



Vol. 51, No. 5

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

FEBRUARY 2011

## Walk a mile in their shoes!



**Jody A. Cameron**  
State Master/President  
president@ctstategrange.org

**"Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way when you criticize them, you are a mile away from them and you have their shoes." Jack Handey**

This is one of my favorite "Deep Thoughts" by Jack Handey from *Saturday Night Live*, it is

humorous and true. No one likes criticism, at least no one I know. My favorite line is "let me offer some constructive criticism." No thank you, I am all set. Criticism is criticism; it is neither constructive nor helpful. You want to help me take a look at what we did and improve it, I am in, you want to criticize, go a mile away from me, and here are my shoes.

There is an interesting tool we use at work, it is called HOOPLA. How Hoopla works is after an important meeting or event, those who were involved participate in a three question exercise.

- What Went Well?
- What did not go well?
- What to do differently?

Each question is intended to enable you to openly evaluate what happened at the meeting or event and should allow you to improve the next time. Always start with what went well, it is important to always start any discussion on a positive note.

Before your next meeting or event review the "What to do differently" items and incorporate them into the current meeting or event.

I encourage all Grange Leaders to use this tool to help improve our organization and make us stronger.

And remember, if you chose to be the criticizer, go ahead, by doing it from a mile away, we can't hear you.



Left to right; Jody Cameron, his son J. Allen Cameron both from Moosup and Katherine Hermonot 18, of Sterling at the Ekonk Community Grange Hall No. 89 at the Sterling/Moosup town line on Rt. 49.

## A vision for the future

By James Mosher, "The Norwich Bulletin", 1/8/11

The Connecticut State Grange is having an identity crisis and its new president says this can be turned into an advantage.

Jody A. Cameron, a member of the Ekonk Community Grange No. 89, of Sterling and Moosup, took over as state president on Oct. 23. He wants to use his two-year term to bring Granges back to communities that used to have them, including Ledyard, Groton, Mystic, Scotland, South Killingly and Thompson.

His strategy is simple - plant the Grange firmly in the simple life, and let its branches grow to where they're most needed.

The Grange, also known as the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, is the nation's oldest agricultural organization.

"We want to promote community in rural life in general," said Cameron, who has been a Grange member for 30 years. "We want to be a family fraternity."

Part of the growth will be advocating for agricultural issues alongside groups such as the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association. Cameron, 44, sees the Grange taking a more active role in publicizing country fairs and farmers markets.

"I'm anxious to begin working with other groups," he said.

### Farms preserved

Grange sentiment can be strengthened in New London and Windham counties through alliances on farmland preservation. The two Eastern Connecticut counties ranked No. 1 and No. 2 in farm acreage preserved during the administration of Gov. M. Jodi Rell. U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, D-2nd District, noted this in a Dec. 2 entry in the Congressional Record.

... Continued on page 6

## Outdoor furnaces a "hot" issue



**Alma Graham**  
Legislative Director  
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

The new Governor and all of the Legislators took their oath of office in early January. The Legislators have submitted their bills and the different committees are busy working on the proposed bills and holding public hearings. The beginning of February the Governor will present his budget to the General Assembly. Connecticut, like most other states, is experiencing a budget crisis. We will be watching

to see what Governor Malloy proposes for any new taxes or budget cuts.

One of the proposals that has already been presented is the banning of the outdoor wood burning furnaces. At the last Connecticut State Grange convention the delegates voted to oppose the banning of these furnaces. It was felt that existing regulations were adequate. The proposed bill last year would have banned their use from April 15th until October 15th. The bill died in the General Assembly's Environment Committee and never reached the floor. The present chairman of the Environment Committee, Senator Edward Meyer, D-Guilford, is submitting a bill to ban all outdoor

furnaces except for use on farms and in farmhouses. He states as his reason that the furnaces do not have good air quality. This ban would not apply to outdoor fire pits, wood-fired barbecues or 'chimineas'.

Presently there are at least 14 towns in Connecticut which have already banned these furnaces within their towns. It has been noted that wood smoke contains some elements that cause cancer. Some smoke soot particles are small enough to enter a person's lungs and can lead to serious

... Continued on page 2

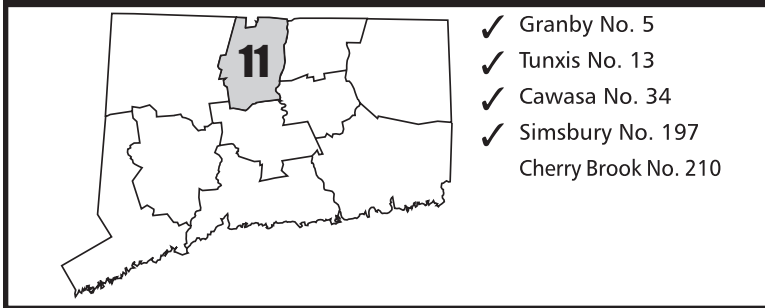
### IN THIS ISSUE...

Connecticut's Pomona Granges	Mountain County No. 4 . . . . . 7	Fairfield County No. 9 . . . . . 11
Central No. 1 . . . . . 4	New Haven County No. 5 . . . 8	Farmington Valley No. 11 . . . . 2
Quinebaug No. 2 . . . . . 5	New London County No. 6 . . 9	North Central No. 13 . . . . . 3
East Central No. 3 . . . . . 6	Excelsior No. 7 . . . . . 10	

Deadline for the MARCH 2011 issue of the Connecticut Granger: FEBRUARY 5



## Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11



### FARMINGTON VALLEY POMONA #11

*Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner*  
**Feb. 21:** Love and Cupid

Our December meeting had to be postponed until January so at this writing we are hoping it will go well. State Master Jody Cameron and General Deputy Todd Gelineau will be with us to present a School of Instruction along with Pomona Deputy West Don Lanoue.

The new year is underway and we will hope to make plans that will be helpful to our Pomona members.

### GRANBY GRANGE #5

*Corr: Vivian C. Shaw*  
**Feb. 11:** CWA Program  
**Feb. 24:** Bloodmobile, S. Congregational Church. Sponsored by Granby Grange

On Dec. 10 we held a potluck supper with a \$5 grab bag gift. We also collected items for the food bank.

It snowed at East Hartland, so the Shaws had to skip the Granby Grange Christmas Party, so Virginia was asked to present the program about traditions for Christmas-customs and legends around the world.

On Dec. 27, we held a Bloodmobile sponsored by Granby Grange. Even though the weather was bad, we still had 38 donors attend.

### TUNXIS GRANGE #13

*Corr: Pam Covington*

Tunxis Grange is always happy to welcome visitors- If you would like to visit with us, please check and we will let you know when we will be meeting as our dates are uncertain during the winter months.

### CAWASA GRANGE #34

*Corr: Maggie Schofield*

We are still busy with

the food bank. Each month we get together at the community center kitchen and make something for the food bank clients.

January was Bow-Tie Soup in a jar. It is lots of fun and next month will have pictures to show.

February will be Heart cookies with red sprinkles. We have an assembly line and do our work with a lot of laughs and talk.

We had our School of Instruction with Deputy Lin Erickson, which was very interesting.

We would love to enter the flag presentation if we can find enough Grangers to do so.

Sister Lin and I are attending the Grange 2011 and Beyond on Feb. 12th, looking forward to that!

Quote of the month: Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while Bad people will find a way around the laws." Plato (427-347 B.C.)

Funny Saying: When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye!

### SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

*Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner*  
**Feb. 9:** "Amour and Presidents"

Winter meetings are going on at the Simsbury Library.

We are sorry to say that Jane Wendell fell and broke her arm. All the best is wished for a speedy recovery for her.

Are you taking advantage of the long evenings at home to work on contests and projects for the various Grange departments?

It is a great time to get things accomplished and you will be surprised at what can be done by spring! Don't forget to make an extra item for the Eastern States New England Grange Building Country Store!!

# Outdoor furnaces a "Hot Issue"

*Continued from page one...*

respiratory problems.

Outdoor wood furnaces are not regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) but the EPA is working with manufacturers on a voluntary program to produce cleaner wood burning furnaces. Connecticut regulations state that these furnaces:

1. Must be installed at least 200 feet from the nearest neighboring home,
2. Have a chimney shorter than 55 feet but at least as tall as neighboring roof peaks within 500 feet of the furnace,
3. Must burn only wood that had not been chemically treated, and
4. Are installed and operated according to manufacturers guidelines.

Another regulation for the wood burning furnaces is through smoke opacity (density). Connecticut's opacity limit is an average of 20% during six consecutive minutes or 40% average for one minute.

Another project that the Legislature is in the midst of, is the redistricting of all the Legislative districts. Every ten years, after the Census has been completed, its data is reviewed and political boundaries are redrawn. The last time this happened Connecticut had

lost enough population that we lost one federal congressional seat. This should not happen this time. However, local legislative districts will be reviewed and adjusted according to population changes. The Senate president pro-tem, the speaker of the House and the majority party of both assembly chambers each appoint two members to the Reapportionment Committee. This committee will draw up redistricting plans for both the state House and Senate as well as Congressional seats. Their plan is presented to the General Assembly and it must be approved by two thirds of the members of both chambers before Sept. 15th. If this is not completed by then, the Governor will appoint an eight person committee which will then appoint a 9th member. They will draw the boundaries and present them to the Secretary of the State by Nov. 30.

As you can imagine there is a lot of political wrangling going on within this committee to keep the districts that they hold as Democratic or Republican territories.

## Family Membership



**Edith Schoell**  
State Secretary

[secretary@ctstategrange.org](mailto:secretary@ctstategrange.org)

It seems that 2011 is starting with unpredictable weather. If you plan to visit a Grange you might make a call to make certain they are having a meeting.

The question has been raised as to FAMILY MEMBERSHIP. According to the Digest, Section 4.6.5. (B) A family shall consist of a husband and wife and their dependents, or a single person and their dependents. Dependents are defined as children, grandchildren or great grandchildren under the age of 23, who live as a member of the same household or in absence due to illness, education or military service. Foster adopted or step children and other legal dependents shall be considered part of their legal guardian's family.

Dues are set forth in 8.6.1 (B) Subordinate Grange annual dues... of which twenty-four dollars (\$24.00) annually for a family, of which six dollars (\$6.00) shall be paid quarterly.

You may want to check on your incorporation. If you have had a change in your Secretary, the papers may not have been forwarded, and will result in your Grange being dormant in the Secretary of State's office. Please check your records. Also, the fee has been increased to \$50.00.

**PLEASE! Do not send correspondence or any other mail to the Newfield Rd. address listed below. This is the address for Winchester Grange #74 and is only listed to satisfy USPS requirements. Please mail to the Editor's address listed below, right. Thank You!**

(USPS 563-220)

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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

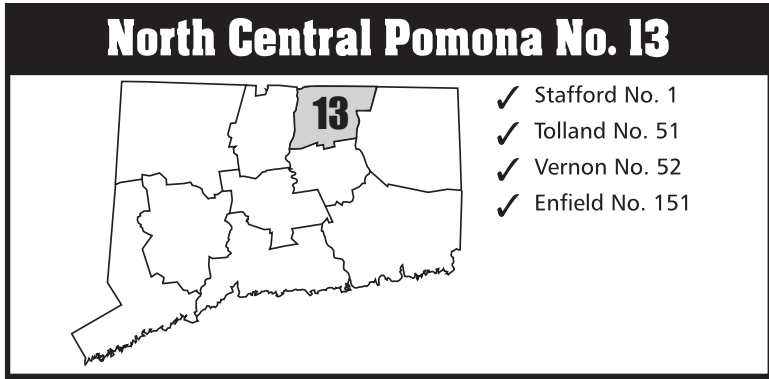
or

Todd Gelineau, Editor  
170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790

### Connecticut Granger Staff

President/Editor . . . . . Todd Gelineau  
Vice President . . . . . Brian Carpenter  
Secretary Treasurer. . . . . Edith Schoell





**STAFFORD GRANGE #1**

*Corr: Gail Fisher*

Stafford Grangers have had a very busy couple of weeks, where we bonded and shared holiday traditions.

It all started with our commitment to be part of a Winterfest Parade put on by a Stafford town commission. We all met on Dec. 4 to work on a float.

Bales of hay, garland, tree and lights all come together for a great float. At the parade all members took part. Our banner was proudly carried by Andrew and Marliese Furness. Arlene Avery and daughter marched carrying a sickle and wheat. Rich Longmore led his 2 goats down with the truck and cart driven by Ronald Roy. Milo &

Shirley Bradway along with Juanita Scism, Myron & Masako Avery rode the cart and bales of hay and had to give a wave to everyone.

Our regular meeting was held on Dec. 21, 2010. It included a visit from Irene Percoski, Subordinate Deputy. She spoke about changes to take place in 2011. We then were entertained by guitar, drum music with singers- all were joining in for a very enjoyable night with food and goodies. Our wishes are extended for a wonderful, healthy new year.

**TOLLAND GRANGE #51**

*Corr: J. Jordan*

**Feb. 1: Maine**

Join us for our February meeting and learn about the State of Maine. Call Worthy Master Robert West if you plan on attending and to find out where our meeting will be held. Happy Valentine's Day to all Grangers from Tolland Grange.

**VERNON GRANGE #52**

*Corr: Nancy Strong*

**Feb. 4: A Surprise Meeting**

What will be happening at Vernon Grange's meeting on Feb. 4? It's a surprise-come and see! Be sure to call ahead! It might be a "surprise" snow storm!!!

**ENFIELD GRANGE #151**

*Corr: Irene Percoski*

**Feb. 12: National Heart Month**

**March 12:** Lions and Lambs – Our 112 year anniversary. Luncheon at Appleby's in Manchester. 12:00 Noon

At our December meeting we got away from the cold and traveled the old Texas trails, and in January our program was the school of instruction. We sent a Happy Birthday card to our past Master Joseph P. Smith Sr. who turned 101 on January 15th.

In the case of inclement weather, please call to confirm if there will be a meeting.



**Social Media & the Grange**

It's important to stay closely connected to our Grange members, friends and supporters, and one way to achieve these communications is through the Social Media arena. Social Media is where people use tools (like blogs and video) and websites (like Facebook and Twitter) to share content and have conversations online. Today's communities are connected and social like never before. Twitter. Facebook. YouTube. LinkedIn. The list goes on and keeps growing.

Why take the time to use social media for your Grange? Because in today's media landscape, it's vitally important to be where our communities are. The Grange has always embraced a community philosophy, and that now includes being active in social media. The exciting thing about social media is it offers the opportunity to engage in two-way conversations. What better way to know how to best serve your community than to hear directly from them? Social media has enabled new ways to initiate conversations, respond to feedback and maintain an active dialogue.

Let's take a look at a few of the most popular and important Social Media networking avenues, and how the Connecticut State Grange is connecting with its communities.

**FACEBOOK:** Millions of people use Facebook everyday to keep up with friends, upload photos, share links and videos, and learn more about the people they meet. Now you can learn more about the Grange

through Facebook, too. The Connecticut State Grange has a public Facebook Page. National Grange has a Facebook Group Page. Three Granges in Connecticut currently are on Facebook as well. Here's all the links:

Connecticut State Grange: <http://www.facebook.com/CTStateGrange>

CSG Agriculture Comm: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Connecticut-State-Grange-Agriculture-Committee/197324180282176?v=wall>

National Grange: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=77435139349>

Cannon Grange: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=119657831390175&v=wall>

Prospect Grange: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000898986250&ref=ts>

Winchester Grange: <http://www.facebook.com/WinchesterGrange>

If you have a personal Facebook account, post this as your status - "I'm a proud supporter of the Grange in Connecticut. Find them on Facebook or visit their website: [www.CTStateGrange.org](http://www.CTStateGrange.org)"

**TWITTER:** Twitter allows its users to send and read other users' updates (otherwise known as tweets), which are text-based posts of up to 140 characters in length. Twitter is a portal to starting two-way conversations. Users post 'tweets' to their accounts, and other users subscribe to their updates (known as 'following').

Once an account has followers, then it can spread messages effectively - when a follower sees a tweet of interest, they share it with their own followers by 're-tweeting' the post. Search for people or

organizations interested in and associated with Grange and follow them. Oftentimes they will follow back. Once accounts are following each other, conversations become possible. Nearly all of the media outlets (newspapers, radio stations, television stations, and all of their reporters) have Twitter accounts. Twitter is a great resource to spread the Grange word to the media as well as the public. Check out the following links:

Connecticut State Grange: <http://twitter.com/CTStateGrange>

Connecticut State Grange President Jody Cameron: <http://twitter.com/CSGPresident>

Connecticut State Grange Legislative Committee: <http://twitter.com/CSGLegislative>

Connecticut State Grange Agriculture Committee: <http://twitter.com/CSGAgriculture>

National Grange: <http://twitter.com/NationalGrange>

Cannon Grange: <http://twitter.com/CannonGrange>

Winchester Grange: <http://twitter.com/WinchesterPofH>

If you have a personal Twitter account, send this tweet to your followers - "I support the Grange in Connecticut via @CTStateGrange - Visit their website to learn more: [www.CTStateGrange.org](http://www.CTStateGrange.org)"

**YOUTUBE:** YouTube is a website where users can upload, share and view videos. One of the key features of YouTube is that users can view videos outside the site. Each YouTube video is accompanied by a piece of code which can be used to embed it on a page outside the YouTube website, such as on Facebook. The Connecticut

State Grange and the National Grange both have YouTube pages. Here's the links.

Connecticut State Grange: <http://www.youtube.com/user/CTStateGrange>

National Grange: <http://www.youtube.com/user/nationalgrange>

**MYSPACE:** MySpace is a free online community composed of personal profiles aimed mostly at a younger membership. A MySpace profile typically includes a photo and in-depth information about personal interests, including television, movies and music. Members routinely send each other messages and "network" or socialize within the MySpace community. The Connecticut State Grange has a public MySpace page: Connecticut State Grange: <http://www.myspace.com/ctstategrange>

**LINKEDIN:** LinkedIn is a business-oriented social networking site that launched in May 2003. With over 80 million members and growing rapidly, LinkedIn connects people with trusted contacts and helps in the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and opportunities with a broader network of professionals. Both the Connecticut State Grange and National Grange have company pages on LinkedIn.

Connecticut State Grange: <http://www.linkedin.com/company/connecticut-state-grange>

National Grange: <http://www.linkedin.com/company/national-grange>

**BLOG:** What is a blog? A blog (short for 'web log') is a website consisting of entries (also called posts) appearing in reverse chronological order with the most recent entry appearing first (similar in format to a daily journal). Blogs typically include features such as comments, subscriptions and links to increase user interactivity. Variations of

the term blog: Blogging: The act of writing a post for a blog. Blogger: A person who writes content for a blog. Blogosphere: The online community of blogs and bloggers. Connecticut State Grange President Jody Cameron has his own blog, as does the National Grange. Connecticut State Grange President's Blog: <http://www.linkedin.com/company/connecticut-state-grange> National Grange President's Blog: <http://grangepresident.blogspot.com/> National Grange Blog: <http://nationalgrange.blogspot.com/>

Each Grange has received a copy of the "Social Media Reference Guide for Granges" in their Public Relations packets. This guide goes into detail on how to set-up Social Media for your Grange. If you would like an additional copy of this booklet, please contact Public Relations Co-Director Robert Charbonneau and he will make sure you receive it. Also, the booklet is available for download from the CT State Grange website on the Downloads page.

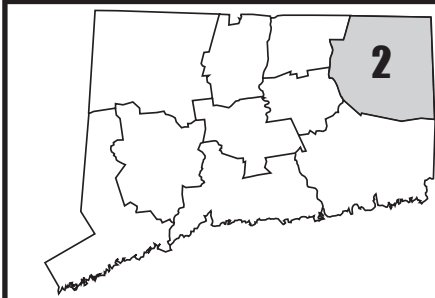
Social media has provided Granges with an opportunity to form new kinds of connections. People search the internet for relationships, shop online, and look for communities to join. The 1-to-1 connection will never go away. But, with the emergence of Facebook Friends, LinkedIn Connections, Twitter Followers, etc. Granges have an opportunity to invest in relationships and connections on a large scale. It is these connections that can lead to energizing existing members, and attracting prospective members. What is your Grange doing to make it "as easy as possible" for your supporters to engage in and help you spread the word through social media?

1





## 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

### SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

**Feb. 16:** Getting Ready for Spring

We had a nice Christmas party with dinner and gifts. The annual meeting of the Woodstock Theft Detecting Society was held at our hall as well as the Woodstock Agricultural Society Annual Meeting.

We had a very successful Christmas Pie Sale it was a sell out. We thank all who helped to put those wonderful pies together.

Our members took Christmas Pies to our Golden Sheaf members. We have done this every year for many years now and enjoy visiting with those long time members.

Visit us.

### EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

**Feb. 6:** Superbowl Sunday Grinder Sale

**Feb. 7:** "Cut Loose!" mtg/ prog 7:30pm

**Mar. 7:** "Have a ball!" mtg/ prog 7:30pm

**Mar. 12:** Corn Beef Supper 5-7 pm. Square Dance after supper!

We draped our Charter for 74 year Granger Frederick Miller. At the same meeting, on a happier note, we welcomed into membership David and Sue Griffiths! We had a good crowd and Robin Cousens made us laugh as we all enjoyed her program, "Jubilee!"

Katie Molodich is looking for participants for the first annual EKONK YOUTH DRILL TEAM! Katie has a lot of enthusiasm and it is exciting to watch our young people take leadership roles. Many of our youth and young at heart are enjoying volleyball at the Community Center on Sunday evenings.

On a sad note, we extend sympathy to Rick & Elena Hermonot & family on the death of Rick's mother, Diane.

We also share the loss of Sandra Howard with our own Mike Dzurnak. Mike chose our Grange for the site of the meal served after her services.

We donated to the new center being built in Jewett City for homeless Veterans: what a wonderful project!

We voted to contact our legislators and Chairman of the Environment Committee with our view supporting outdoor woodburning furnaces that are properly used. We also sent each a copy of the resolution passed at State Grange on this issue.

We will collect non-perishable food items at our Chowder n' clam cakes suppers April 8th-15th & 22nd. Easter baskets will be distributed to needy families with the items collected.

Thanks to the Exley Family for their donation of a large portrait of Oliver Hudson Kelley, key Founder of the National Grange. This will be restored and hung in our hall.

### ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

**Apr. 12:** Community Service

**Apr. 26:** Evaluation Inspection; Pot luck supper 6:30

We have lost another member. Elsie Wrana 91 years old has been a member of Echo for many many years.

She was always generous in giving to our Grange Fair Suppers.

We have been meeting downstairs for the past winter because of the cold weather and saving on our heat.

We will start working on our projects for the coming year.

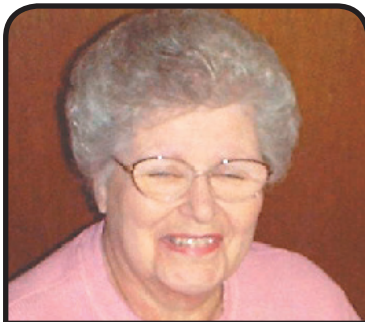
Bruce Graham is our new member. He joined in Dec. He is the husband of Alma Graham. Glad to have him join us.



## 75 Years of Service to Litchfield Grange

John Magyar (left) receives a certificate in recognition of 75 years of continuous Grange membership from Litchfield Grange Master Richard Healy.

## Almost time to "Connect"



**Joanne Cipriano**  
Social Connection Director  
social@ctstategrange.org

The time is getting closer to our first "connection" our Mystery Dinner being held at Cheshire Grange on Saturday April 30th. Tickets are available in each Pomona or you can call me. There will be no tickets sold on the night of the dinner. We need a few volunteers – so if you can help it would be appreciated.

Party tip of the month: In March we think of St. Patrick's Day celebrations. For a cute favor cut out a small green shamrock and glue a nut cup in the center. Fill with nut, candy or mints. If you want to use it for a centerpiece, cut out a large shamrock and glue a nut cup in the center of

each leaf and fill with goodies.

Happy St. Patrick's Day from this committee – Barbara, Betty Jane and this Irish Lass. "May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back, May the sun shine warm upon your face. The rains fall soft upon your fields and, Until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand."



Saturday, April 30, 2011



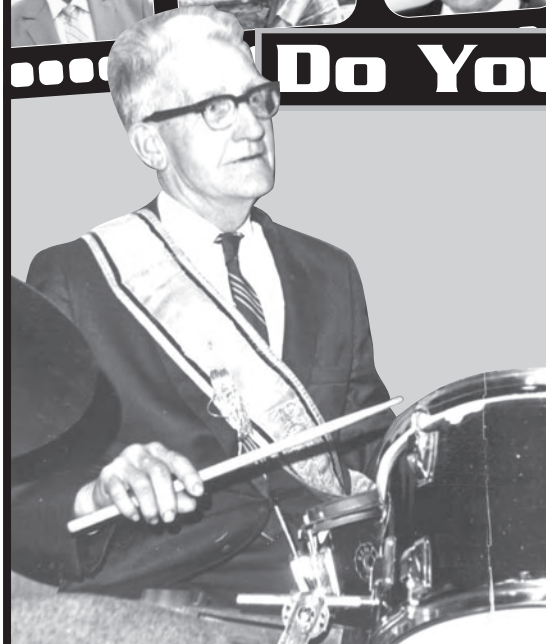
## Do You Remember?

by Marion Beecher

### ALFRED BECKWITH

Nobody called him Alfred – he was Al to everyone. State Master in 1962 and unlike many State Masters with long memberships, Al received his Silver Star for 25 years while State Master! Master of Obwebetuck, he did a great deal of work in those 25 years. Friendly, affable, quiet in most instances, Al played an instrument in his "band." What did he play? Drums!!! It always made me smile – this quiet man and his drums. The Beckwith Band did a lot of entertaining in their area.

Al worked hard in the building of Camp Berger and the Caretaker's Cottage bears a plaque- built and donated by the Gret-Als- those who worked with Al and Gretchen Beckwith. Do remember them.





3





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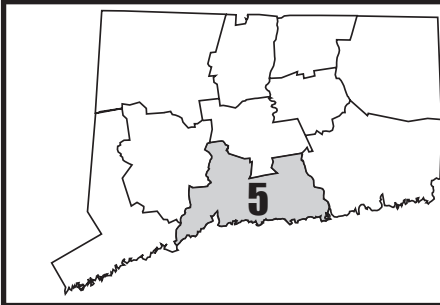
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## New Haven County Pomona No. 5



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

### NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35

Corr: A. Tolette

**Jan. 4:** It's a New Year - Youth

**Feb. 1:** Can Spring Be Far Away?

Here we are beginning another new year. Let us hope it will be a good one.

We had our 125th Grange anniversary in December. It was a cold night but we did have several visiting

Grangers and non-members in attendance.

Our first selectman came and presented a proclamation and designated December as North Haven Grange month. Klara Ohmes received her 60 year seal that night. It was presented by Carlton Platt. She was surprised by the attendance of her nieces

and nephews.

We had to carry out the program without our star Lecturer, Emily Alexander. She was in the hospital for surgery. That has been taken care of and she is doing well.

Wishing all a healthy, happy new year.

### CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

**Feb. 2:** Box Supper 6PM - Open Meeting

**Feb. 16:** Regular Meeting - Flag Program

On December 9th we completed our Words for Thirds project with our last presentation at the Norton School. We were very well received at the four schools

we visited and received many many thank you notes from the students. We are looking forward to continuing the project next year. Needless to say, it is a very rewarding one.

We hosted the New Haven County Pomona Christmas party on December 5th and our own on December 15th. Both events were well attended.

You all are invited to join us at Cheshire Grange on the first and third Wednesdays of each month

### OLD LYME GRANGE #194

Corr: Barbara Kulisch

**Feb. 11:** Complete Program- "When He Was President"

**Feb. 25:** Snow Date for February 11

**Mar. 11:** Music Is In the Air

Money from our Penny March Jar and a generous donation from a member allowed us to send another \$90 to the Diaper Appeal of Middlesex United Way!

We also gave to the Waterford Country School at Christmastime with more of their "Wish List" items.

We welcomed our Deputy Carl Bernhardt to our meeting on the 14th of January for our School of Instruction. Hope all went well.

## The Seventh Degree

Edith Schoell, State Historian

The last installment of Rev. Grosh's article-

"The Emblem of this Supreme Degree is an evenly balanced pair of Scales, suspended over a drawn or naked Sword, lying across a Key. The even Scales teach that all charges, specifications, proofs and evidences that may be adduced against any impeached brother, before the Solemn High Court of this degree, must be carefully candidly, and impartially weighed, in the heart as well as in the mind, before decision. The Sword teaches that justice- even righteous justice and equity- must be speedily executed, without fear or favor, sale, denial or delay. It also denotes that the secrets of the Order, as represented in the National Grange, is to be defended against all that would lessen its dignity, invade its rightful prerogatives, or impair its usefulness. It especially reminds the members, that the secret work of the Order, committed to their custody and care, is to be jealously protected against all unlawful or improper changes or innovations. The great Key or Knowledge (also guarded by the Sword) shows that the Highest Truth of the Order is safely kept from all undue or improper revelation, and is only to be gained by those who have won the approval of Ceres, been admitted to her inner Court, and been received and welcomed as her Priests and Priestesses. To such, only, with the Key open the great Arena, and the treasures therein unfolded and explained by her High Priest, in due season and in ample form."

## Changes to your "flight" plans



Pat Palmer  
Family Activities/CWA Director  
CWA@ctstategrange.org

I am sure that many of you have started working on your projects for judging in June, but there are some

updates to the rules that were determined at the Leader's Conference in New York this weekend that may change the direction of your endeavors. Wall Hangings will now have to be a minimum of 18"x18" and no larger than 24"x24". Also, afghans must be a minimum of twin size. This will make it easier for the judging so that there is some equity in the amount of work that is done on

the projects. There was also a call for dishcloths, scrubbies, dish towels, clothespin bags, mittens and baby outfits for the Big E sales room as they seem not to be able to keep these in stock during the course of the event. Any other projects will also be gladly accepted. Winner reporting forms for Subordinate and Pomona chairpersons will be available soon.

## Grange Month around the corner

April has once again been declared Grange Month by the National Grange, who recently announced the 2011 theme: Connecting Communities Through Service.

While April may seem like it's a world away- it really is right around the corner. What better time than now to start planning for Grange Month activities in your Community Grange.

The Connecticut State Grange has a number of events already in the works, including a fun and exciting Grange Rally on April 3rd titled "Membership is Serious Business... Seriously" and a Mystery Night on April 30th at Cheshire Grange, as well as the "Bowl Across America"

fundraiser, and a clean-up day at Camp Berger on April 23.

Community Granges are encouraged to celebrate Grange Month with open houses, lectures and programs, citizens' awards, service projects, community displays, traditional potluck suppers and more. National Grange will soon be distributing packets promoting Grange Month. The Public Relations Committee will also be distributing information this February to each Community Grange to help in their Grange month promotions. The PR Committee is here to help each Grange promote their events - all you need to do is ask!



## State Master's Blog

by Jody Cameron

For more of his blog entries visit:  
[ctstategrange.blogspot.com](http://ctstategrange.blogspot.com)

As I sit here contemplating what to write, I am on Facebook catching up on the goings on of various Grange members, Granges and friends. Today I saw pictures of my Great Niece who is due in April or May, wished someone a happy birthday, and read about a dear friend and fellow Ekonk Community Grange member going to be with the Lord after a very long illness.

The power of the social media and the internet still amazes me, I am not that old but I still remember when a computer consumed and entire room and even an entire floor of an office building, when you had to rotary dial a phone, when you had 4 channels on your television and there was always something to watch. Time and progress has brought us along way. I never imagined

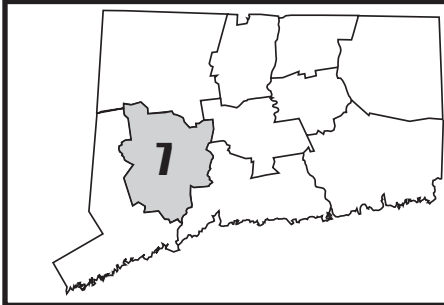
there would ever be a level of membership in the Grange called E-Membership, but there is, and it is good for our organization. Everyone who has access to the internet can now join the Grange, enjoy the various benefits offered by the National Grange and the State Grange that serves the area in which they live, and all of the for \$12.00 per year. This is a perfect opportunity for all citizens with an active interest in preserving rural life to be part of the Grange, an organization that was founded on that very principal.

I encourage everyone to go to [www.nationalgrange.org](http://www.nationalgrange.org) and become an E-Member of the Grange and start enjoying the benefits offered and aid in promoting the preserving rural life.





## 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 February. The next meeting will be on March 16, 2011 at Wolcott Grange at 7:30 P.M. This will be the Talent and A Number run-offs. This gives everyone time to work on a number for the program. Lecturer Jean would like each Grange to participate. Visiting Pomona members are always welcome.

### BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

Our program for February 11 will be "Hearts" with our two sweethearts, Pat and Ron Fischer providing the refreshments.

All our holiday parties went well with the exception of a plumbing problem at the Past Masters party. This has, hopefully, been repaired. Thanks to all our members who did a fine job of hosting.

The \$40,000 needed for our community service project to restore the World War I monument in Naugatuck is just \$2,000 from that goal. Work should begin in late spring or early summer. Our Steward Ron Fischer deserves much of the credit for the many hours he put in heading this committee.

### BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

*Corr: Linda Coad*

**Feb. 27:** Sunday Meeting, 2 P.M., Ref. Cindy & Ernie Finch

**Mar. 28:** Spring is Near, 7:30 P.M., Ref. Faith Korpalski

One more chance to attend a Sunday afternoon meeting, then we return to our regular 4th Monday at 7:30 P.M.

The January CT Granger came today as I was writing this. There are so many ideas going around now on increasing Grange membership, that some are bound to work. We, at Bethlehem #121, as all Granges, would like to

see some of our members come to meetings more often. How often have you said I'd love to go but \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in blank).

We realize that we have many members that no longer are able to attend a meeting but might be interested in some of the projects we are working on.

At our February, Grassroots meeting, we will be working on ways to increase membership and attendance. If you have an idea, or have a community project that we could consider, please email or contact me.

Also keep in mind our Annual Indoor Flea Market will be held April 2nd.

### WATERTOWN GRANGE #122

*Corr: Mary Dubay*

**Feb. 4:** Cupids Day

**Feb. 18:** Legislative

The month of February brings us Groundhog Day. Will he see his shadow or not? That is the question! Valentine's Day- may your day be filled with love, flowers and candy. And President's Day as we honor Abe and George.

The program for the first meeting in February is called Cupid's Day, which goes along with Valentine's Day. Lecturer Diane is in charge. Our second meeting is Legislative with Chairman Fred in Charge. This is always an interesting meeting as Fred has much knowledge about what goes on in the legislative committees.

Our committees continue to do the work they are in charge of and each report at every meeting. Good work all!

Come and join us when you can. Our door is always open!

### WOLCOTT GRANGE #173

*Corr: Cindy Legg*

We at Wolcott Grange are working towards our future. We have been working together with the Masons from Wolcott to try and help each other improve or organizations.

We're having a membership drive, which we hope will be a success.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped our Grange in anyway. Especially our dear friends of Excelsior Pomona and the members of The Reconstruction Team.

We at Wolcott Grange are alive and doing well. We are putting the past behind us, and looking forward to the future.

### OXFORD GRANGE #194



**Marge Bernhardt**  
State Lecturer

[lecturer@ctstategrange.org](mailto:lecturer@ctstategrange.org)

Mark your calendars. The 2011 North East Grange Lecturers' Conference will be held August 1st - 4th at The Bridgewater State College in Bridgewater, MA. The theme of the conference is "Season It". Connecticut's program is "Spicy". Our rehearsal will be at 10:00 a.m. on Tues. August 2nd with the program at 11:00 a.m. I'm still looking for ideas. It doesn't have to be on spicy foods. Anything spicy counts. If you have a

## A rising tide raises all boats



**Jeff Barnes**  
State Overseer

[Overseer@ctstategrange.org](mailto:Overseer@ctstategrange.org)

"A rising tide raises all boats." I really like this old saying because it's a very simple act of nature, but it can apply to so many things in life. One improvement raises the value of all things around it, a positive outlook influences positive change, one success encourages more successes. You see what I mean.

A growing Grange membership is like a rising tide. The Grange Growth program is about to get underway and the object

is to rejuvenate existing Granges and to re-organize Granges in towns where a successful Grange had once existed. The tide is about to turn. Our membership is starting on an upward swing. The several subordinate Granges who have been regularly initiating new members raise the hopes of all the Granges in our state by proving it can easily be done.

The recent movie "Secretariat" prompted a recent, very interesting Grange program on the topic of thoroughbred horse racing. It was quite educational but afterward nobody present seemed anxious to acquire any thoroughbreds. They obviously are risky investments and their racing careers are brief.

Our Christmas Party

number you are willing to share, it would be greatly appreciated.

We will be using a different set-up than the last time we were at Bridgewater. The programs will be in a different room with a much higher stage. Walking will be at a minimum and everything is air-conditioned. Elevators are a part of the dorms. Rooms are arranged in small pods with each having a microwave and refrigerator. The price has not been finalized, but the small increase that is expected should prove to be worth staying at this college. Actually I understand it is now a University, not a College.

Hopefully Connecticut Grangers will continue to support this activity. Remember, anyone can

was enjoyed by all. There was no business meeting that night but some service awards were presented. Not all recipients were present though five members qualified for 60 year seals, eight for 65 year seals, and two for 70 year seals.

The February meeting program "Resolutions" should be interesting. Could that mean New Years Resolutions? Come and find out!

attend. It is not just for Lecturers.

Do you have any suggestions, complaints, or even compliments? Let your Pomona Lecturer know. We will be meeting the end of this month for our yearly meeting and will discuss all programs and events.

Does your Pomona have a Talent Contest planned? Each Pomona should be picking out their Talent and "A Numbers" in the near future. Our State judging is Sunday, June 12 at Cheshire Grange Hall as part of Grange Sunday. It may be snowy and cold out now, but spring and summer have a way of sneaking up on us.

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY ... See you around the State.

is to rejuvenate existing Granges and to re-organize Granges in towns where a successful Grange had once existed. The tide is about to turn. Our membership is starting on an upward swing. The several subordinate Granges who have been regularly initiating new members raise the hopes of all the Granges in our state by proving it can easily be done.

I'm sure no one will claim that Grange Growth is not long overdue. The tide has been going out for so long the shore is drying up. A growing membership brings life into the Community Grange. The quality of the business meeting is improved by more discussion and ideas. The Lecturer can develop more entertaining programs with more people

taking part. It's just more fun!

An increasing dues revenue is a benefit that makes more ambitious Community Service projects possible, and there are more volunteers to help carry them out. This improves our image to the public. To ourselves it improves our outlook and pride.

To the Granges who are already growing I ask you to share your successes and good ideas with all of us. Take full credit for your accomplishments. We are all encouraged by you. Let's remember our State Master's goal of one new member per month per Grange. It's not impossible. A growing Grange raises all possibilities, well into the future. The only direction is up.



FEBRUARY 2011

Connecticut Granger



**2011**  
AND BEYOND

# THE GRANGE 2011 AND BEYOND

**Workshops featuring  
National Grange Membership/Leadership  
Director Rusty Hunt**

**9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon:  
Pomona: What and Why**

**1:00 PM - 4:30 PM:  
Grange Growth from the  
Master's Perspective**

**FEBRUARY 12, 2011 • 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM**  
**North Stonington Grange Hall**  
**21 Wyassup Rd., North Stonington, CT 06359**

**Hosted by the  
Connecticut State Grange  
and the  
Rhode Island State Grange**

**\$5.00 Registration Fee  
Luncheon Included**



**RSVP by FEBRUARY 5th to:**

**Shirley A. Lawson, RI State Grange  
120 Wilson Avenue, Rumford, RI 02916-2832  
Phone: 401-783-4551  
E-mail: SWLogan102@Cox.net**

**Edith Schoell, CT State Grange  
P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033  
Phone: 860-633-7550  
E-mail: Secretary@CTStateGrange.org**





# Youth & Junior Grange



**Lisa Lamoureux**  
State Youth & Junior Director  
youth@ctstategrange.org  
juniors@ctstategrange.org

vacations they did go try trekking on some trips and now are looking for some more snow to go sledding.

They will be busy as the projects come up. Especially crafts!

Will have more news next time.

## EKONK COMM. JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Sue Gray

The Juniors welcomed the opportunity to adopt a small family for the Holidays. The Sterling School brought to the Juniors attention that a mother and her two children (boy & girl) would not have a Christmas without

some help. The Juniors rallied and with some help from the Subordinate, a wonderful array of gifts were purchased and wrapped for all three! The Juniors will travel to a Convalescent Home in the spring to bring cheer to the residents. They have a movie night planned for winter. March 1st the "boys" are in charge of the program. They had a blast with a program on "Foods". They plan to sponsor an Earth Day contest in two schools in the spring. As you can easily see, they are a busy, creative bunch of happy kids!

## HILLSTOWN JR. GRANGE #87

Corr: Rita Schaefer

Feb. 18: From George to Obama

The Juniors were kept busy this holiday season. They enjoyed their Christmas party.

On their Christmas

## In Memoriam

Clark Child	Senexet Grange #40
Arline West	Tolland Grange #51
Jean Hansen	Hillstown Grange #87
Frederick Miller, G.S.	Ekonk Comm. Grange #89
Olive Phillips	Norfield Grange #146
Michael Konkos	Cannon Grange #152
Muriel Konkos	Cannon Grange #152
Elsie Wrana, G.S.	Echo Grange #180

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

## Chaplain's Message



**Amy Whitcomb**  
State Chaplain  
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

In the cold and wintry month of February, let us consider that faith matters. Each of us can welcome a new challenge as we try doing something for the first time. The thing about approaching any problem with good humor and fun, as we do

when playing a game, is it brings us into the present, opens our intuition and creativity and gives us the inner freedom to improvise.

This simple wisdom frustrates many who want the big strategy before the big game. They know fun has a creative power all its own. Going forth into the unknown area, handling situations with unexpected grace, wit and joy, playing full out, we call this experience fun. Fun produces a unification of mind and body. Fun is not trivial, it is essential.

Two hundred fifty years ago there was a certain sober decorum expected of people. It was unseemly for religious folk to let on that they might deeply enjoy life. A severe Calvinist theology was there to extinguish any fires of gaiety that might blaze up in a moment of forgetfulness. Parents who dared to kick up their heels even embarrassed their children. God was very serious.

That is why it was so delightful to find in Benjamin Franklin a spirit of playfulness, goodwill and good humor that he carried into some of the strictest issues of early America. The exuberance and generosity of God's whole creation empowers an upbeat, playful spirit. "I tell you do not worry about your life," Jesus told his tearful disciples. Here is a first century example of let go and let God. We let go of worry and make friends with the unknown by letting God and His upbeat and playful light hearted Spirit fill us even with good old- saints preserve us fun.



## Membership



**James Lamoureux**  
Membership Director  
Membership@ctstategrange.org

shared with me involved creating brochures for your specific Grange and distributing them around town at places like the library, community center, Senior Center, or town hall. Remember to include contact information for prospective members to get in touch.

Don't forget to embrace the local media in covering your events and getting the word out. They can be a great asset to our organization.

Retaining and building membership, especially with a fraternal

organization, can be one of the toughest tasks a leadership team faces. Throughout the year our committee will share ideas on recruiting and hopefully have a little fun along the way.

Remember that recruiting new members is essential to the growth of your Grange and our fraternal order. Make it an important part of your Grange's goals for this year and beyond.

Feel free to contact myself or any member of our committee with ideas and thoughts.

Greetings Grangers!

By the time you read this our Connecticut State Grange Membership Committee will have formally met for the first time in 2011.

A recent idea that was

## Grange Growth teams are on their way!

Todd Gelineau, Growth Steering Team

The Grange Growth Steering Committee was finally able to hold its team training meeting on Saturday, Jan. 29 with GREAT success! The morning began with coffee and donuts followed by a presentation of the National Grange's "Creating Grange Growth: The Process and Plan" PowerPoint program. This presentation outlined the steps involved in revitalizing and organizing Granges.

The PowerPoint was followed by a team building exercise which emphasized the importance of effective communication. After a luncheon provided by the Steering Team, a practical exercise filled the remainder of the day. In this exercise, some members were given the task of revitalizing fictional "Nutmeg Grange No. 123" while the remaining participants acted as the members of the Grange. Marge Bernhardt served as the Facilitator and did an excellent job with no previous experience with the program.

Over the last two years, the State Grange has generously permitted members to travel to Grange Growth training workshops held

throughout the country. After experiencing these programs, the members of the Grange Growth Steering Team are now able to offer training to Connecticut members without having to leave the state. Twenty members attended the meeting including the Steering Team and Stephen and Claire Logan, Master & First Lady of the Rhode Island State Grange.

With this initial training completed, the "trainees" will work with members of the Steering Team to develop a detailed revitalization plan for an actual Grange in Connecticut.

While there is much more work and training to be done, the Steering Team is happy to have added so many new participants to the program who are now available to assist in Connecticut's Grange Growth efforts.

The next important date on the Grange Growth calendar will be the joint meeting of the Rhode Island and Connecticut State Granges planned for Saturday, February 12, 2011 at North Stonington Grange Hall. Please see page 11 for more details!