



# Holiday Greetings

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# Connecticut Granger



Vol. 53, No. 3

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

DECEMBER 2012

## DUES INCREASE!?



**Jody A. Cameron**  
State Master/President  
[president@ctstategrange.org](mailto:president@ctstategrange.org)

Who wants to pay higher dues?

I don't, but I can promise this, if we, as individual Community Granges do not initiate immediate sustainable growth we will be seeing frequent dues increases from both the National and State Grange. If we do not initiate immediate sustainable growth in each Community Grange and organize new Community Granges, our existing membership base will bear the entire financial burden of the National and State Grange in the future.

Sister Jodi Ann and I just returned from attending the National Grange Session in

Boise, ID and there were two particular resolutions that were defeated by the Delegate body I want to address with you. The first was a \$4.00 per member dues increase to the National Grange; the other would have instituted an annual Charter Licensing fee. These were debated at great length, with State Masters speaking to both the pro and the con, but in the end it is clear that if we do not initiate sustainable growth a dues increase or fees of some kind will be necessary for us to maintain the National Grange. By the delegate body voting these items down it has

### What we can do, need to do, WILL do, is GROW our MEMBERSHIP!

only enabled each state to go home and institute ways of increasing revenues to National Grange. We can increase dues, but what does this really accomplish? A dues increase puts additional financial burden on our existing membership. I do admit we have the lowest dues of any organization I am involved in and many of you say the same. We have been short-selling ourselves for many years and now it is up to us to correct this situation. I can assure you if and when a new resolution is submitted to national Grange for a dues increase we will not be seeing \$4.00 per member, it will most likely need to be nearer to \$10.00. I am neither trying to make our National Grange out to be a villain nor am I advocating for a dues increase or any fees of any kind. Our National Grange belongs to us; therefore it is our responsibility to ensure its healthy well-being. The

National Grange will not and cannot survive without our financial support and personal involvement.

So, what can we do about this? Well there are some options.

**Option:** We can support a dues increase putting the burden on our existing membership. Not the answer!

**Option:** We can write a resolution that the National Grange mortgages our National Headquarters, but then WE, the membership, will have to repay that. Not the answer!

**Option:** We can do nothing; we all know if you always do what you have always done you will always get the same results. For some I am sure this is the answer, sorry, not the answer!

What we can do, need to do, WILL do, is GROW our MEMBERSHIP! At state session I asked every Grange to make a pledge for membership growth. Some Granges made a commitment, some have not. I am upping my challenge; I am challenging every Grange in Connecticut to increase their membership by 25% in the 2013 Grange year. Growth in these numbers is no longer an option, it is essential for our survival. I promise to every Grange that initiates measures to grow they will receive the FULL support of the Connecticut State Grange. Those Grange that choose to stay as you are, I wish you well, but understand this, the energy of this State Grange will ONLY be expended on what is important, and what is in the best interest of the Grange and Grangers. We will not be investing time, energy or financial resources



in any activity that does not foster a positive environment. We cannot tolerate petty bickering in our Granges. We cannot tolerate a member that "controls" our Granges. We can no longer tolerate Granges not bringing in new members; self destruction is NO LONGER AN OPTION! By increasing our membership annually we will delay any need to implement dues increases for the foreseeable future. The increases we will then see will be necessary to support and sustain a larger

membership. Increases that will be needed to improve and implement new programming; increases for ALL of the right reasons.

I have written this article this month to give you the facts on this issue, not to scare you or anger you. I know the Grangers in our State want what is best for the Grange and will do whatever it takes to succeed. We have the opportunity to be proactive and I look forward to facing this challenge with you

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**Deadline for the JANUARY 2013 issue of the Connecticut Granger: DECEMBER 5.**



## The potato gun



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

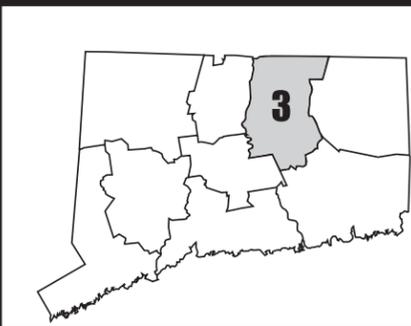
Do you know what a potato gun is? If you had asked me a few days ago I would have thought it was a gun that shot whole potatoes at a target. I learned differently when I visited North Haven Grange recently. A potato gun looks like any other toy gun you can buy at a store. To load the gun you simply insert the end of the

barrel into a dry potato & pull out the plug. As potatoes are comprised of nearly all water, potato pellets are safe for kids or adults all of ages to have some fun with. One number on the program found each member taking shots at a turkey for their Thanksgiving dinner.

This was an excellent example of having fun while learning. North Haven is one of our smallest Granges, but they have some of the best programs in the State. It is a

*Continued on page 3*

## East Central Pomona No. 3



- ✓ Stafford No. 1
- Granby No. 5
- Tunxis No. 13
- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Tolland No. 51
- ✓ Vernon No. 52
- Coventry No. 75
- ✓ Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Enfield No. 151

### MISSION STATEMENT

*East Central Pomona* supports the Community Granges by helping one another; through legislative advocacy and by supporting community service efforts.

#### STAFFORD GRANGE #1

*Corr: Laura Fonicello*

On November 19th Stafford Grange #1 donated three complete Thanksgiving dinners to the Stafford Community Center for their annual Food Drive. The dinners were well received and distributed to families in need in the Stafford Springs community.

#### GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

*Corr: Kathryn Ruff*

**Dec. 6:** Holiday Party 7:30 p.m.

**Jan. 3:** Welcome the New Year 7:30 p.m.

**Jan. 12:** Monte Carlo Whist Card Party 7:00 p.m.

**Feb. 7:** Be My Valentine 7:30 p.m.

I hope everyone has survived Hurricane Sandy, with very little trouble. I was only out of power 3 1/2 days. I do have plenty of limbs to pick up and a good pile of leaves to blow off the lawn. Glastonbury Grange will have a short business meeting on December 6th at 6:30 p.m. We will then retire to the Olympic Pizza Restaurant for our Christmas Party. I hope everyone will remember to bring a child's book or two with them to the meeting. We will deliver them to the Glastonbury Social Service Department. I am sure some child will be very happy to receive a new book for Christmas. The CWA information for 2013 has arrived. The Theme

for this year is "Over, Under and Around the Sea". The Needlework Contest is open to the public to participate in. There are 10 classes for competition, from afghans to doilies to babysets, wall hangings to stuffed toys etc.. If you have a relative or neighbor that enjoys needlework encourage them to enter. Just contact me for the necessary entry blank.

A "Focus Committee" has been appointed to look over our finances and come up with some suggestions of ways that we might be able to raise some money. If any member has any suggestions contact the committee. The Chairman is Taffy Hyyppa, Treasurer of Glastonbury Grange and she can be reached at 860-614-2449 or Kay Ruff, Secretary at 860-315-5336, Glastonbury Grange wishes all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

#### MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

*Corr: Leona Wilson*

**Dec. 4:** Holidays

**Dec. 18:** Let's Party

On November 6, Gail Aylmer was in charge of the Legislative Program. This was a good program as this was Election Day. I hope everyone got out to their polling places and voted. Voting is a privilege; but it is also a duty for us Americans. On November 18, Leona Wilson led us in

giving Thanks for all we have in this great country.

#### TOLLAND GRANGE #51

*Corr: J. Jordan*

**Dec. 4:** Presidents 6-10

Tolland Grange will meet at the home of Sister Hopkins for the potluck before the regular meeting.

Presidents 6 through 10 will be discussed. Tolland Grange wishes everyone a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

#### VERNON GRANGE #52

*Corr: Nancy Strong*

**Dec. 7:** "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!"

Vernon Grange awarded the Community Citizen Award to Bryan Flint, a dedicated community member who has done so many things behind the scenes to make Vernon a better place to live. He works with others, seeing the problems of the community and addresses them in many ways. Recently he was instrumental in developing one of the schools in a poorer part of Town into a "Community School" in which after hours programs for both children and parents are available - from social services and tutoring to clubs and fun activities for all. He also is a magician and has put smiles on the faces of all he encounters... including our members! We were proud to honor Bryan. Our next meeting will be our wacky gift exchange and this year we have instituted a "no re-gifting" clause. We want fresh wacky or funny and useless gifts.

#### HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

*Corr: Michelle DeDominicis*

As the fall turns to winter, the cycles of the Grange change with time. We say goodbye to another Granger, Evelyn Johnson. She will

be missed.

We will be holding our annual Christmas Celebration at the hall this year - starting our December 13th meeting with a pot luck at 6:00pm followed by a short business meeting then a holiday filled program by our Lecture Helene Forrest.

This time of year - we have also opened our hall to others - assisting with their charity work - the East Hartford Lions club putting together food baskets, Operation Christmas Child filling boxes of items for kids in need, and the VFW to pack more cookies for our soldiers.

We would like to wish everyone a Healthy and Happy Holiday Season.

#### ENFIELD GRANGE #151

*Corr: Irene Percoski*

**Dec. 8:** Christmas Around the World; Cookie exchange, bring 2 dozen to share.

**Jan. 12:** Happy New Year - Don't forget Food Shelf

donations

The beautiful fall leaves seem to have come and gone in the blink of an eye. Fields of pumpkins dot the landscape and bring to mind all the memories of past years along with anticipation of Holidays to come. We will be announcing the deadline for recipes by the next issue of the Granger, so get them in as soon as possible.

Congratulations to James Percoski on receiving one of the scholarships at the State Grange Session. He is attending UCONN as a nursing student. Keep up the good work Jim. Brian, Jim and I had the enormous pleasure of handing out 240 dictionaries to the third graders at three schools in Ellington. The thank you notes are truly heart-warming and express the surprise we saw on their faces. They really so love the books.

Reminder to all members Ask someone to join today!

## Filing Incorporation Papers



**Edith Schoell**  
State Secretary

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

Holidays are here! Everyone is looking forward to being with family and friends and hoping that Mother Nature will be kind to us during this busy season. If you get snowed in you might look through the Grange cookbook for a new recipe to try.

Another quarter is coming to a close, and, again, I ask that you send in your report as soon as possible. Please don't file them in your case and forget to mail it.

I recently spoke to the Secretary of State's office regarding the filing of annual incorporation papers. Unfortunately this is something you MUST put on your calendar to call for each year. They will not send out postcards as a reminder. Give me a call if you have any problems.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year.

**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 and should be sent to:  
Connecticut State Grange  
P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033

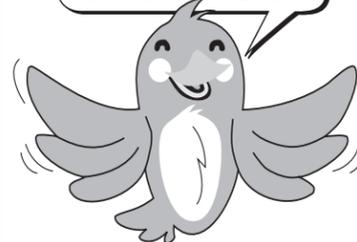
or

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#### Connecticut Granger Staff

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

### Granger Shout Out



- All messages should be **NO MORE** than 140 characters (roughly 20 words)... the max. length of a Twitter Tweet.

- The editor reserves the right to edit all messages  
- The editor also reserves the right not to publish any message deemed to be inappropriate.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT:

Email your "Shout Out" to [Granger@CTStateGrange.org](mailto:Granger@CTStateGrange.org) (use "Granger Shout Out" in the subject line). They can also be mailed to 170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790.

**Hillstown Jr. Grange gives a shout out of THANKS! to Old Lyme for all their support in 2012!**

**Submit your Shout-Outs today!**

# Mountain County Pomona No. 4



- Cawasa No. 34
- ✓ Whigville No. 48
- Eureka No. 62
- ✓ Winchester No. 74
- ✓ Taghhannuck No. 100
- Litchfield No. 107
- Beacon No. 118
- ✓ Riverton No. 169
- Cherry Brook No. 210

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Mountain County Pomona No. 4* has strong leadership, a keen sense of community and many skills and talents which we use to promote and support our local Community Granges through citizenship, legislative and agricultural policies within our Pomona.

### MT. COUNTY POMONA #4

*Corr: Todd A. Gelineau*

**Dec. 10:** "Tidings" at Winchester Grange, 7:30 P.M.

**Feb. 10: Litchfield Grange Open House, 2:00 P.M. (NEW EVENT)**

**Feb. 11:** "Information" at Whigville Grange, 7:30 P.M.

Mountain County Pomona's next meeting will be held at Winchester Grange on Dec. 10 and will include the Lecturer's program entitled "Tidings." A grab big gift exchange is always part of the festivities and members wishing to participate should bring a \$5.00 gift to take part.

The Pomona Executive Committee and other interested members met at Winchester Grange on Monday, Nov. 19 to discuss plans for revitalizing Litchfield Grange No. 107. After a great deal of discussion it was decided to proceed with an open house to be held on Sunday, February 10, 2013 from 1:00 - 4:00 P.M. at the hall in Litchfield. A snow date has been scheduled for the following Sunday, Feb. 17 (same time). Tentative plans for the afternoon include an informational video about the Grange in Litchfield, a presentation by State Master Jody Cameron and musical entertainment (t.b.a.). Invitations will be sent out to area residents and organizations along with press materials to area newspapers, television and radio stations.

Your help is needed in so many ways. We will need assistance hanging posters, mailing out invitations, cleaning up and setting up the hall, providing refreshments and so much more. A discussion about the plans will be held at the Dec. 10 Pomona meeting and any members who are unable to attend should contact Master George Russell at 860-824-7056 to learn more

or to sign-up.

The Litchfield community has been a vital part of Mountain County Pomona and we know Litchfield Grange can re-emerge once again as one of the most vital organizations in that community.

### WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

*Corr: Debbie Brown*

The Whigville Grange (Burlington, CT) will once again host "Christmas in Whigville" on Sat., Dec. 1 from 10am-3pm. A new feature this year will be the "Cookie and Chocolates walk", made famous at the Litchfield Grange. Area artists, vendors, and live music will create a stress free holiday experience. A teacup auction will be held at 2 pm. Refreshments will be available, and admission is free. The Whigville Grange is on S. Main St., Burlington, off rte 69, just over the Bristol line. For more info., or to reserve a space, contact Debbie Brown at 860-582-9863 or b\_gary@sbcglobal.net.

### WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

*Corr: Todd A. Gelineau*

**Dec. 11:** "Red & Green Holiday" - Grab Bag (\$5)

**Dec. 25:** No Meeting

The Annual Holiday Bazaar and Cookie Walk is now behind us and we are happy that the weather cooperated and we had a full hall of vendors and good attendance of shoppers for the day. Thank you to all of the members who baked cookies and contributed raffle prizes.

We are now working on plans for our 125th Anniversary Celebration to be held on Sunday, April 14. Our annual Cabin Fever Craft Fair will be held on March 30. Details will follow soon.

We are also working on a series of events to promote the new Winchester Junior Grange. We are looking

for more children to fill out our ranks before applying to the National Grange for a new Charter. If you are interested, please contact Todd Gelineau, Master, 860-307-1522 or by email at info@winchestergrange.org.

### TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

*Corr: Barbara Prindle*

Taghhannuck Grange had a very nice write-up in the Lakeville Journal on Nov. 15.

In addition, we received a wonderful thank you from Kent's third graders: "Thank you for the wonderful dictionaries you gave each of us. We were very excited to receive them and to practice using them in our classroom last week. We took them home on Friday and plan to use them whenever we need help with a word. In class, we explored our dictionaries and found that they had lots and lots of exciting sections. Look inside to see some of our favorites."

The dictionaries for Cornwall and Warren have yet to be given out but we hope to have more publicity.

Membership awards were recently presented to deserving members: Charles Schnell (25 year Silver Star); Myrtle & Harvey Hayden (40 Years- delayed from 2009); Elizabeth Drake (55 year seal); Andrew Olson (55 year seal - missed from 2010); Anne Campbell, Barbara Bartram, Claire Pedersen (60 year seals); Ted Drumm (65 year seal) and Jo Vaill (70 years).

Myrtle Hayden and Gary Tuthill entertained the Grange with music after the awards, presented at our November meeting.

### RIVERTON GRANGE #169

*Corr: Shirley Moore*

**Dec. 7:** Regular Meeting; Program: PEARL HARBOR; Ref.: Debbie Hodge & Gladys Anstett

**Dec. 21:** Potluck Supper 6:30-Maureen & Phil Prelli; Christmas Program in charge of Youth Committee

With Riverton Fair being held on Oct. 12, 13 & 14, the grange was busy serving dinners that weekend. Turkey was served on Saturday and ham on Sunday. We thank Deb Hodge for taking charge and getting help to prepare as well as serve these dinners.

We are sad to report that we have lost another of our Golden Sheaf members in the passing of Dot Cappabianca at the age of 92. Dot was

able to attend a meeting earlier this year to receive her 70-year award for being a member of the grange. Dot was always a happy person and made everyone else happy when in her presence. We extend our sympathy to her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We only had one meeting in October because of the State Session. However, the agricultural committee (George Russell & Dennis Jasmine) presented a program pertaining to autumn with lots of

information about Johnny Appleseed, apples and pears, with a humorous potato story by Fred Schwalm. Of particular interest was the fact that George presented pictures of 9 apples which we were to identify. Unfortunately for us, we did not have a good knowledge of apple types and no one could identify all nine, but it was fun trying.

The year is going by fast, but we hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and look forward to a Christmas filled with joy and peace.

## 75 Years in Riverton Grange



Phil Prelli, member of Riverton Grange and Secretary of the National Grange Exec. Committee, presents Virginia Butler with her 75 year certificate at a recent meeting of Riverton Grange.

## Kent's Words for Thirds



Third grade students at Kent Center School show off their new Dictionaries, provided by the members of Taghhannuck Grange No. 100 in Sharon.

## State Lecturer: Potato Gun

*Continued from page one...*

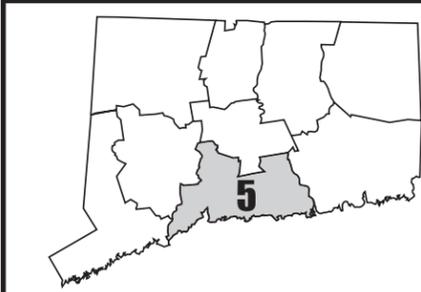
good example that you don't need lots of members to put on a good grange program.

Merry Christmas to everyone. Hope to see you around the State.



Arline Tolette, of North Haven Grange, takes a shot at the "Turkey" with a potato gun.

## New Haven County Pomona No. 5



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

### MISSION STATEMENT

*New Haven County Pomona* through the strength of its Community Granges offers collective wisdom and experience to enhance the individual leadership skills, pride in Grange ritual and camaraderie to all citizens in the communities in which we serve!

#### NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

*Corr: Elizabeth Ryducha*

**Dec. 2:** It's Almost Christmas

**Jan. 14:** Young at Heart

At our October meeting, we were happy to report that the cowboys won for the Pomona Competitive Night. Most of us came in costume and our Lecturer had a great program to celebrate Halloween.

Our December meeting will be held at Cheshire Grange Hall at 4:00 P.M. We will be having a potluck dinner and a \$3 gift exchange.

#### CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

*Corr: A. Ruel Miller*

**Dec. 5:** Neighbors Night/Hobo Night. Come in costume and bring a can of vegetables for the stew.

**Dec. 19:** Christmas Party. Open meeting..\$3.00 grab bag

Several of our members attended and participated in our State Grange session in October where we received many awards. Cheshire was one of four "Gold" Granges and we placed second in the Community Service Contest for the larger Granges.

We are planning a fund raising craft bazaar in early December featuring breakfast and lunch.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

#### WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

*Corr: Dan Lauttenbach*

**Dec 8:** Christmas Program, Open Meeting, Card Exchange, \$3 grab bag. Ref: All members

**Dec 22:** Christmas. No Meeting.

Sept 13- Fair Work Night. A very short business meeting followed by preparations for our Fair on Sat 15, 2012.

Sept 27 - Fair Hangover Night. Business meeting followed by discussion of the Fair. We had an increase in

entries for our vegetables, flowers, canning, bakery and needlework. Also had entries in the junior art dept. However had a decrease in the number of dinners.

Oct. 11 was our "Columbus Day". Everyone is quite familiar that Columbus "discovered" the Americas, actually the West Indies. So what equipment did Columbus use for navigation? Everyone knows about compasses but how did he know where he was on the earth? Though he successfully crossed the Atlantic did you know he actually didn't know how to use the latest navigation equipment of his day? What he actually used was a wooden quadrant (shaped like a cross) to get elevation readings of stars and the sun to a get latitude readings but his readings were so bad that they were more than a 1000 miles off. So rather than confirming he was in the West Indies the readings he read showed that he was in New England.

Oct - 25 was our annual "Harvest Time" Pot Luck Supper was well attended with a great assortment of food and favorite desserts. Don Lanoue our Pomona Master and Pomona Deputy West also stopped by for a visit.

I have sad news to report that Barbara Morrissette passed to that Great Grange above. She was our long time Lecturer and Pianist. There is so much I could say about her and her lecturer programs and participation yet in the same breath you have to remember she also had musical compensations to go with these programs. She was also the force behind the Grange chorus and many other projects big and small. With all these things going on she always did her work with grace, dignity and with a smile. She will be greatly

missed.

#### OLD LYME GRANGE #162

*Corr: Barbara C. Kulisch*

**Dec. 7:** Christmas Program with a \$4.00 gift exchange.

**Jan. 11:** Pot Luck 6pm Soup/Salad/Bread~Program: National Soup Month

**Jan. 25:** Snow date for Jan. 11th

With State Session behind us, Old Lyme came in 3rd place in the 50 & under group with their Community Service Report! As chairman, I wish to thank everyone who made this award possible. Even our Florida members, Shirley Dill Brown, who by

the way says HI to everyone; also Eleanor & Tom Norton. they all contribute many hours through out the year.

Sister Barbara is the new State Chaplain, and Brother Ross is on the Board of Directors for another 3 year term. We are very proud of both of these members. Congratulations to you both!

Our charter was draped, Oct 26th, in memory of Sis Irene Berg, an almost 25 year member. She was unable to be as active lately due to illness as she had been earlier on in her Grange Journey. She will be missed

by all who knew her!

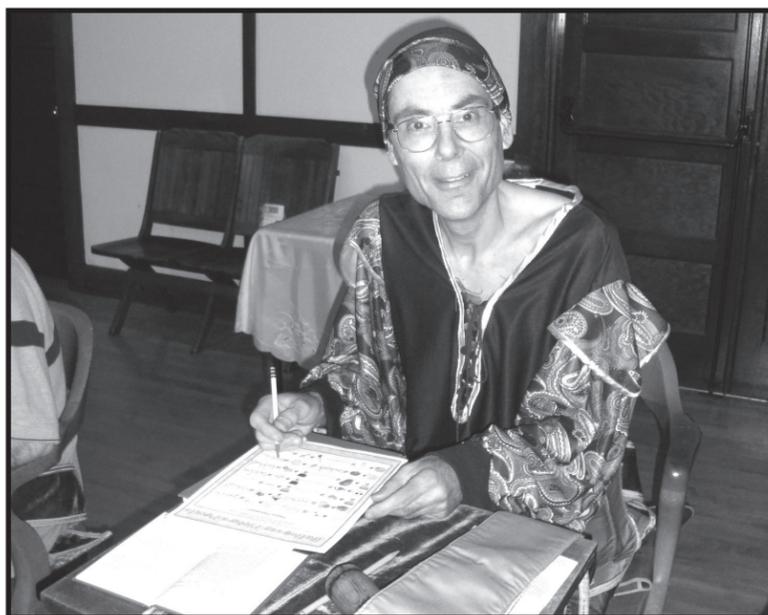
We are busy with our new Community Service project and continue with some of last years as well. We are trying to get our name out there by staying in town with our projects this year. We will also be writing quarterly articles in the Old Lyme Events magazine to help spread the word we are still an active group looking for new members!

Our door is always open, so come on down. The Officers & members wish everyone Happy Holiday's and a Happy New Year!

## New Haven County gets "Spooky"



(Above) Every kind of ghost, ghou and Halloween character posed for a group photo at the October meeting of New Haven County Pomona No. 5, held at Wallingford Grange No. 33.



(Left) Daniel Lauttenbach, Master of Wallingford Grange and Overseer of New Haven County Pomona shows of his gypsy costume at the October meeting of the Pomona.

## DEPUTY TEAM

INSPECTIONS RITUAL CODE READING SUPPORT INSTRUCTION

*Todd A. Gelineau, General Deputy*

Executive Committee reports have been coming in steadily since the books of most Granges closed at the end of September. I am pleased to report that I have found almost no problems with the reports with most of them balancing to the penny! A great job done by these Secretaries, Treasurers and Executive Committees. We remind all Granges that Executive Committee reports are due to me by December 31 (if your books closed September 30) or April 1 (if your books close on December 31).

Please be sure the reports are signed by the members of the various Executive Committees and save a copy to be provided to the Deputy on the night of your Inspection next spring.

Planning is now underway for Schools of

Instruction. The State Master has requested schools for both the Pomona Granges and the Community/Subordinate Granges. The Community Grange Schools will concentrate on Grange procedure and we will be asking various members to serve as officers for the School to help exemplify the Opening, Closing and any other procedures Granges would like to see demonstrated.

The Pomona Schools will focus on three topics 1) Refining Mission Statements; 2) The Leadership Role of Pomona, and 3) Purpose of Pomona. These Schools will be held at one of the regularly scheduled meetings of each Pomona. The Pomona Deputies East and West are currently working out the scheduling as are the Subordinate Deputies with their Schools. Let's spread the word and fill the halls for each of these meetings!

## 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

### MISSION STATEMENT

*New London County Pomona* did not adopt a Mission Statement at their School of Instruction, but plan to work on it in the future.

### NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*

**Dec. 10:** Santa Claus is Coming - Colchester Grange

Our Antique Festival was a rousing success. The upstairs of North Stonington Grange Hall was transformed into a museum. There was a Civil War soldier in full uniform who was eager to show you his weapons and the contents of his haversack and share his knowledge of the terrible war that divided our nation. The Stanton Davis Homestead from Stonington and the Leffingwell Inn from Norwich both had interesting exhibits complete with knowledgeable docents.

Downstairs Colchester Grange served a lunch that included delicious corn chowder and a variety of sandwiches with chips and a pickle. Anne Marie and her crew manned the bake sale that offered a diversity of handmade goodies. Experts were on hand to appraise the many antiques brought in by the public. We raised a tidy sum to help pay for the new roof on our Pomona cabin at

Camp Berger. Pomona had an information/membership table to inform the public about the Grange.

Please come to Colchester and celebrate the holidays with us. Colchester will hold a brief meeting at 6:30. Our meeting begins at 7:30.

*Here come the holidays, can it be true?*

*It seems like the summer can barely be through.*

*Please come to our party, you'll have lots of fun.*

*And please bring a buddy, a daughter or son.*

### N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*

**Dec. 14:** "Potpourri" Annual Christmas Party and Program

**Dec. 28:** No meeting Merry Christmas, Happy New Year  
We are very proud of our Granger of the Year, Gene Bromley, who received this prodigious award at the annual State Session.

At our October 12 meeting, Nick Mullane, North Stonington's First Selectman, updated us on the town budget, which had

failed to pass three times. Fortunately it did pass on the fourth try with a comfortable majority. He also filled us in on the progress of the bridge destroyed 2-1/2 years ago in the March floods, leaving our town cut in two. It opened to little fanfare and great relief on October 21st.

On October 26th the hall bubbled over with costumed adults and children. Nearly 70 members and friends enjoyed the annual Halloween party. The judges had a difficult time deciding on the winners in the costume parades. Prettiest, funniest, scariest, and most original vied for honors in four age categories. Games accompanied by much laughter and applause followed, then downstairs for delicious refreshments and the annual cup social. There will be a short meeting at 7:30 before our annual Christmas party on December 14th. Please bring a wrapped present for Santa's bag for any youngster you bring to the party. Make sure the child's name is clearly printed on the package. And if Hurricane Sandy will just take a different path from the one predicted, next time I'll tell you about nebulous

November.

### LYME GRANGE #147

**Dec. 6:** Got your shopping done yet?

**Jan. 3:** Mother Nature - How much snow will we get this winter?

**Feb. 7:** Show & Tell - Bring your treasures

**Mar. 7:** CWA struts their stuff

We were very pleased to welcome St. Lecturer Marge Bernhardt and her husband Carl- Deputy of New Haven County Pomona to our November meeting.

Our fence committee will present a proposal at a special meeting in November. If we change the style of fence- we will lose 7 feet of land along the road. However, if we go with the existing one they can maneuver it so we will lose nothing. Time will tell.

Our Master and Steward attended sTate Session and brought home many awards. Due to lack of power our attendance was down. Luck for us, power came on in our hall the night before our meeting so we had a warm hall and lights. Many of us are still struggling with lack of power. If you are lucky enough to have a generator-

you can enjoy some comforts. Hopefully it will not be too long before power, cable, telephone will be returned to our area. One does not realize how much we rely on these things until we don't have them.

Merry Christmas to all!

### NORWICH GRANGE #172

*Corr: Susan Kenney*

Dick Tarryk, Chaplain and Community Service Chairman, held the Annual Food for Books Day. This event was open to the public on October 27, 2012 at the Norwich Grange. Participants were asked to bring in a non perishable item in exchange for a book. The Worthy Chaplain then took the donated food items to the local Soup Kitchen, Saint Vincent De Paul's, located and serving the people of Norwich. Dick has been the Chair Person and Community Outreach person his duties have included visiting nursing homes, and sending cards to homebound and convalescent residents and former Grangers for many years! Congratulations to Dick in coordinating another event in the Community!

## Evankow takes first



Winning pumpkin in the "decorate a pumpkin" contest sponsored by the Ag. Committee, made by Lois Evankow of Lyme Grange.

## Reviewing Session resolutions



**Alma Graham**  
Legislative Director  
[Legislative@ctstategrange.org](mailto:Legislative@ctstategrange.org)

*Alma Graham, State Legislative Director*

The last State Grange session in October brought in 41 resolutions. Thanks to all Granges who submitted resolutions. We had a wide variety of topics with many reflecting current events from the past year.

The delegates voted to encourage the increase of funding for the states AgriScience (Vo-Ag) schools. Some of the reasons brought up were that these are the original magnet schools and the increasing need for trained agricultural workers to manage the agricultural industry. We also voted to support the establishment of programs which would teach the basic agricultural production of plant and livestock to elementary and middle school students.

Of course with our session

being in the middle of the campaign season we saw a resolution recommending the limitation of money being spent on campaigns and the shortening of the campaign season.

The delegates supported repeal of the 'Life Imprisonment without Parole' and reinstatement of the death penalty option. We also supported repealing the 'Risk Reduction Earned Credit' program which allows prisoners to shorten their sentences by earning credit for good conduct or participating in approved activities.

Concerning the health care industry, a resolution was adopted recommending the passage of legislation requiring pre-employment screening for illegal drugs as well as continued screening's for health care workers. The delegates also supported a resolution recommending that dentists and dental procedures be considered and treated the same as other medical specialists both by government and insurance carriers.

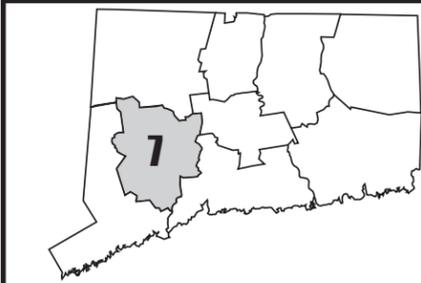
Last year the Governor removed all of the individual college presidents and combined the state colleges into one administration.

The delegates supported reinstating the college presidents feeling that they will better serve the individual college needs than by having one overall administrator. The delegates also voted to oppose the change in voting regulations that would allow same day voter registration on Election Day. They felt that it would be hard to monitor and prevent potential voter fraud.

The delegates did discuss some Grange policies and procedures. The recommendation to rename some of the Pomona's arose with the suggestion that the Pomona names incorporate the use of district or county names. The delegates voted to suggest adding a charge for the Secretary in the 5th degree which would cover the financial obligations to the Pomona. The delegates also supported an amendment asking the National Grange to develop and promote an optional procedure for the election of officers in community Granges to streamline the process.

The resolutions concerning Grange policy and National issues have been forwarded to the National Grange for the National delegates to discuss and take action.

## Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 121
- ✓ Watertown No. 122
- Prospect No. 144
- ✓ Bridgewater No. 153
- Wolcott No. 173
- ✓ Oxford No. 194

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Excelsior Pomona's* collective voice is used as an effective tool to further the Grange's good works locally and throughout the state.

### BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

Our December schedule starts on the 8th when we will host the meeting and Christmas Party for the Southern Connecticut Past Masters. December 14 is our program themed "Ho-Ho-Ho!" Our annual Christmas Party and meeting. Supper will be served promptly at 6:00. Reservations are a must.

On Saturday, Oct. 27th, the Naugatuck World I Monument was finally rededicated. The monument was in dire need of repair. This project started at a meeting of Beacon Valley Grange. With the help of the American Legion and many others the \$42,000 needed to get it repaired was raised. Our Overseer Ron Fischer was chairman of the committee. Master Joanne Cipriano also served on the committee. Many of our members attended the dedication ceremony.

From all of us at Beacon Valley Grange we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

*Corr: Al Maddox*

**Dec. 10:** 6:30 P.M., Dinner at Painted Pony. Canned food collection for Bethlehem Food Bank.

**Dec. 16:** Sunday, 2 P.M. Note the change from Monday the 17th to Sunday the 16th at 2:00 P.M.

Refreshments- everyone bring in your favorite homemade Christmas cookies to share and \$2 grab bag.

Congratulations to Eloise Osuch on becoming the new LAS of the Connecticut State Grange.

Edwin Whitehead has been elected Gatekeeper and Eleanor Burke has been elected Pomona. Congratulations.

### WATERTOWN GRANGE #122

*Corr: Diane Barbieri*

**Dec. 7:** Christmas Party and Grab Bag/Country Store

**Dec. 21:** Christmas Traditions

Hi everyone! On Oct. 5 we had an October feast and our Grange picnic. On Oct. 19 we sent two delegates, Barbara Robert and Fred Fairchild to the State Session. On Oct. 27 we had our tag sale. Diane/Denise Barbieri also attended the State Session. On Nov. 2 we saluted Vets. On Dec. 7 we are having our Christmas party. On Dec. 21 we will celebrate Christmas Traditions. Malinda Mable is collecting school supplies and Barbara Robert is collecting bath/shower supplies for the homeless. We just finished collecting our supplies for our Pomona basket. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

*Corr: Dean Perry*

We had our regular meeting at the Grange Hall on Wednesday, October 10th. We had our famous Roast Beef Dinner on October 13th, the second Saturday of October from 5:30 to 7:30 and we served over 100 people. It was a great meal consisting of roast beef, mashed potatoes, vegetables, Jell-O salads, coffee, tea and desserts. Each dinner is a success because of the hard work of many volunteers. Many were Grange members but many were friends and volunteers. And each dinner is a success because of the support of the public. We want to point out the work of Jeff Case in particular. He is the main organizer and the cook. He also organizes a Hootenanny that follows each Roast Beef Dinner and goes from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm or so. He has an ever changing group of friends joining him and quite a variety of music. They put on a good show and it is becoming a big thing! Despite the problems that hurricane Sandy brought, we opened the Grange Hall for Halloween. Over one hundred children came. We will continue with our meetings in the Grange Hall this winter but the times

and dates may be changed. We have a meeting and Pot Luck dinner on Wednesday November 14th. Also we will be passing out Thanksgiving baskets the following week.

### OXFORD GRANGE #194

*Corr: Phil Rowland*

**Dec. 7:** Making Christmas Decorations

**Dec. 21:** Christmas Party at 7 P.M., Bring a \$5 grab bag gift

It was nice seeing a good

crowd at our 2nd annual Harvest Celebration. Goings-on both inside and outside the hall kept everyone entertained. Outside there were pony rides and a petting zoo; inside there were games, live country music, and delicious refreshments. Altogether a delightful evening.

To make this beneficial as well as entertaining, guests were asked to contribute either non-perishable

items for the Food Bank, or homegrown squash for a local Soup Kitchen.

Thanks for organizing this event go mainly to the Bucks and the Zitnays. Thanks also to the talented youthful musicians in the Jam Good Pickers country band.

The December events promise to be joyful as well. Maybe the weatherman will treat us kindly. Happy Holidays to everyone!

## Southern Connecticut Past Masters Meeting December 8

Our December meeting will be held on the 8th as the guests of Oxford Grange. They will be assisted by the members of Watertown Grange.

The evening starts with a Happy Hour at 5:30 followed by a potluck supper at 6:30, short business meeting when the dishes are done, Country Store and program. We will have a grab bag.

Come and join us. We love company.

## WINDOW TO THE PAST

Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a story to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of the faces and places as we look through the Window to the Past. You can contact us by calling (860) 626-5074 or on the web by emailing [submissions@ctstategrange.org](mailto:submissions@ctstategrange.org).

**Window to the Past Answers for the November Photo (3 women):** Received a phone call from Susan Kelly Kotowicz. She and her husband John are members of Tunxis Grange, but now live in upstate New York. Susan and her sister Nancy Kelly Spaulding (who lives in Hudson, NH and is now a member of Hudson Grange) both believe that the person on the right in the photo is their Aunt Eunice Stoll. Eunice belonged to Simsbury Grange, and was a member of the CWA Committee back in the late 1960's. Eunice died on Easter in 1971, so the photo must be from a time prior to then.

**From Doug Peck via e-mail:** Just received the December news ... I don't recognize the other two, but on the left is my mother ... which you probably already knew ... Alta Peck, Former Director of Women's Activities for the National Grange.

**From Ruth Hickcox:** What a surprise! I opened my November Granger and found a picture of ME in "Window to the Past", taken back in 1970 when I won the CWA National Grange Sewing Contest. I was told I had won over 48,000 people! I made a smocked dress, slip and panties for my 6-year-old daughter, Hilary. I think the picture was taken at the banquet in my honor back in Connecticut. The award was presented to me in Boise, Idaho. Everyone was wonderful! Needless to say I immediately joined Norfield Grange, and have been busy in it (mostly writing the monthly columns) ever since.



*This Month's Picture*



**From Sherri Shasta via e-mail:** Could the woman in the middle be Vivian Shaw? I think this is a CWA presentation in the 1960s. The lady on the left could be Alta Peck, but I'm not sure. I have no idea who the person on the right is.

**From Candace Black Smith:** "Looks like 60's era but don't know the ladies."

**From Linda Kincaide Rothwell:** "Could the lady on their far left be Alta Peck Past WAC director? 1960ties"

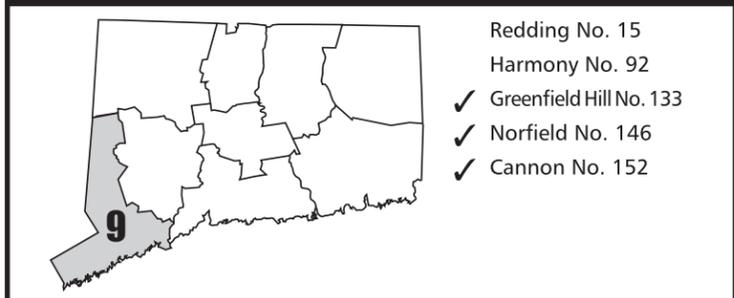
**Window to the Past Answers for the October Photo (Junior Price/Princess):**

**From Janet Hale via e-mail:** The Window to the Past picture for October is: Jr. Princess - Debbie Behler from Wallingford Jr. Grange, Jr. Deputy - Dot Mattson from Cheshire Grange, Jr. Prince - Ken Soden from Prospect Jr. Grange

**August Lynd** provided the Pomona names for the Fair Queens from the September issue. She believes the photo was taken in the 1970s.



## Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



### MISSION STATEMENT

*Fairfield County Pomona* is made up of Community Granges with a special interest in leadership development, who come together to share information and fellowship and through legislative action addresses the needs of all its members and communities.

#### GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

*Corr: Dennis Rich*

**Dec. 17:** "Christmas Party", 7 P.M. Meeting/Gathering

Our October meeting was a working session, in which we updated our membership and related information. Our Lecturer provided us with a reading from Theodore Roosevelt. After a stormy end to the month because of Hurricane Sandy and an approaching "Northeaster", our focus is on following up on what we accomplished and looking forward to a party and gathering to celebrate the coming Christmas holiday.

All of our Grange friends are welcome to our meetings and activities!

#### NORFIELD GRANGE #146

*Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox*

**Dec. 11:** Deck the Halls and Holiday Cheer

**Dec. 21:** End of the World Party

**Jan. 8:** If We Are Still Here Party

At the time of this writing, Hurricane Sandy is three days gone. Much of Weston is still in shambles, and a snowstorm is forecast for the coming week.

But there are good things ahead. Norfield Grange reopens its Winter Farmers' Market on Nov. 10 from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. You can check it out on our website, [www.wintermarket-CT.com](http://www.wintermarket-CT.com). Thanks to five hardy Grangers our kitchen is now sparkling clean, and we have new paper towel dispensers in both bathrooms. This past year, we have brought aboard 22 new members, and another candidate-Tony Markosky- has been proposed for membership.

So there, Hurricane Sandy. You just don't tangle with a Granger.

#### CANNON GRANGE #152

*Corr: Don Offinger*

**Dec 6:** Business Meeting with Program on Winter Safety

**Dec 20:** No Business Meeting, Holiday Party

(bring your favorite dessert or appetizer to share)

**Jan 17:** Business Meeting with Program on Agriculture

**Feb 7:** Business Meeting with Program on Books: What have you read recently??

**Feb 21:** Business Meeting with Program on Getting a start on your garden

**Mar 16:** SILENT MOVIES with live piano accompaniment (this is a Saturday)

Wonderful contributions from many of our members, and from proceeds of the Rubber Duck Race from our Fair last August, have enabled us to purchase an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for our Hall. An AED is a life-saving device that is used when someone suffers cardiac arrest. Wilton is a Heart Safe Community, and we join the list of schools, churches and public buildings having an AED in place for cardiac emergencies. We anticipate its delivery prior to our December 6th meeting. We encourage all Granges owning a Hall to try raising the funds to acquire one of these life-saving devices. You never know when someone will suffer cardiac arrest; it can happen to anyone of any age.

During the recent hurricane, we found that our hot water heater had failed, and we have installed a new one thanks to the skills of Michelle McDonald, Doug Shepherd and Chris Sorensen. Our Hall was without power for nearly 1 week, and were forced to cancel our November meeting. So many of our members and friends have endured a hard time from downed power lines, uprooted trees and damage to property. The clean-up will take longer than the hurricane lasted.

Looking ahead, we have some interesting programs planned on great topics of interest. February 7th

will have us all giving book reports on what we've been reading recently. If you would like to exchange books so others can share what you've been reading, please feel free to bring them. Please circle the date of Saturday, March 16th for our annual evening of Silent Movies with Cannon member John Mucci providing piano

accompaniment and movie notes. This is a very popular annual event enjoyed by the public and Grangers alike.

Our holiday party will be at our December 20th meeting. Please bring a dessert or appetizer to share. There will be no business meeting that evening, and there will be no grab-bag; just a nice

evening of conversation and refreshments.

Please note our meeting and event schedule. Business meetings begin at 7 PM and are followed by refreshments. Visiting Patrons are always welcome -- won't you join us?



## Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

### Is your Grange in need of a P.R. intervention?

*Terri Fassio,*

*Public Relations Co-Director*

Public relations is a vital part of maintaining your Grange's image. Good Public Relations practices communicate the Grange's message both internally and externally - to the local community, its members, those with an interest in the organization, and the wider public in general. Public Relations opens the lines of communication between the Grange and the public and establishes a flow of information.

A positive public perception of the Grange can increase its membership, increase awareness and visibility of the organization, and yes, ultimately improve its bottom line - an increasing membership. Internally, it will help build pride in membership that will grow a more successful Grange. From building awareness and credibility to supporting fund-raising efforts, well-executed public relations efforts can make the difference between achieving the Grange's goals or falling desperately short of them.

Can you answer "yes" to any of these statements?

- My Grange has not

put any effort into media initiatives (print media or social media) in the last 6 months.

- Our Grange marketing 'to-do' list grows, but we never accomplish our goals.

- Our members have not spoken to anyone outside of the Grange about our recent events and meetings.

- Our members have not helped promote our activities and events from a personal level, such as talking about the Grange online or by hanging posters about our events around town.

If you answered "yes" to any of these statements, then your Grange is in need of a Public Relations intervention.

Favorable and consistent media exposure means recognition in the community, acknowledgement of Grange activities, services and accomplishments and a higher profile of your Grange among potential members. It is important for each Grange to find vehicles that create consistency.

Here's a few ideas on where to start --

- Work with the Public Relations Committee to set-up a Facebook Page for your Grange -- and then be diligent about keeping the

page current and up to date.

- Take photos at all of your Grange meetings, activities and events. Send them to the Connecticut Granger newspaper and to the CT State Grange website -- and be sure to share them with your members as well.

- Write brief announcements about your upcoming meetings and programs -- and send them out to the newspapers.

- Issue Press Releases for Grange events, activities and projects -- and send them out to the newspapers.

- Create a website for your Grange through the CT State Grange website program -- and then add information to grow your website.

How we present ourselves and how we communicate is very important in the public's perception of the Grange. Our audience forms and modifies their opinion of who we are every time they view something that carries our image or they have an experience with us. In their mind, the Grange either "has it together" or doesn't. The success of the Grange depends on all of us communicating with consistency and effectiveness.

### Thanks from the Social Connection



**Joanne Cipriano**  
Social Connection Director  
[social@ctstategrange.org](mailto:social@ctstategrange.org)

Nothing much to report at this time. We are planning to have a state-wide tag sale again so save the date of Saturday April 27th. Read the next

Granger and we will let you know where the money will be donated.

As I write this, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving Day shortly. There are many we need to thank but the list would be too long to print.

There are a few who need special thanks. First Terri Fassio who may live on the other side of the United States but has been an invaluable help to our committee. No matter how many times we have called

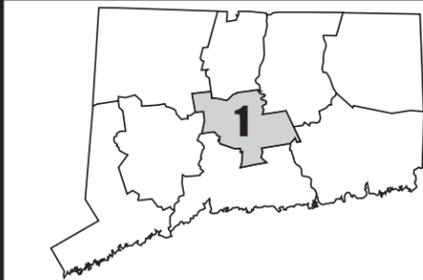
on her for an idea, she always come through.

And Todd Gelineau for his expertise in publicizing our events and making the unique tickets for all our events. We Grangers are fortunate to have them as members.

Also our State Master Jody who has always supported our activities.

We look forward to meeting with you all in the New Year. So stay healthy.

# Central Pomona No. 1



- Southington No. 25
- ✓ Meriden No. 29
- ✓ Higganum No. 124
- ✓ Hemlock No. 182

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Central Pomona No. 1* will support its Subordinate/Community Granges through programs and activities by actively contributing its talents and resources. Central Pomona supports local, State and National charities; educational and youth programs.

### CENTRAL POMONA #1

Corr: *Dianne Clark*

**Dec. 13:** (Thurs.) 6:00 Potluck, 7:30 Meeting at Hemlock

Central Pomona will have a potluck on December

13 at 6 P.M. in Hemlock. Bring your favorite dish. Meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. The program will be on Christmas elves. Bring a \$5.00 gift marked for a man or woman.

CWA table - 3 items of the following-- sweets for Santa.

### MERIDEN GRANGE #27

Corr: *Maryanne Harrison*

Here at Meriden Grange we were lucky enough to have a visit from The King aka Larry Harrison with his guitar for our Take your Teddy Bear to the Grange night. Pictures to be posted for those that missed it.

We learned about the history of the Oreo, Tollhouse cookie, Pillsbury Doughboy (who knew he was married?) and the Cookie Monster. Of course cookies were the refreshment of the night. Please do join us for our Gratitude program in time for Thanksgiving. We meet

on the 2nd & 4th Fridays, however we will not be meeting the Nov. 4th Friday because of Thanksgiving. Remember to go out & vote this Tuesday.

### HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: *Barbara R. Smith*

New membership was held at the November meeting welcoming Gail Reynolds. In December we will have a potluck dinner and make fruit baskets and holiday arrangements for the shut-ins. Dues are now due and payable to the treasurer, Carole Prescott, 277 Wiese Albert Rd., Higganum 06441.

Higganum Grange's Scarecrow Committee

wishes to thank Jayson Burr and his family for all of the corn stalks to decorate the 16 light poles in the center of Higanum and all the of the participants in the Scarecrow Contest held in honor of Haddam's 350th Anniversary. The imagination and creativity by all of the participants was superb- painted bottle caps on shoes; handmade paper mache made by the art class at H-K Middle School; twinkling eyes; the baby pumpkin and all the many plant pots- your efforts were extraordinary and very much appreciated. Thank you, thank you. I do hope that everyone got  
*Continued next page*

# Do You Remember?

## DONALD K. PECK

by *Betty Jane Gardiner*

They say good things come in small packages and there is great truth to that when you take the case of Donald K. Peck! He was small in stature, but definitely a "good thing."

Don, a banker from Litchfield, was a worker – for his family, the Grange, his church and community, his country and his fellowman.

My first recollection of Don was at a meeting of Litchfield Grange in the early 1950's when my Subordinate Grange was invited to neighbor and take a number for the program. As the new young lecturer from West Hartford Grange, I used a little skit where I asked three men from the group to come on stage where I made them into kneeling flowers and proceeded to give them the "works." I was impressed with the way one of these "draftees" got into the spirit of things and really had the audience going. When I got back to my seat I just about fainted when someone told me this nice fellow I had made into a pretty silly spectacle was the Overseer of the Connecticut State Grange. I was devastated, but later realized I had made a friend for life!

We could fill a paper about Don and his accomplishments. How many times did we have him tell the story of how he and Sherwood Berger (of Winchester Grange) stood on the bank of Park Pond in Winchester Center looking at the water and surrounding woods where Sherwood's mother Maud Isbell Berger, had spent many hours communing with nature. They spoke of the possibility of some of the land being used to establish a camp for children. Don asked how much it would take to obtain some of the property. The reply from Sherry was "would one dollar be alright?" That was a moment Don would never forget! The State Grange paid the asking price and later purchased an adjoining parcel of land as the Camp grew. The cabins went up along with the Alta-Don Hall. Don served as State Master from 1953 to 1957. As each new Master and groups had come along everyone has worked to make the Camp what it is today.

Last month via this column we told you how Alta was appointed as Director of the National Women's Department - a position she filled for almost twenty years. Don continued to serve National even after Alta was called to the Great Grange above.

In due time he took a new wife in the person of Ruth Gray from Litchfield. Ruth, a quiet little lady (who at the time was Marion Beecher's babysitter) was warm and friendly and liked by everybody. She joined Don in all of his Grange work. We know Don held some kind of a record for attending the most consecutive National Conventions with well over thirty- but can't seem to find anyone who can tell us exactly how many.

Don loved taking part or directing the backstage work



Donald K. Peck



Alta-Don Hall at Camp Berger

of the Seventh Degree. He did everything from make-up to showing or narrating the slide program which is an important part of that beautiful degree. High Priest Emeritus, Woodrow Tucker, speaks fondly of Don and tells how fortunate he feels having had him to work with throughout his years at National.

At one time in our state we had a number of installing teams. The Peck Team was one of the best. Hundreds of officers were put into service by the well-performing teams.

Don had a nice singing voice and took his place in the back row of the Mountain County Choristers for almost as long as the group was working. There were times when you couldn't see Don (Frank Prelli often offered to get him a box to stand on) but you could always hear that tenor. Ruth sang with the chorus as well.

One of the Peck's favorite places was their cottage on Bantam Lake. Over the years they took a lot of kidding about their evening swims- but I won't go any further into that.

Sometime when you are at Camp Berger and a gentle breeze is blowing through the trees- listen carefully and you might hear the humming of a very special tenor voice.

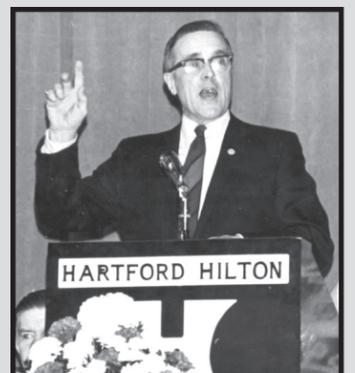
Do remember Don Peck.



Ruth Peck



Don and Ruth



Don speaks at National Grange in Hartford, 1972

Continued from page 8...

to view them as they were spectacular. The winners were: Family- 1- Jeanne Messick Family; 2- Jessica Santoro and Kelly Poradis. Commercial/Business: 1- Teri's Package Store; 2- Jack's Country Restaurant. Clubs/Organizations/ Schools: 1- Haddam Garden Club; 2- Higganum Vision Group.

**HEMLOCK GRANGE #182**

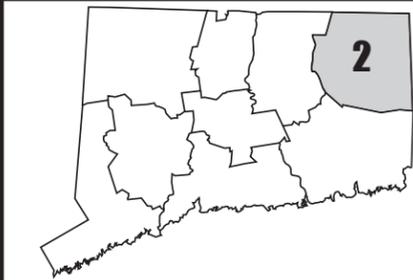
Corr: Maureen Sanborn

**Dec. 14:** Dr. Mormile speaker. Free massage. Refreshments: special holiday treats.

**Dec. 28:** Omit for Christmas

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

**Quinebaug Pomona No. 2**



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

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Quinebaug Pomona supports and assists the communities within its jurisdiction through a financial and physical presence. We offer the Community Granges assistance and support for their programs and activities.

**SENEXET GRANGE #40**

Corr: Diane Miller

**Dec. 19:** Christmas Party 6PM

Dec. 24: Christmas Pie sale

We have been busy this fall with several events for the community. We had a scarecrow contest and displayed them in front of the Grange hall. We had a chicken barbecue as a fundraiser. We held a Blue Grass music night with a very good attendance. We hosted a roast beef dinner for the annual meeting of the Windham County Farm Bureau. We will be decorating a float for the Putnam Holiday Dazzle Light parade.

**WOLF DEN GRANGE #61**

Corr: Elsie Johnson

**Dec. 12:** Ho Ho Ho Nite-Ref. Christmas Cookies

Brisk fall weather has arrived!

We had our installation of officers for the next two years. John Lawson and his team installed Wolf Den and Senexet Granges together. Very nicely done! A full house.

This week we had State Master Jody Cameron present a 75 year certificate to Minola Terwilleger.

A log cabin quilt square has been made and Master John Carter is taking it to State Session. Tabs and labels are still coming in. Dictionaries have been ordered- haven't received them yet. Leaves are being raked. Hope chimneys are cleaned. Bears are foraging for their winter sleep. Did you get your flu shot? Stay healthy. Dues are due.

**EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89**

Corr: Sue Gray

**Dec. 3:** "Walmarts' Founder"! 7:30 mtg/prog

**Dec. 8:** Annual Christmas Bazaar 10-2

Jan. 7: "Israel Putnam" 7:30 mtg/prog

Our Nov. 3rd "Membership" luncheon was a tremendous success. Invitations were sent out to 18 potential Grangers. Link Cooper, Verna Cole, Katie & Betsy Molodich and Sue Gray prepared a delicious roast beef luncheon.

Prior to lunch, our President, Katie Molodich and Legislative Director, Russell Gray, each spoke on our Grange, its community involvement and member activities. Then an awesome "Power Point" presentation was given as prepared by Jody Cameron & Katie Molodich. Lunch followed. Then Katie offered the "Welcoming Ceremony" for anyone interested in joining our Grange and FIVE raised their hands: Jacklyn Angelone, Sydney Cumbest, Diane Jordan, Amy and Bill Sebastian are our newest members!!

128 thrilled to our Halloween extravaganza (games, crafts, "haunted" trail hayride, great food & fellowship)..Mike (Molodich) said next year we will need another wagon!

By this reading, we will have taken our "Three Cheers To The USA" program to our good friends at Richmond, RI. Joining us were: Roy and Dale Evans; Milton Hershey; John Wayne; Neil Armstrong and

**Ekonk named Distinguished Grange**



Congratulations to Connecticut's Ekonk Community Grange which was recognized as a Distinguished Grange at the National Grange Convention. They are the only Grange in Connecticut recognized with this prestigious honor. Pictured is CT State Grange President Jody Cameron accepting the award from National Grange President Ed Lutell on behalf of Ekonk Community Grange.

Photo by Jodi Ann Cameron

**Senexet honors Community Citizen**

Senexet Grange Master Tom Perry (left) presents Paul Miller with his Golden Sheaf Certificate in recognition of fifty years of continuous Grange membership.



**Higganum**



One of the prize winning Scarecrows in the Higganum Scarecrow Contest, part of the Haddam 350th Anniversary celebration. The contest was organized by Higganum Grange No. 124 in cooperation with many local clubs, businesses and organizations.

Sacagawea! Special thanks to our newest member, Bill Sebastian, for playing the piano!

Link Cooper added a bookshelf to our Grange kitchen, repaired the podium of our President; repaired and refinished all officers stations...as our new Facility Improvement Director-he is terrific!

We had a delegation go to Jewett City to present the check for our 2nd annual "Home at Last" supper for veterans. Bill Czmyr, organizer of the apartments

**Have fun this year**



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

Congratulations to Alma Graham for her winning quilt square which has been sent to National to become part of the National Grange quilt. There will be another contest this year and the details of the design and color scheme will

be forthcoming.

Also, this coming year for National Grange Session to be held in New Hampshire, they will be collecting hats, mittens and scarves. Now is the right time to be looking for these items, and especially after the season discounts. Let's show them the old CT Spirit of giving.

The new, corrected recipes have been sent to the Pomona CWA chairmen for distribution. Basically it is just eliminating one of the 1/4 cup sugars (should not have been on the recipe).

I hope that everyone has fun with this year's theme.

for previously "homeless" veterans, was most cordial and grateful!

Thanks to Verna Cole for chairing the table rentals at our Christmas Bazaar; Verna continues to be a wonderful asset to our Grange.

We had special guests at our November meeting: State G.K., Robert Buck and Camp Berger Trustee, Linda Coad!

Things are booming here at Ekonk...plan to stop by!

**ECHO GRANGE #180**

Corr: Gloria John

**Dec. 11:** Holiday Happiness

**Dec. 25:** Omit

We have set up a Christmas Tree to collect Hats and Mittens to be given to the children. Alma Graham is also making pillowcases for Limo's for Kids. She would appreciate donations of material. We will be omitting our second meeting in Jan. Feb. and March. Hopefully we will have a mild winter. Happy Holidays.

We hope everyone survived the hurricane.



### HILLSTOWN JR. GRANGE #87

Corr: Michelle DeDominicis

Come celebrate with the Junior Grangers as we celebrate all the Holidays at our Holiday Fest on Friday, December 21st at 7:00pm. As always - Fun, Food and Games!

Have a Happy, Happy Holiday!

### EKONK JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Rebecca Gervais

Ekonk Junior Grange had a very busy October! 35 of us, our friends, and family went to the Ekonk Hill Turkey Farms corn maze. It was FUN! Most of us took a hay ride around the maze, and we finished with ice cream!! YUMMY!

We had a "spa-party" for the girls and a "duct tape party" for the boys. Many of the boys don't care to do crafts anymore, but agreed that these were "cool-crafts". Wallets, hats, key chains, lanyards, and a jeep were made. Even the adults

got stuck on the duct-tape crafts, 16 showed up with various patterns of duct tape. The 30, plus, girls, moms, and grandmas had a blast as well. Hands made softer, neat products to try out, and nail painting for the girls. Both groups want to do this again!

We held the Halloween party, with a Haunted Hay Ride sponsored by the youth. Over 80 showed up for inside games and fun, and that isn't counting the bunch of youth, and young-at-heart who were getting ready to spook us. The Molodich's hay wagon was packed tight! I think I know what a sardine might feel like. The ride was great, and the haunted path was AWESOME! Creative,

maybe a bit twisted, bunch of youth here at Ekonk. A few of the younger kids shed some tears, teen girls supplied us with screams, and all can't wait to go back!! Can't help but wonder how they will top this year's ride.

In November, we will be walking for St. Jude. We raised over \$350.00 last year, hope to top it. Will let you know next month.

We have started rehearsals for our Christmas play. We will be putting on The Littlest Reindeer.

One of the songs is "Santa got stuck in the Chimney". Feel

free to be part of our audience, we are always looking for people to cheer us on. Our play is at 6pm, on December 14th.

Marion Emmons donated a new Bible in memory of her late husband, Austin E. Emmons. Grandpa was the 5th Leader of our Junior Grange; he was Leader when I (and my brother joined)!

Our other Bible was almost 35 years old, had survived the fire, but was looking "sad"!

Our members thanked Grandma E. (Marion Emmons) for serving as their State Session delegate by filling a basket with a myriad of gifts (homemade jelly, garden flowers, muffins, stamps, maple syrup, honey

etc.).

Our Junior Grange will be turning 35 years and the Subordinate 125: a celebration will be held in the Spring, but plans are being made-watch for a date!

As always, feel free to visit at any time. We'll leave the light on for you.



(Above) Ekonk Jrs. pose for a picture in front of the Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm Corn Maze. 35 members, family and friends participated. (Below) Ekonk Community Jr. Grange Halloween Party. Our "counter" stopped counting people after she reached 83. That didn't include the youth on the haunted trail.

## Gibson elected ACF President

Robert Charbonneau, P.R. Co-Director

On Saturday, November 17th the Association of Connecticut Fairs elected a new slate of officers. The election was held in Hartford at the Lincoln Culinary Institute at the ACF Fall Meeting, Trade Show and Showcase. At this election, current President Bruce Richard stepped down. The new President elected is Connecticut State Grange Executive Committee member Gordon Gibson. Gibson is a 50-plus year member of Vernon Grange.

Other officers elected were First Vice-President Jim Lamoureux representing the Wallingford Grange Fair and a member of Wallingford Grange and Ted Powell as Second Vice President representing the Hamburg Fair and a member of Lyme Grange. Moving up from Assistant Secretary to Recording Secretary is Lisa Lamoureux of Wallingford Grange and the Wallingford Grange Fair. Connecticut State Grange Treasurer, Philip Bergquist, a member of Redding Grange, was re-elected in as ACF Treasurer.

On the Directors level, Connecticut State Grange Public Relations Co-Director Robert Charbonneau of the Meriden Grange Fair and a member of Meriden Grange was elected as a Director of Local Fairs. He joins the two current Directors, Connecticut

State Grange Legislative Committee and Cheshire Grange member, Charles Dimmick representing the Cheshire Grange Community Fair; and Wallingford Grange member Dan Lauttenbach of the Wallingford Grange Fair.

The Association of Connecticut Fairs organization provides benefits and support to Major, District, Local, and 4-H Fairs held annually in the state. All fourteen local fairs in Connecticut are run by Community Granges. The ACF is affiliated with the International Association of Fairs and Expositions. The IAFE supports Fair Associations in the USA, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom.

At the ACF Fall meeting, in addition to their business meeting, a Tea-Cup Auction was held. Money collected from tea cup auctions at both the spring and fall meetings is used to fund scholarships to college students who have actively participated in Connecticut fairs. Two scholarships were presented to at this year's annual meeting. Winners of the ACF sponsored Adult and Junior Baking Contests, Quilt Contest, and Apple Pie Contest were also presented. These contests are sponsored by the ACF at all the Fairs in Connecticut. Each Fair sends the winner from their local contests to the state level contest at the Fall meeting.



Gordon Gibson



Rusty Sharpe poses with his jeep his cousins helped him make at the Ekonk Jr. Duct Tape Party. Sixteen kids and adults crafted all kinds of things from tape.

## New Members

We welcome the following new members...

Jacklyn Angelone	Ekonk Community Grange #89
Sydney Cumbest	Ekonk Community Grange #89
Diane Jordan	Ekonk Community Grange #89
Amy Sebastian	Ekonk Community Grange #89
William Sebastian	Ekonk Community Grange #89
Gail Reynolds	Higganum Grange #124

# Governor Malloy visits Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm

by John Penney and James Mosher, Norwich Bulletin

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy visited Sterling's Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm, part of a tour of Eastern Connecticut farms on Nov. 13. (Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm is owned and operated by the Hermonot family, members of Ekonk Grange No. 89 in Sterling). After walking portions of the 70 acre farm, Malloy took a tour of lands that Woodmansee Farms in Preston is bringing back into production through a state program that matches farmer spending 50 percent up to \$20,000. Woodmansee Farms co-owner Clark Woodmansee III, who also owns farms in Hampton and Scotland, lead a pickup truck tour of three different parcels measuring about 12 acres that have qualified for the program.

"It's been a great education for me," Malloy said following the tour. "We're going to keep doing what we're doing to be helpful." Woodmansee and his workers, who include his son, Clark IV, have cleared trees and brush to make the land suitable for corn, hay and pasture. The farmland restoration program was part of a 2011 "jobs bill" that Malloy and Democratic and Republican leaders of the General Assembly supported. About \$1 million of the \$5 million allocated has been spent in the first year of the program, said Agriculture Commissioner Steven Reviczky, who was part of the Preston tour. There are currently 46 restoration projects statewide, said Reviczky, who is an Ashford native. The aim of the program is

to return thousands of acres to production and boost harvests of Connecticut farms, the commissioner said. "It's all good stuff," Reviczky said. Woodmansee, who owns has about 250 Holstein dairy cows on his 300-acre, fourth-generation Preston farm,

said he was impressed with the governor's agriculture ideas. "He's sincerely interested," Woodmansee said. "He certainly did ask the right questions." The tours were part of Malloy's push to promote state-based farming.



From left: Rick Hermonot, Governor Dannel Malloy, Jon Hermonot (member of the CSG Agric. Committee) and CT Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Reviczky post for a picture in front of the Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm & Store in Sterling.



Governor Malloy shops in the Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm Store.



The Governor takes a look at some of the turkeys at Ekonk Hill.

## At work in Boise

Jodi Ann Cameron and State Master Jody Cameron go over some of the many resolutions that were under consideration at the recent National Grange Convention in Boise, Idaho.



## In Memoriam

- |                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Evelyn Johnson   | Hillstown Grange #87 |
| Irene Berg       | Old Lyme Grange #162 |
| Kathleen Swanson | Hemlock Grange #182  |

Please keep us notified of deceased members. Use the email or the regular mailing address listed in the Granger Staff list in this issue.

## Chaplain's Message



This Christmas message, I wish to share with you, is truly a part of everyone's Grange journey.

### Our Christmas Card List

We have a list of folks we know, all written in a book, and every year when Christmas comes, we go and take a look. That is when we realize these

names are all a part, not of the book they're written in, but of our very heart. For each name stands for someone who has crossed our path sometime, and in that meeting they've become the rhythm in each rhyme. While it may sound fantastic for us to make this claim, we really feel that we're composed of each remembered name. And while you may not be aware of any special link, just meeting you has changed our life much more than you may think. For once we've met somebody, the years cannot erase the memory of a pleasant word or of a friendly face. So, never think our Christmas cards are just a mere routine of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between. For when we send a Christmas card that is addressed to you, it's because you're on the list of folks we're endeared to. For we are but a total of the many folks we've met, and you happen to be one of those we prefer not to forget. Whether we have know you for many years or few, in some way you have had a part in shaping things we do. And every year when Christmas comes we realize anew, the best gift life can offer is meeting folks like you. So, may the spirit of Christmas that forevermore endures leave its richest blessings in the hearts of you and yours.

A Blessed Holiday Season to you all!

## North Central Pomona Get-Together

Celebrate the Holiday Season. Let's enjoy Christmas with old friends at Stafford Grange Hall. Announcing the first annual get together of North Central Pomona Granges. Bring cookies to exchange and enjoy a musical program.

Everyone is welcome, you need not be a Fifth Degree member.

December 18, 2012 - 7 P.M.

RSVP: Irene Percoski - 860-749-0463; perkigirl35@cox.net or Nancy Strong - 860-875-2412; nrstrong@aol.com.

## Ashford Square Dance

Ashford Grange is having a square dance on December 8 at Knowlton Hall on Rte. 44 in Ashford 7:00 PM. Joe LoPresti will be calling.

This is a community event, welcoming people of all ages and dance abilities to an evening of music, dancing, and fun. A donation of \$10.00 is requested.

For more than 100 years, Ashford Grange has been active in the local community. For more information call 860-428-4902, or visit Ashford Grange's page on the Connecticut State Grange website at [www.CTStateGrange.org](http://www.CTStateGrange.org).



**May you have a blessed Holiday Season**

Jody, Jodi Ann,  
J. Allen & Jaimie

Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year!  
Stonington Grange

**Merry Christmas & a very Happy New Year to all our Grange friends**

Jane & Ruel Miller

From sunny  
S. Carolina  
Y'all have a  
Merry Christmas  
& a Happy New Year  
Victor Salazar

**Merry Christmas Happy New Year**  
Carl & Marge Bernhardt

Greetings  
& Merry Christmas  
Harmony Grange

**Blessings of the Season**  
from Russell & Sue Gray

Have Jolly Holidays  
Meriden #29

**Happy Holidays**  
Noel & Marcia Miller  
& Family

Happy Holidays  
from  
Central Pomona #1

**Happy Holidays from**  
The Hnaths

Merry Christmas to all!  
Edith Schoell

**Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year**

Jeff & Debbie Barnes

Merry Christmas  
We Love You!  
Sue Sulla

**Season's Greetings**  
Fran & Bob Brockett

Happy Holidays  
Ray, Cindy, Andrew  
& Amanda Legg

# Happy Holidays

Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year  
Bethlehem Grange

**Merry Christmas**  
from  
Higganum  
Grange #124

**Happy Holidays to all!!**  
Betty Jane  
Gardiner

Merry Christmas to all  
& Happy New Year  
Watertown #122



Season's Greetings  
Eloise Osuch and  
Malcolm MacDonald

Over the river and  
through the woods...  
Jim & Pat Palmer

Happy Holidays  
Good Health  
Redding Grange #15

Good Health &  
Happy Wishes  
Bob & Marge Sendewicz

Snowflakes and  
Candy Cane Joys!  
Geno & Karen

Season's  
Greetings!  
Terri Fassio

**May peace be with you- Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all**  
Lyme Grange

**Happy Holidays**  
from  
North Stonington  
Comm. Grange No. 138

**Blessings to all this holiday season**  
Killingly Grange No. 112

Happy Holidays  
from the Officers  
& Members of  
Coventry Grange #75

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All**  
Cindy & Ernie Finch

Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year to all  
our Brothers and Sisters  
Rob & Maggie Buck

**Wishing Everyone a Merry Christmas & a Happy, Healthy New Year**  
Cawasa Grange #34

May the blessings of  
the season fill you with  
joy and peace  
Gordon Gibson

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all Grangers**  
Kay Ruff

**Glastonbury Grange wishes all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

**Merriest Christmas & the Healthiest New Year**  
from Whigville Grange

**Wishing Everyone a Blessed Christmas**  
Kim, Vinnie & James Mele

Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year!  
Marion R. Emmons

Season's Greetings from the  
Officers and Members of  
East Central Pomona #3

**Season's Greetings**  
from  
Ruth B. & Scott Bill Hirst

Happy Holidays from  
Hillstown Grange #87

Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year  
Todd Gelineau

**Season's Greetings from our Grange to yours**  
Beacon Valley Grange #103

**May your Christmas be Merry & your New Years Happy & Healthy**  
Joanne Cipriano

**Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year**  
George, Sharon &  
Jon Russell

