is 10\$ and the event will start at North Stonington Grange. Overseer Noah Brown and Honorary Member Nizhoni Brown represented North Stonington Subordinate Grange in the March New London County Pomona Talent Contest. They played three songs on the fife and drum.

## Membership

Ted Beebe, Membership Committee

We hope to hear that some of our Subordinate Granges will have new members and some of our Pomonas will have at least one candidate for inspection by the Deputy.

Our contests are listed in the Blue (Program) Book. The Secretary of your Grange has a copy to look at and see what contests we have. A certificate will be awarded to those who have improved their Granges or have

done something to help their Granges out. Forms will be sent when the State Secretary sends and returns your March reports.

I know of some Granges that are making a list of people to invite to a special meeting of that Grange. I know of some that have a group of candidates to have the degree conferred on.

Just call a member of the State Membership Committee and we will help you in any way that we can.