



Connecticut Granger



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November 2015

Thanks to all



Noel T. Miller
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

The seasons have changed and it is now the time of reflection of the past year. This year's State Session is over and was quite a success. We had 34 resolutions to go through the committees and we were done before 2:00 P.M. on Saturday. Good job by all. Our National Representatives Brother James Tetreault, Lecturer of the National Grange and Tricia Taylor, Executive Committee member of the New Hampshire State Grange, brought energy and a new insight for us to look at as to where the Grange is going. I thank you for joining us and hope you had a great time in Connecticut.

We had thirteen candidates witness the Sixth Degree and I wish to thank Jodi Ann Cameron for filling in as Flora at the last minute and all who step up to set up and take down Flora's Court. I want to thank Todd Gelineau and Jody Cameron for the work they put in to make this State Session a great success. I also wish to thank the officers, Deputies and Special Deputies that help set-up, take down and work throughout the event. Thank you all.

This year the number of attendees was down, with fewer people we cannot get a good deal at the hotel, so prices were increased. We need to increase attendance in the future. One thing to remember is that anyone

can attend State Session. Members can witness what goes on during the debates, hear the reports and go to the luncheons. If we can get more members involved in the meetings, then our numbers may rise. Let's think about this for next year.

One thing the State Grange Board of Directors has been working on is "What are our Values." Values are those things that make the Grange stand out against all other organizations. We came up with six values of the Connecticut State Grange: Honesty, Community, Charity, Integrity, Friendship, Citizenship. Give thought to these words because we will be talking about these values throughout the year.

We also talked about our Pomona Granges. Friends, some of our Pomonas are in trouble, low member turnout, some with minimal Community Grange numbers. We need to have a serious look and conversation on what the role is for Pomona in Connecticut, and what to do if we lose three Pomonas this year. National Grange is having this same discussion and the leaders of National don't think we need Pomona, I disagree. Look out for further information on this topic. We need to hear from you.

National Grange Convention will be the election of officers. Will there be change or will we continue on the same pathway we are presently on? We will see.

I wish to thank all of our Grangers for their support and gracious conversation we have had this year and I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, because we all have a lot to be thankful for this year.

Granger of the Year



State Master Noel Miller presents Nancy Weissmuller of North Stonington Community Grange No. 138 with the 2015 Conn. State Grange Granger of the Year Award. Also pictured (seated) is Joanne Cipriano, Social Connection Director.

Joanne Cipriano, Social Connection Director

The Granger of the Year is not chosen by the number of offices they held as I would say mostly everyone here has held just about every office- maybe more than once. They are chosen for all the things they do above and beyond for their Grange and their community.

The person receiving the award tonight does just that. I am not going to read all her accolades for when you hear her name you will agree with our choice.

As she comes from the other ends of the state from me, I knew her as Harriet as I always enjoyed her humorous skits in the A Number Contest. I also read each month her column in the *Connecticut Granger* and enjoy her ending verse.

Our first activity of the Social Connection we asked her to put on a skit. Expecting one with 2 in it she came through with a play with 15 characters. She has also helped us on other occasions.

I am sure you know by now who I am talking about and so does she. I am very pleased to announce our Granger of the Year Nancy Weissmuller of North Stonington Grange.

Legislative year in review

Alma Graham, State Legislative Director

The Legislative Committee met early last December to review and incorporate any new resolutions affecting legislative affairs into the Connecticut State Grange Legislative Policy Handbook. We were able to complete this process and had the policy book printed in time for the start of the Legislative session in early January 2015.

Copies of this booklet were distributed to Governor Malloy, Lt. Governor Wyman and all members of the Connecticut General Assembly.

Gordon Gibson is our voice at the Capitol. He follows the bills and committees and communicates our support or concerns on the various bills presented during

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Next Issue... **DECEMBER**



A part of the National Grange
*American Values,
Hometown Roots*

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Master's Address to the Delegates of the 131st Annual Session

Brothers and Sisters of the Connecticut State Grange,

Friends, after the election of the 130th session of the Connecticut State Grange, I was overwhelmed by the anticipation of being your State Master. While the election was proceeding, General Deputy Don Lanoue and I were working to prepare the committees and Deputies for the new year. How difficult it is to think of names in the back of the hall. We succeeded in some areas but fell short in others. The call for patience went out and your kindness prevailed. It is not an easy transition by jumping over the Overseer's office to State Master but I gave it my all. Many times I remember calls from Past Master Jody Cameron saying, "Oh, by the way, you need to do this." It brought faith in my office that everyone does not want you to fail. It even taught me that you sometimes have to swallow your pride and ask for help.

MEMBERSHIP

We have seen areas of growth and many stagnant Granges throughout the past year. Granges that have asked for assistance of the Membership Committee, have gained in membership. But many Granges will not ask for help, they think things are fine as they are, or they are beyond help. The future of Connecticut Granges is to get out of the rut, and look forward. New programs are available and friends are willing to help you in getting new members, you only have to ask.

This year we asked the National Membership Director Michael Martin to put on a seminar. Sad to say he resigned from this post, and our Membership Committee completed this seminar. We are looking to start a mentoring program. We bring in new members and leave them to swim on their own, sometimes we never introduce them to fellow members, call them to remind them of meetings or activities, explain the workings of a Grange meeting (especially those who have taken the Welcome Ceremony). We need a buddy system, like we all had in school and Scouts... someone to team up with.

We also need to bring back members who are just dues paying members, we need to return them to active members, to help in events, activities and meetings. Extend a friendly hand and ask them to return.

NATIONAL GRANGE

This was the first National Grange Convention that I

had attended. How different it is from our State Session. National Grange is still in financial difficulties. Between the Trademark litigation and the National Grange vs. the old California State Grange lawsuit (which a verdict in favor of National Grange was won on August 18, 2015) has put a large strain on the finances of the National Grange. The response of the National Grange is to increase dues, seek donations from fellow Grangers, and sell cookbooks. Many National programs have been stopped, staffing has been cut, and services from National Grange have been eliminated. Our Community Granges cannot and should not bear the brunt of National Grange's poor financial decisions.

POMONA GRANGES

We are again facing the question of what to do about Connecticut's Pomona's. Two are close to the legal number of Granges to make up a Pomona and another is thinking of disbanding because of low turnout of members. The National Grange seems to think we do not need Pomona Granges anyway. I disagree. Pomona Granges are very important here in Connecticut. We had three Pomona Granges pool their members and present Degree Days in the spring. Pomona offers Grangers a chance to see what other Community Granges are doing throughout the year. We need to promote the Pomona Grange to local Granges. It is the next step in joining the Grange. Once you have taken the Fifth Degree your membership doesn't stop, join and participate, you will have fun, PERSEVERE.

EDUCATION

We have all heard about the rising cost of higher education. Many students are being pressured into great debt for a college education only to find that there are no jobs in their fields or they are over-qualified for those open positions. We must take a closer look as to whether a college education is worth the expense. Our trade schools are being overlooked as places for under-achievers and schools that are not on the same level as others. By far these schools provide a vital resource for skilled labor. The need for electricians, carpenters, plumbers, auto and diesel mechanics, and tool and die are in high demand with no one to fill these positions. We must rethink the value of Vocational education, which has to be overshadowed by the Magnet Schools, which are placing a

strain on local school boards in transportation and enrollment costs.

While we support vocational agriculture schools, we must renew our commitment for the expansion of Vo-Ag programs in more communities that are looking to expand into new regions.

FFA members have the same beliefs as Grangers and should be encouraged to visit us as part of the Lecturer's program and to join us as future members. I had a chance to partake in a FFA seminar and found today students are more informed and career minded in agricultural issues, future leaders.

AGRICULTURE

Connecticut's agricultural future is expanding every year. The growth of farmer's markets have promoted locally grown produce everywhere. There are farmer's markets in our major cities, bringing fresh fruits and vegetables to all. We have seen the increased use of Farm to Table dinners, a great way to promote locally grown. We have seen the return of a Dairy Dinner, all parts of a meal using dairy products. We have seen Granges providing workshops in canning, applesauce processing, jellies and jams. These events bring in prospective members. Take the chance and ask them to join the Grange. Our Grange fairs are the showcase of local agriculture. If you have a fair, make sure you promote the Grange. It is because of you this event is happening. Let the community know this.

Members have asked about our stand on GMO's. National Grange's stand is farmers feed the world and the Grange supports any scientific means to increase production, and provide safe food for the consumer. We do support the COOL (Country of Origin Labeling) which allows you the information needed for healthy and safe options. We support the fight for cross contamination of crop litigations. This is to

protect farmers who have not purchased modified seeds from contaminated pollination from neighboring farms.

CAMP BERGER

This year marks the 60th anniversary of Camp Berger. An open house will be held on October 25, 2015. This year the camp was opened with Chris and Lyn Kimberly as operators of the camping season. This year the caretaker's cottage was emptied and repairs will be made for future use. A security camera system has been installed and can be monitored anywhere in the state. The Kimberly's have contracted to operate the camp this year and we will work with them for a formal contract. Lyn will be reporting on the Camp later so I will stop here except to thank Chris and Lyn for the hard work they have done for this camp. Thank you.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

I wish to thank the Directors of the many committees of this State Grange. Some of the Committees took off out of the gate while some have had difficulty in getting started. I thank you all for the work you have done and for placing the best foot forward for the Grange. It was a hard task to get people to fill the Directors positions but I do appreciate all the time and effort you have given to these committees.

The officers of the Connecticut State Grange are hard working, unselfish, dedicated, committed, and focused on moving forward. The Secretary and Treasurer's sense of business takes all the pressure off of me. I know that the Connecticut State Grange is in great hands with these two in the office.

DEPUTY

I wish to thank our General Deputy Don Lanoue for your commitment and hard work. Through severe weather, moving and brief illness you

have been there and called me for information on things I should know about. It is a pleasure to have you on my team.

To the Deputies and Special Deputies that fill in where we could not get anyone to volunteer, thank you for your inspection reports and visitation to local Granges.

I take full responsibility for the lateness of inspection reports because I found it very difficult to write positive, and encouraging comments for some of these reports.

CLOSING COMMENT

I have enjoyed being your State Master. Everywhere Marcia and I have gone we were welcomed and treated like friends. I will always remember those times. I have visited 27 Community Granges and 5 Pomona Granges. I attended the Northeast Leaders' Conference in New Hampshire, Northeast Lecturers' Conference in Maine, and attended the New England Grange Building during the Big E (where Connecticut had 25 marchers in the parade on Grange Day). Thank you to all who came out.

After becoming State Master I bought a new truck and since that time I have put 8,000 miles on it, mostly doing Grange business. I have enjoyed being the caretaker of Hank the Burro. He has a bigger following than I do on Facebook, and at times it is hard to get photos of Hank out but I like the challenge.

As I conclude I would like to thank all of you for your support and comments, either good or constructive. I take them all in a positive way. And I challenge everyone here today as you leave the 131st Connecticut State Grange Session that you will commit to the Order and bring in new members.

God bless you all.

Noel Miller

Noel T. Miller

Master

Connecticut State Grange

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!

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Memories of State Session



Bob & Marge Sendewicz enjoy the music at the Celebration Banquet.



The officers of the Connecticut State Grange march in on Thurs. evening.



National Lecturer Jim Tetreault (National Rep.) and Tricia Taylor (member of the NH State Grange Exec. Comm.).



Hank poses for paparazzi while waiting for the open of the 131st Annual Session.



Flora's Court following the Sixth Degree on Friday evening.



Community Service Co-Chair Sharon Russell presents the 2015 awards.



The 2015 Connecticut State Grange Scholarship Recipients (l to r): Christian Schirmer, Meredith Milligan, Asia Avery, and Jaimie Cameron. Not pictured is Jonathan Hauser.



Excelsior Pomona Master Robert Buck accepts the certificate for Honor Pomona of the Year. Brother Buck had the honor of serving as Master to close the evening session in the Fourth Degree.



The 2015 Officers of the Connecticut State Grange pose for a group photo following the conferral of the Sixth Degree on the second day of the 131st Annual Session of the State Grange.



Hillstown Juniors visited Session on Saturday.



Three generations of the Cameron/Bloom family served on the Court of Flora: Jaimie Cameron, Jodi Ann Cameron and Joan Bloom.



(l to r) Louise Randall, Outstanding Ag. Professional, Ag. Director Chris Bourque and J. Allen Cameron, Professional Ag. Award recipient at the Banquet.

Resolutions adopted at the 131st Annual Session of the CSG

1) RE: LATE FEES ON QUARTERLY REPORTS THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the 1% late fee be abolished and replaced with a flat \$25.00 fee assessed 30 days from the close of the quarter on all late payments, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this fee commence with reports due at the close of the December 31, 2015 quarter.

4) RE: MAINTAINING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUNDS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange oppose any diversion of the Community Investment Funds, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange encourage the Connecticut General Assembly to maintain full funding of the Community Investment Act.

5) RE: FEDERAL ROAD GUIDELINES

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Grange support changes to the Federal Guidelines for using Transportation Funds which will allow for exceptions to the standards when it can be shown that these exceptions will not produce new major safety concerns.

6) RE: ROAD & BRIDGE REPAIR

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Grange support no longer allowing the reallocation of funds from the Special Transportation Fund to the General Fund, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the prioritization for Special Transportation Funds be the repair of our crumbling highway system with an emphasis on bridge repair, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this emphasis include secondary and rural State roads and assistance to towns to repair their roads.

7) RE: GRANGE MAILING LISTS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange be

prohibited from selling or utilizing mailing lists provided by the Community Granges for non-Grange marketing purposes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Grange be prohibited from selling or utilizing lists provided by the State Granges for non-Grange marketing purposes.

8) RE: NATIONAL PROGRAMS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that 50% of any future dues increases passed at the National level beginning with the 2015 National Session in Lincoln, Nebraska, be earmarked and allocated to programs in place or designed to build and strengthen the Grange throughout the country.

9) RE: PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange go on record supporting and encouraging efforts to change the way courts handle visitation and protection orders to encompass the welfare of all children within each home and to provide the necessary time to heal before any possibility of resuming contact with the offending parent.

10) RE: HEROIN EPIDEMIC

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange voice our support and provide encouragement to develop regional approaches to combat heroin and opiate addiction in Connecticut.

13) RE: JURISDICTION OF EAST CENTRAL & MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the jurisdiction of East Central Pomona #3 now include the following towns with and without active Granges: Granby, East Granby, Simsbury, Avon, Farmington, Glastonbury, East Hartford, Hartford, West Hartford, Bloomfield, Windsor, East Windsor, South Windsor, Windsor Locks, Manchester, Bolton, Vernon, Tolland, Ellington,

Suffield, Enfield, Somers, Stafford, Coventry, Andover, Columbia, Marlborough, and Hebron, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the jurisdiction of Mountain County Pomona #4 now include the following towns with and without active Granges: Salisbury, North Canaan, Canaan, Norfolk Colebrook, Hartland, Barkhamsted, Canton, New Hartford, Torrington, Winchester, Goshen, Cornwall, Sharon, Kent, Warren, Litchfield & Northfield, Harwinton, Burlington, Plymouth, Thomaston, and Morris.

25) RE: MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT KITS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange Membership Committee be tasked with assembling membership development kits to be distributed to the Pomona Granges for use by Subordinate Granges in those Pomonas at any appropriate public event where membership recruitment can be carried out, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these kits consist of materials such as banners, posters, informational fliers, an appropriately themed tablecloth, and ideas for a simple contest with a prize (eg. Guess the number of jelly beans or coins in a jar) to attract people to the table, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that someone from the Membership Committee or other Granger experienced in recruitment be available on request to help Granges with their membership development campaigns.

26) RE: GRANT WRITING

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange work with the Connecticut State Grange Foundation Inc. to contract a grant writer to conduct a seminar or series of such to educate those Granges that are interested on the subject of grant writing as a means to acquire funds to serve their communities.

29) MASTER'S ADDRESS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the address of the Worthy Master be accepted with the heartfelt gratitude of the delegate body and printed in the Journal of Proceedings.

30) RE: REPEALING THE TAX ON GAME BIRDS (Sub for #2)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED we ask that the State of Connecticut repeal the tax on game birds.

31) RE: EMISSIONS (Sub. For 23)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Grange shall encourage the State Legislature to amend existing statutes to allow that the

mileage (odometer reading) now required for an emission inspection be optional and not a mandatory requirement.

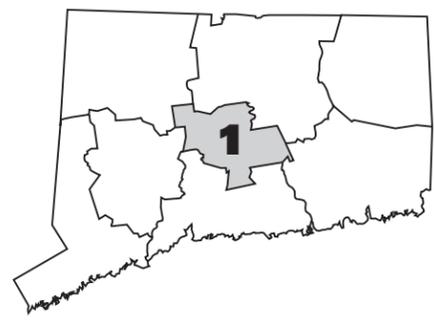
35) RE: RETURNING TOLLS ON CONNECTICUT INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange urge that all revenues collected from the gas tax be returned to the transportation fund before considering the reinstatement of tolls in Connecticut on the major highways, and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the money received be directed into a fund for improving our state's highway infrastructure.

Summary of Action on all Resolutions

- 1) Late Fees on Quarterly Reports. . . . Adopted
- 2) Repeal Game Bird Tax Rej. for Sub. #30
- 3) Returning Tolls on Connecticut Interstate Highways. Rej. for Sub. #35
- 4) Maintaining the Community Investment Funds Adopted
- 5) Federal Road Guidelines Adopted
- 6) Road & Bridge Repair Adopted
- 7) Grange Mailing Lists Adopted
- 8) National Programs. Adopted
- 9) Protection of Children Adopted
- 10) Heroin Epidemic Adopted
- 11) Handicapped Accessibility Funding . Rejected
- 12) Electronic Banking Records Rejected
- 13) Jurisdiction of East Central & Mountain County Pomonas Adopted
- 14) Recording of Degree Work. Rejected
- 15) Courts Rejected
- 16) Plastic Shopping Bags Rejected
- 17) Toilet Paper Rolls Rejected
- 18) Telephone Numbers Rejected
- 19) Age Verification for Social Programs . Rejected
- 20) Forever Prizes Rejected
- 21) Urine Saving Devices Rejected
- 22) Accident Report Fees Rejected
- 23) Emissions Rej. for Sub. #31
- 24) Income Tax. Rejected
- 25) Membership Development Kits Adopted
- 26) Grant Writing Adopted
- 27) Dog Licensing Rejected
- 28) Delegate Response Rejected
- 29) Master's Address. Adopted
- 30) Repeal Game Bird Tax (Sub. for #2) . Adopted
- 31) Emissions (Sub. for #23). Adopted
- 32) Electronic Bank Records (Sub. for #12) Rejected
- 33) Returning Tolls on Connecticut Interstate Highways (Sub. for #3) . . Rejected
- 34) Committee Work. Rejected
- 35) Returning Tolls on Connecticut Interstate Highways (Sub. for #3, 33) Adopted

Central Pomona No. 1



- Central #1
- Southington #25
- Meriden #29
- Higganum #124
- Hemlock #182

CENTRAL POMONA #1

Corr: Cindy Charbonneau

The program at our October meeting was very informative. Master Gardener – Martha Trask di a program about poison plants. We learned what plants are safe and what ones to be careful with.

Our next meeting will be held on December 10th at Hemlock Grange at 7:30 PM. We will be having a potluck supper at 6:00 PM. Each Grange is asked to bring 3 items for our CWA Table: Sweets for Santa. We will be collecting canned goods for a local food pantry. The Grange which brings the most canned goods will get all of them for their local food pantry or soup kitchen. Martha Trask and Cindy Charbonneau are planning the Christmas celebration. Visitors are always most welcome at our meetings.

MERIDEN GRANGE #29

Corr: Cindy Charbonneau

On November 13th our program is about remembering our veterans and honoring them. Our meeting on November 27th will be omitted due to Thanksgiving.

On November 21st, we will be having a Family Style Meatloaf Dinner, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. Adults \$11.00 and children (under 10) \$5.50. Reservations can be made by calling Cindy at 203-237-4617. Take-outs will be available.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Nov. 13: Friday the 13th

Nov. 27: Omit for Thanksgiving

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- Quinebaug #2
- Senexet #40
- Wolf Den #61
- Ekonk Community #89
- Ashford #90
- Putnam #97
- Killingly #112
- Echo #180

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Nov. 18: Turkey Day Tomorrow

Nov. 25: Thanksgiving Pie Sale

We had a busy fall. We had an exhibit at the Woodstock Fair. We had a successful food booth there.

Also, we had our annual Grange Fair and had 100 exhibits from a total of 13 exhibitors. Visitors enjoyed seeing the large display of local vegetables and fruits.

Members of the Grange volunteered to prepare the breakfast during the Celebrating Ag event at the Fairgrounds. The members then prepared and served lunch including corn chowder and hamburgers/hot dogs and desserts.

We elected Danielle Duquette to serve as Chaplain and Amanda Jackson to serve as Executive Committee member.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Elsie Johnson

Nov. 11: Some Old & New; Legislative Comm.; Ref. Doughnuts and Cookies

Dec. 9: Christmas Contest, Ref. Christmas Cookies

Winter is on its way – with all that good stuff like ice and snow and wind. Think about the shoveling and those who use wood stoves, getting in wood. I hope you cleaned out the chimney. If I sound a little “down” – at age 90 I guess I am – give me back summer. Gardens are done – had a good yield of potatoes. Lots and lots of apples everywhere. A “huge” donation of tabs, about 40 lbs. of tabs were brought in. A few labels were also received.

Leaves – leaves – leaves- they can become slippery – so be careful. Health will be better- get those flu shots.

We passed our yearly inspection.

Stay healthy and warm.

ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

Nov. 10: “Give Thanks”

Nov. 24: Omit

We held our Ham and Bean Supper on Sept. 19th. We

want to thank Stearns Farm Stand for their donation of several kinds of pies for our supper. They were greatly appreciated. We will be meeting only once a month

from Nov. to March on the second Tuesday.

We will have our Tag and Bake Sale on Nov. 21st.

Legislative year

Continued from page one...

the session. This last year was a budget year and the Governor proposed a budget which raided many special funds. Many organizations worked hard to prevent the money from these funds from being moved to the general fund to cover his budget expenditures. We carefully watched the Community Investment Fund which funds farmland preservation and other projects. The Governor had proposed that all existing funds in the Community Investmet Fund as well as future funds be moved to the General Fund. The Grange did testify opposing the transfer of funds from the Community Investment Fund to the General Fund. Not all of the funds were saved but the entire amount was not wiped out.

One important bill that was passed and signed by the Government allows the Department of Agriculture to reimburse farmers who are leasing State and town land for up to 90% of the cost of implementing a farm restoration program. The Grange testified in support of this bill.

As a result of a resolution from last year’s session, one bill that Gordon testified on was SB 518 – An Act Concerning Driving with a Pet on the Driver’s Lap. Gordon’s testimony was picked up by the news organizations there. We understand WTIC radio as well as the *Hartford Courant* ran articles about our support for this bill. This article was also picked up by national news organizations and we understand it was in the *Boston Globe* along with a few other out of area newspapers.

We testified in support of Raised Bill

6731- An Act Concerning the Treatment of Certain Farm Land for Purpose of the Estate Tax. That bill would exempt farmlands in estates classified as farmland under the 490 program from being included in the estate for taxes.

In May, I along with Bruce Graham and Gordon Gibson attended the Legislative Fly-In in Washington, D.C. We were briefed by the National Grange on some issues then spent time on Capitol Hill visiting with our Connecticut Senators and Congressmen. The National Grange Legislative Director, Burton Eller, has been regularly sending out legislation bulletins to the state directors as to what is happening in Washington.

Bruce and I attended the Northeast Regional Leaders’ Conference that was held in New Hampshire in January. Gordon Gibson attended the Working Lands Alliance annual meeting as well as their regular meetings during the year. The Grange is a partner of this organization. Both Gordon and I attended the Connecticut Agriculture Day that was held at the Capitol in March. We spoke with many different legislators that day. We were pleased that Governor Malloy and Commissioner Revitzky stopped by the Connecticut State Grange booth for a photo.

I would like to thank our State President, Noel Miller, for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Legislative Director this year. I also wish to extend thanks to my committee, Charles Dimmick, Russell Gray, George Ward, and our liaison Gordon Gibson for their work and support.

Quinebaug dines out



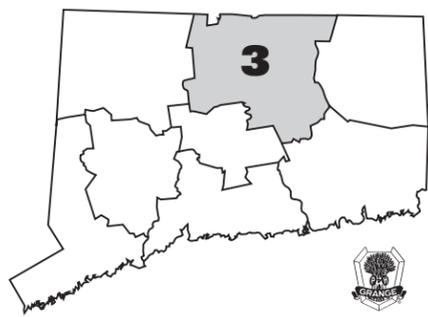
Pomona Dinner Out at Wrights Farm Restaurant in RI 14 out for a nice dinner and friendship.



Killingly Grange #112

Thank you for sewing with us. A great time was had by all. Our upcoming class will be hemming pants/jeans.

East Central Pomona No. 3



- East Central #3
- Granby #5
- Glastonbury #26
- Manchester #31
- Vernon #52
- Coventry #75
- Hillstown #87
- Enfield #151
- Simbury #197

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3

Corr: Noel Miller

Nov. 7: "Past & Present"
– Host Glastonbury #26

We welcome a new Lady Assistant Steward Pat Ridzon of Coventry who will finish Sister Doris Nordstrom, whose knees bother her marching. We thank you Doris for the time you gave us and kept Robert in step and at the right station during degrees. We had one member take the Fifth Degree, and hope to see them again. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Nov. 5: Meeting 7:30 We Give Thanks

Nov. 14: Monte-Carlo Whist Card Party 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 3: Party Time

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

Here it is time to think about news for the November Connecticut Granger. I am not ready for this time of year. My clock is still on August.

November program is "We Give Thanks". That sounds like Thanksgiving to me. We will be asking members to bring in non-perishable food items for the Glastonbury Social Service Department. They will be making up Thanksgiving Baskets for folks in town.

At our September meeting we brought in childrens toys for the Social Service Department. We collected 43 toys for their Toy Department. They did say that they could use non-perishable items as their shelves were getting bare.

We delivered Dictionaries to Nayaug School for the 3rd grade class on Sept. 23rd. The children were so happy to receive them. They couldn't thank us enough.

More next month.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

Nov. 6: The Holidays are Around the Corner. Are you ready?"

The holidays are coming up fast. Members of Vernon Grange will be bringing their tips on how to make life easier. They will share

fun things to do during the season, along with sharing family traditions.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

Nov. 5: Veteran's Day, Ref. Steve Williams

Note that the calendar is wrong for Nov. and Dec. We meet the first Thursday, due to possible weather with make-up meeting on the third Thursday. We will be buttoning up the hall for the winter and having a donation basket for a family for Thanksgiving.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Nov. 14: We Stuff the Bird

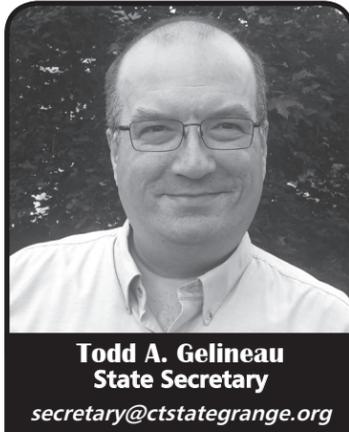
Dec. 12: Old Man Winter

In October our local Farmer's Market will close for the year and we have had a very successful run. Thank you to anyone who made items to sell, to those who helped set up and take down our booth and especially those who were there to greet people and talk about the Grange. We look forward to next year and hope many more volunteers will step up. We added 2 affiliate members to our Grange Family in September. Conrad and Jacqueline Krupa have decided to join us and we welcome them.

Our entry at the 4 Town fair took a blue ribbon for best Grange display. The Fair is open to any Grange in the state that would like to enter and there is no fee. It is not limited to the local 4 towns for which the Fair is named.

In September we said good-by to the Pastor of Faith Baptist Church where we meet. We hope he is successful wherever his next post is. Rev. Stout is a friendly, cheerful man who always was there to help us and we wish him well.

Our little monthly raffle is off and running for this year. Bring those white elephants that are taking up space, you know the old saying about one man's trash is another man's treasure. You might find a treasure. Start bringing in mittens, hats and scarves for our annual donation to Enfield Day Care.



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

Another State Session is in the books! Thank you to everyone who helped make it a success. The number of members attending session this year was down a bit. Unfortunately the decrease in attendance caused an increase in the cost of the hotel. We remind all members that State Session isn't just for Delegates and State Officers. All members are encouraged to attend all or part of State Session. The Board of Directors is looking at ways to make Session more attractive to all members to attend. Please let me know if you have any suggestions. Workshops and different types of programming are just a couple of areas we will be considering.

The annual State Grange publications are in the works and I need your help. For the Community & Pomona Granges, please send in your material for the Directory if you haven't already done so. For State Officers & Committees, please send in your material for the Blue Book and Journal of Proceedings as soon as possible if you haven't already done so.

The new Quarterly Report forms have been

State Secretary

sent to Granges as soon as the third quarter's reports have been received. I haven't heard any comments so that means there are no questions or they haven't been reviewed. In either case, please let me know if you have any questions, comments or suggestions.

Our beautiful new Past Master and Past Lecturer pins are now available through the Central Office. The pins are \$10 each plus shipping & handling (if applicable). Barker Specialty did a beautiful job producing these for us.

The new Grange Hall Calendars are also available through the Central Office for \$13 each (plus shipping & handling, if applicable). They are limited edition and would

make wonderful gifts for the holidays.

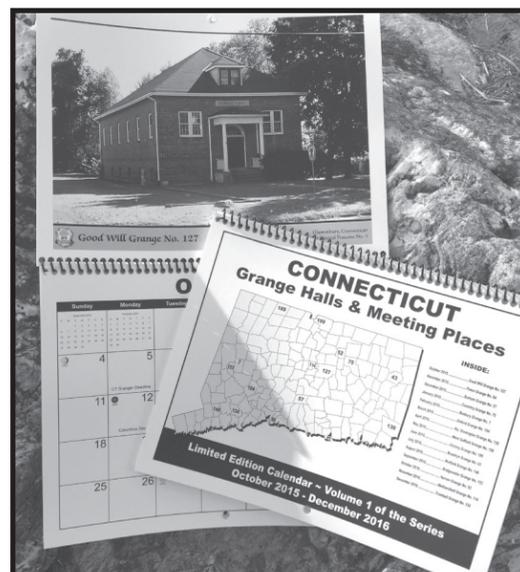
We have been working over the last year to develop a Grange Store for the members of the Connecticut State Grange. This was our first State Session with a full store up and running. Special thanks to Edith Schoell and Ruth Herbele for manning the store all three days. The Store had over \$1,300 in sales during Session. This means that over \$1,000 in non-dues related income will go back into the State Grange treasury. Whenever possible, please consider making purchases through the State Grange Store. You will be getting quality products at reasonable prices and you will also be helping to delay any future dues increases.

Past Master & Lecturer Pins Now Available!



These new beautiful Past Master & Past Lecturer pins are now available through the Central Office. The pins are gold metal and the Grange "ribbon" is in dark blue. Pins are \$10.00 each plus shipping and handling (if applicable). Please call (860) 633-7550 or (860) 307-1522 or email: Secretary@CTStateGrange.org for more information. These pins were produced with Barker Specialty of Cheshire, CT and are only available through the Connecticut State Grange.

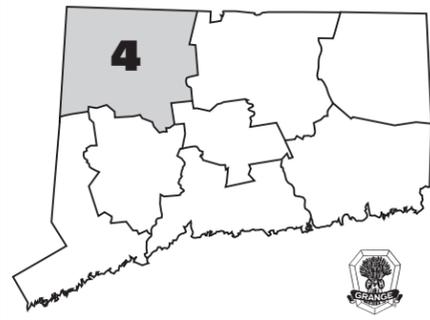
A great holiday gift...



The 2015 - 2016 Connecticut Grange calendars featuring historic pictures of Grange Halls and meeting places across our state are now available. GET YOURS WHILE THEY LAST! Sales at State Session were even better than expected! The first edition spotlights 15 Granges representing 11 different Pomonas. These collectible calendars are now available for sale through the state office for \$13.00. Supplies are limited so get your copy soon!

Please call (860) 633-7550 or (860) 307-1522 or email: Secretary@CTStateGrange.org for more information.

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



- Mountain County #4
- Cawasa #34
- Eureka #62
- Winchester #74
- Taghannuck #100
- Litchfield #107
- Beacon #118
- Riverton #169

MOUNTAINCOUNTYPOMONA#4

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Nov. 9: Eureka Grange Hall

The Fifth Degree was conferred on one new member at our October meeting. We welcome Faith Quinlan Maus of Winchester Grange as the newest member of Pomona.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, November 9 at Eureka Grange Hall. As always, meetings begin at 7:30 P.M. and all are welcome.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Nov. 10: America the Beautiful; Ref. Marie Steiner & Bonnie Farrell

Nov. 24: Give Thanks; Ref. Pam Wright & Donald Fancher

Oct. 17 was the third annual Iceland Affair at Winchester Grange Hall. Gerri Griswold of WTIC and White Memorial puts on this annual program full of the sights, sounds and tastes of Iceland. It was successful and we look forward to next year.

Due to low response from vendors, the Holiday Bazaar and Cookie Walk has been canceled. Instead, the Cookie Walk will be held in conjunction with our December Super Prize Party.

Until next time, have a wonderful Thanksgiving.... Can't believe it's time to say that!

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Shirley Moore

Nov. 6: Pot-luck Supper – 6:30, Cindy & Mark Prelli, Regular Meeting – 7:30

Program: The Harvest March

Dec. 4 & 5: Christmas in Riverton

Dec.18: Regular Meeting; Program: Lessons of Ruth; Ref.: Gail Prelli & Charlie Bierce

At the October meeting our Lecturer had an interesting program entitled "Diligent Labor" when those present were asked how to explore their career paths and then, through questions and self reflection determined where they might have had a different path in their careers. Our grange was busy over Riverton Fair weekend, serving over 250 dinners. Thanks especially to Phil Prelli and Deb Hodge and to all the others who helped with preparation, cooking and serving.

Christmas in Riverton will be held on Dec. 4 & 5, when the Village is highlighted with candles in homes and along Route 20. Our grange lecturer, Dawn Anstett, will again be sponsoring a Christmas Tree Decorating Contest. Trees are sold to individuals and businesses for \$10.00. The decorated trees are judged by the public as they stroll through the magical village of Riverton. We ask that those attending this event make a donation of canned goods to be distributed to the Food Banks in the area.

Following our meeting on Dec. 18, we will enjoy a "Secret Santa Grab Bag". Those who would like to participate are asked to bring a wrapped gift not to exceed \$10.00.

We welcome all who would like to join us at any of our meetings. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

All Granges win with Publicity

Public Relations: 2015-2016 Contests Announced

The Public Relations committee is offering three contests for 2016, all with a deadline of October 1, 2016. It's easy to participate. Let's take a quick peek at each one.

1) Promote Your Grange Creative Video Contest: Create a video promoting your Grange. The video can be any length, and of any theme.

2) Best Cooperative Partnership Contest: An integral part of Grange public relations is partnering with other local

groups and organizations. This could be a co-hosted event, a co-sponsorship of a project or initiative, a project to benefit or honor a group/organization, and so much more! Write a description of how your Grange has integrated/ utilized a Cooperative Partnership, and include a photo to accompany the description if appropriate.

3) Social Media Participation Contest: Create a Buzz about your Grange, its projects, activities and events by managing a proper Facebook or Twitter Page.

This contest is open to all Community Granges, Pomona Granges and Junior Granges. Pages must be active at any point within the period of November 1, 2015 - October 1, 2016.

All of the details, rules, and information for the contests can be found on the Connecticut State Grange website at www.CTStateGrange.org, and will also be available in the Blue Book. Entries should be mailed to Robert Charbonneau, 102 Spring Street, Meriden CT 06451, or sent via e-mail to publicrelations@ctstategrange.org.

My Favorite Place in Connecticut



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

lecturer@ctstategrange.org

MY FAVORITE SPOT IN CONNECTICUT By Emily Alexander, North Haven Grange #35

My Favorite Spot In Connecticut is my front porch. When I get time off I enjoy our porch. When it's nice out I have my ice coffee, sometimes lunch, or a snack out there. I visit with family and friends on our porch. It's not very big, but I just add a chair or two or people sit on the steps. The neighbors come by with their kids and a little dog. The kids come up and say hello and look at the cats in the window and watch the pinwheels in

the flower pots go around. Halloween I have a party on the porch. Our old neighbor comes with her dog and we dress up. We have junk food, play weird music and give out candy. The kids and grown-ups seem to enjoy it. Sometimes it rains, snows, or it's hot, but it is still my favorite spot.

Above is the First Place Winner in our Essay Contest. Surprisingly most of the entries were on our homes and yards. This contest will continue next year. All you do is write 150 words or less on "My Favorite Spot In Connecticut".

The other winners in this contest were 2nd Place, Sue Gray of Ekonk Grange who wrote about her farm home kitchen and 3rd Philip Rowland of Oxford Grange who told a story about his own back yard. All three winning entries will be in the next Lecturers' Newsletter.

Winners in the Complete Program Contest were

1st Susan Pianka of North Stonington Grange, 2nd Clifford Gervais of Ekonk Grange, and, 3rd Emily Alexander of North Haven Grange. These programs will be posted on the State Grange Website.

Honor Lecturer Awards went to the Lecturers of Cheshire, North Haven and Lyme Granges.

Lecturer Appreciation Awards went to 19 Granges. Nine Granges were recognized for their participation in our Should Auld Acquaintance Program, and nine for their participation in "A Word From Home".

It is the beginning of a new year. Now is the time to get started on these projects for 2016. A complete list of projects and contests for Lecturers and their Granges will be send with the next newsletter.

It was nice to see so many of you at State Session and I hope to see you around the State in the near future.



CSG Student Loans Available

Did you know the Connecticut State Grange offers Student Loans to Grange members? To be eligible, an applicant must be a member in good standing of a Connecticut Community/Subordinate Grange. All applications must be signed by the Secretary and Master of the applicant's Grange, certifying that the applicant is a member in good standing and is worthy of the loan.

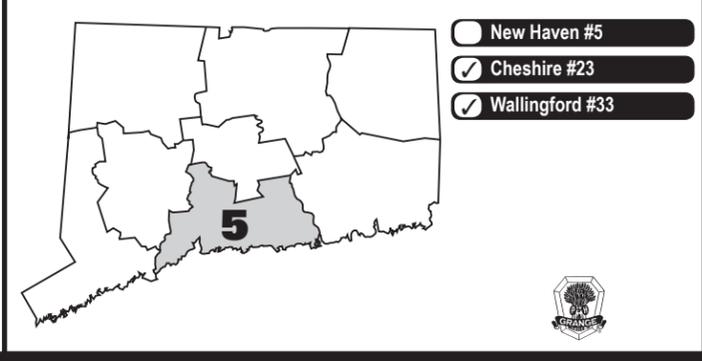
Upon approval of the Board of Trustees, a loan, not to exceed \$1,000 may be made to a Freshman after successfully completing the first semester; a loan not to exceed \$2,500 may be made, upon correct application, to a Sophomore, Junior and Senior. A Graduate Student may receive a loan not to exceed \$2,500 a year. Loans of not over \$2,500 may be made to Patrons desiring to enter training for certain professions.

All notes must be endorsed by two financially responsible persons (not husband and wife), who are acceptable to the Board of Trustees. If the borrower is a minor, the note must be co-signed by the parent or guardian.

Interest will not accrue on any loan while the borrower is attending undergraduate school, Upon graduation or leaving school, interest will be charged at a rate of 5% per annum. Payments will begin immediately after graduation to the Secretary of the State Grange.

For more information contact the Central Office at (860) 633-7550 or Secretary@CTStateGrange.org.

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Nov. 4: Young at Heart (Youth Program)

Nov. 18: Annual Thanksgiving Dinner 6:30PM

Cheshire Grange is up and running in our new Grange year. Our Monday craft nights continue making favors for our shut-ins and others for the upcoming Christmas season. Our fair, again this year, was very successful. We are planning a fund raising dinner in early November for a local hiking club which have been doing for many, many years. New Haven County Pomona meetings will now be held at Cheshire Grange. We are collecting food for the Cheshire Food Bank and continue to send packages to our troops on a regular basis. Receiving thank you letters from them, makes this project very worthwhile. We are once again this year, participating in the Words for Thirds project, distributing dictionaries to all of the third graders in the Cheshire School district.

Several of our members attended the annual session

of the Connecticut State Grange.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Dan Lauttenbach

Nov. 12 "History of Thanksgiving" Program:

Jim, Ref: Dan

Nov. 26 Thanksgiving. No Meeting.

Sept 10 – Fair Work Night. We met early, had a short meeting to discuss business and arranged the hall for the fair. Afterwards we had a pizza.

Sept 19th – 81st Wallingford Grange Fair. We had sunny and dry weather. There was an increase in the number of entries in the canning department. This year we had a large pumpkin on display and there were plenty of flowers and vegetables; considering it has been a very dry summer. We had a number of vendors on our front lawn and the food booth was doing a good business selling hamburgers and hot dogs. Our chicken barbecue was well attended. We served nearly 150 dinners in all. All in all it was a pretty good turnout.

Cheshire #23



Our Monday Night Group finished our puppy dog stockings with a pen inside. We also got started on another project which looked so easy, but it sure isn't. Next meeting Monday, Oct. 5th.

54,970 Hours of Community Service

Sharon & George Russell, Co-Directors

As this was our first year as Community Service chairmen, we were not sure of what the responsibilities included. We attended the Leadership Conference in January where we learned the much needed information to help get started. We also listened to past reports and looked at other past projects. As we prepared the information to pass on to the Granges, we band to look forward to September when all of the completed projects would arrive. By the end of August, all of the reports were received. We had reports from 21 Granges. We were very impressed with all of these Granges and the great work they do for their communities. We again divided the reports into two categories: Granges with membership of 50 or less and those with a membership of 51 and over.

These include: Redding #15, Cheshire #23, Manchester #31, Glastonbury #26, Cawasa #34, North Haven #35, Vernon #52, Winchester #74, Colchester #78, Ekonk Community #89, Whigville #48, Taghannuck #100, Bethlehem #121, Prospect #144, North Stonington #138, Lyme #147, Stonington #168, Riverton #169, Norwich #172, Oxford #194, Ekonk Comm. Jr. #101.

From the reports, information was gathered and recorded. In total, the 21 Granges performed 54,970 hours in their communities. This included work at fairs, soup kitchens and various similar places. Granges collected coats for homeless, 200 lbs. of food for rescue animals, making bat houses and two Granges donated 120 lbs. of seed potatoes and string bean seeds to a local FFA so they could plant, grow and then donate the harvest to soup kitchens. The Dictionary Project: *Words for Thirds*, is still a popular project among the Granges. Four of the Granges presented dictionaries to four schools in their town.

Our judges were impressed with the

work all the Granges have done in their communities.

This year winners in the Granges with under 50 members are:

3rd Place Oxford #194. They put on a "Home on the Grange Share and Learn Event" and they sponsor an "open mic" night each month.

2nd Place Prospect #144. They collected used coats and winter wear for the homeless and donated seeds for the community garden.

1st Place Stonington #168. Provided 20 Christmas gifts to the "Christmas Angel Program" for children and donated to Wounded Warrior's Project.

The winners in the Granges with over 51 members are:

3rd Place Lyme #147. they collected vegetables to help 11 families and donated to the Food Pantry and Soup Kitchens in their community.

2nd Place Cheshire #23. Members distributed dictionaries from the Dictionary Project to four schools in their town and donated to the Cheshire Food Pantry.

1st Place. Ekonk Community #89. Helped a family in the community with a 12 year old son who needed a liver transplant by putting on a fundraiser to assist with the medical costs and they earned \$783.00 for Relay for Life.

Best of Show: Ekonk Community #89

Their notebook will be sent to National Grange in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Junior Grange Community Service awards will be given out at the luncheon on Saturday. The first place winner was: Ekonk Jr. Grange.

We would like to sincerely thank all of the Granges for their participation and a job well done with the projects and reports.

Connecticut Granges have done an exceptional job serving their communities! We are very proud of the good work you all have accomplished.



Hank's Dijon Beets

Give thanks for family and friends by making this Food.com Thanksgiving recipe into a new family tradition!

- 4 medium beets
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon sugar



Directions: Wash beets. Cut off tops. Put beets in a pot with water to cover them. Bring beets to a boil, covered. Cook until tender when pierced with a fork. Drain and cool. Slice beets into 1/4 inch slices. Combine remaining ingredients. Pour over beets. Stir to combine. Serve warm or let marinate in the fridge for a couple hours.

Source: <http://www.food.com/recipe/dijon-beets-58086>

New London County Pomona No. 6



- New London County #6
- Colchester #78
- Pachaug #96
- Preston City #110
- N. Stonington Comm. #138
- Lyme #147
- Stonington #168
- Norwich #172
- Groton Community #213

NEW LONDON CTY. POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller
Nov. 13: Raffle Drawing, N. Stonington
Dec. 14: Reinder Games, Colchester

Our Labor Day program was a fun mixture of poetry and song. We met downstairs at Pachaug Grange. The interior of the hall has been totally refurbished by the church and is very different from the Pachaug of old. Hopefully you have purchased your raffle tickets for the Pomona raffle. We will learn the winners at North Stonington Grange on November 13. Good luck to all.

We will meet at Colchester in December for our holiday program. Hope to see a big crowd there.

It's time for Thanksgiving so start making pies.

The lovely fall leaves are a fest for the eyes.

Let's try to be happy and not criticize.

And hope that the winter won't be a surprise.

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Bonne Trecarten

At our October meeting we welcomed Ted Beebe, Master Norwich Grange, and State Membership Representative, Ted Powell, Master Lyme Grange, and Lois Evankow, Lecturer Lyme Grange, and Flora of East Central Pomona. We appreciate all of your continuing contributions to our Grange meetings.

Our Grange was pleased to make a donation to the Haitian Health Foundation for National Make a Difference Day. We continue with our community service projects in several areas including a collection of needed items for Veterans in Jewett City in partnership with the American Legion and VFW Ladies Auxiliary.

Member Polly Leonard has donated 1000 lbs of fresh produce from Leonards Farm to local food banks during this years growing season. Many thanks to Polly for this outstanding contribution. As always, we continue our volunteer programs and Apple Rehab and Harrington Court

facilities.

Colchester Grange would like to extend congratulations to our Bacon Academy scholarship recipients: Katherine Brice who will be attending Assumption College and studying Environmental Sciences, and Mitchell Hallee who will be attending Princeton and studying a variety of agricultural and environmental sciences. Mitchell established a garden at Bacon Academy that provided food for their cafeteria during the school year. Good luck to both students as they enter their college years.

Cathy Russi, our CWA representative has an exciting trip to Amish Country planned for the first week end in May 2016 titled "Sight and Sound". Please contact Cathy for information.

Hope everyone can take time to get outside and enjoy the crisp air and beautiful colors of our New England Fall.

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Nov. 13: "Elicit a Few Wows Today"

Nov. 27: "Get Through It" No Meeting Happy Thanksgiving

At our September 11 meeting we welcomed Christine Johnson who gave a very interesting and informative program on Alzheimer's disease. She brought lots of information to pass out to the audience. There are still a few packets available if anyone is interested.

On September 25 we learned about schools and were treated to two skits - one about school in 1915 and one set in 2015. What a difference!

Our November program will feature Sheri Bolt and her therapy dog. We will host the drawing of the NLCP raffle at 8 P.M. And if those big old acorns will stop bouncing off the top of my car every time I go up the driveway, next time we'll tell you all about ostentatious October.



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange Friends!

I started the month by attending Fairfield County Pomona at Redding Grange for Installation of Officers. It's good to see so many Grange friends.

I continued to visit the New England Grange Building at the Big E and met some new friends too! It was a lot of work and a lot of fun too - and was sad to pack it up until next year.

Noel then took me to his Fire Department's Open House. I got to see some very impressive firetrucks and equipment.

Then it was time for the Annual Session of the CT State Grange. My friend Allie the Llama from Rhode Island came to say hello. It was so much fun to see my Grange friends from all across the State - and meet new friends Jim and Tricia from New Hampshire too! The 6th Degree was beautiful, and the Celebration Banquet was fun - and had great food. It was a great few days!

What adventures will November hold?

If you haven't already liked my Facebook page, please take a minute to follow the link and click the "Like" button. <http://www.facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>

Be sure to say Hello if you see me around the State!



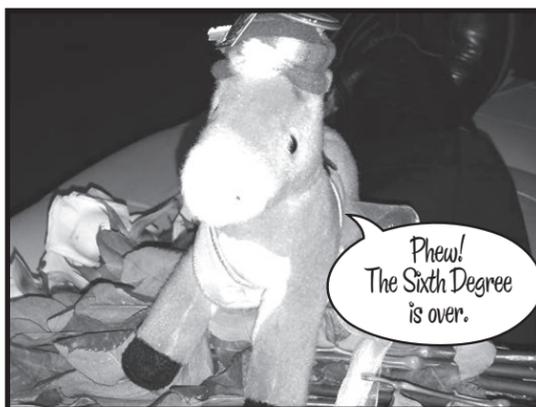
It was a great Big E... all packed up!



Hey look! I'm a fire fightin' Burro!



Hey look! I'm a law abiding Burro!

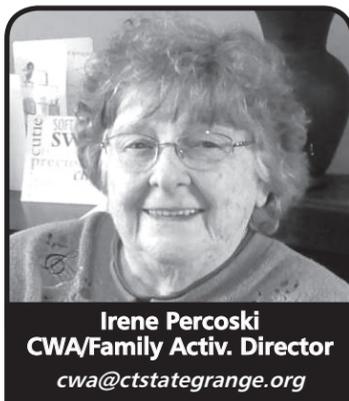


Phew! The Sixth Degree is over.



Visiting my friends at Fairfield County Pomona

And the winners were



Irene Percoski
 CWA/Family Activ. Director
cwa@ctstategrange.org

State Session is over and a new CWA year is here. The biggest change this year will be the date and place for the State needlework judging. It will not be held at Celebrate. Our Harvest of Handicrafts will take place at Hillstown Grange Hall in

East Hartford on July 30-31, 2016. I hope the extra time to make your entries will result in a larger number of people entering. Don't forget, non-Grangers are eligible to enter. Judging will take place on the 30th at 12:00 noon. Details for breakfast and/or luncheon on the 31st are not complete yet. Stay tuned. Congratulations to all the Granges that received their certificate of Excellence. The efforts that each Grange has put forth to help out in their community are what CWA/family Activities is all about. As your State director I commend you and thank you all.

Congratulations to the

Connecticut winners at the Big E.

Class A - Afghans - 2nd Place - Elizabeth Lubin - Beacon Valley #103

Class B - Doilies - 1st Place - Josephine Fazzino - Beacon Valley #103

Class D - Baby Set - 2nd Place - Maureen Taylor - Colchester #78

Class E - Plastic Canvas - 2nd Place - Joan Ziegler - Redding #15

Class F - Counted Cross Stitch - 1st Place - Mariellen Baster - Vernon #52

Class H - Latch Hook - 2nd Place - Dorothy Joselovitz - Redding #15

Class K - Baby Afghan - 2nd Place - Dorothy Joselovitz - Redding #15

Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- Excelsior #7
- Beacon Valley #103
- Bethlehem #121
- Prospect #144
- Bridgewater #153
- Wolcott #173
- Oxford #194



BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

Nov. 23: Neighbor's Night

Town Historian Joe Shapenis will present the program. Canned food collection. Refreshments all members.

On November 21 we will have our Holiday Flea Market from 9:00 – 1:00 P.M. Tables still available by calling Linda at 203-264-8151.

On December 14 we will meet at 7:30 P.M. \$5.00 grab bag gift. Christmas dinner plans will be announced. Refreshments: Christmas Cookies. All members.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

The Bridgewater Grange continues to be an active part of the community. We had a picnic and meeting at the Bridgewater Pavilion on August 12th. We made plans for our upcoming activities.

The Grange had a booth at the Bridgewater Fair on August 21st to the 23rd. Members Riva Martin and Graham Baldwin organized a Farmers Market at the Fair on Sat and Sun. Laura Miller also helped out at the booth and had her animals on display in another area. She has some amazing "shaggy cows".

We had a special meeting on August 26th to prepare for our Harvest Celebration. Nancy Stewart, a chef from the Silo in New Milford, went over what we needed

to do. Neil Olshansky and Riva Martin also had major roles in this event. We also had a regular meeting on Wed Sept 9th and mostly went over our preparation for the upcoming dinner.

The Bridgewater Grange Harvest Celebration was held on Sat September 12th at the Bridgewater Pavilion from 4 PM to 8 PM. Despite many competing events we had a good crowd. We also had two bands for entertainment. The first band had a long time member of the Grange and the Treasurer of Excelsior Pomona, Ron Fischer. The food was mostly from local farms and all fresh produce. We hope to continue to use as much fresh food as possible in all our future dinners.

On Sunday September 13th several of our members participated in the Bridgewater Tractor parade. Our Assistant Steward Hazel Pitcher got an award for community service. Hazel is in her 90's and she walks 2 miles every morning. She is active in her church, Saint Marks, as well as the Senior Center, the Grange and many community events.

On Thursday October 1st the Grange will have an informational meeting open to the public at Saint Marks church at 7 PM. The topic will be about the proposed agricultural science program at Shepaug High School.

Holiday Market & Tag Sale



Bethlehem Grange #121 will be holding a Holiday Flea Market and Tag Sale on Saturday, November 21 from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. We are actively seeking vendors who may reserve table spaces for \$25.00 by calling Rob Buck at 203-267-6796 or Linda Coad at 203-264-8151. The public is invited to come and browse for bargains. The event will be held at Memorial Hall in Bethlehem, which is located at the intersection of Rte. 61 and 132.

The Grange, FFA, and 4H

From "Raised in a Barn.org" by Breanna Viles

Recently I heard the word "Grange" for the first time. I had no clue about what Grange was or stood for. I soon learned all about it and just knew I had to share it with everyone. We have all heard of FFA and 4H, Grange is hardly mentioned. I had so much fun writing this and learning the history of Grange. I found some awesome facts that I have to share!

Grange is what started FFA and 4H. The Grange brought the first orange to California in 1877, and one of the two original Washington Navel Orange trees in California stands in the Mission Courtyard in Riverside. Women have always had an equal voice with men since the inception of the organization. Plus, Grange was instrumental in formulating Land Grant Colleges.

I had the privilege of being introduced to Grange by Nessa Palmateer, who is a member of the Santa Clara Valley Grange. "Grange is smaller than FFA and 4H, and is run by a master, John Inglis. It's mainly for small towns that don't have a lot of money," Nessa said. Santa Clara Valley Grange was started in 1867. Currently they have about 30 kids and 18 adults.

Grange doesn't get a lot of recognition because it is so much smaller than FFA and 4H. I know that for now on I am going to be including Grange in more of my blogs. These kids deserve as much recognition as the FFA and 4H kids.

"Grange is unique because you have to be recommended by a member to join, and then you have to be voted in. It's run by the adults," Nessa added. Nessa's school doesn't have a 4H or FFA, but they have Grange. Her cousin was in Grange and introduced her to the group, and she was



excited to join. they have 17 swine exhibitors, 12 goat kids, 4 steer kids and one member that raises turkeys.

"I compete at Ventura County Fair, but our goat kids show at Santa Barbara Fair and Expo, Ventura County Fair and Antelope Valley Alfalfa Festival," Nessa added.

Raised in a Barn would like to recognize all of the Granges out there. You guys are all awesome, and good luck in your upcoming competitions!



Simsbury Grange Canning Event

Simsbury Grange #197 recently held a canning and jamming event. It was a great success! Thanks to Linda Thompson for her knowledge and expertise in guiding us to create mint jelly, stewed tomatoes and applesauce.

Granger Address Changes

Name: _____

Grange: _____ No. _____

OLD ADDRESS:

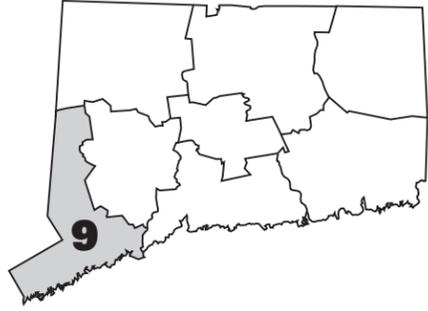
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

NEW ADDRESS:

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please clip and mail to:
 Connecticut Granger, P.O. Box 1393,
 Glastonbury, CT 06033
 or email: Granger@CTStateGrange.org

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



- Fairfield County #9
- Redding #15
- Harmony #92
- Greenfield Hill #133
- Norfield #146
- Cannon #152



HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: George Ward
Nov. 13: Regular Meeting, Refreshments at 6:30, Meeting at 7:30 Lecturer's program to be announced.

Harmony Grange has postponed its 125th anniversary, originally scheduled on October 4, 2015 to Sunday, April 3, 2016 to give our members more time to fully plan, prepare and organize the event to meet the dual purpose for celebration and member recruitment.

With the assistance from the Connecticut State Grange Membership Committee, Harmony Grange has received eight new members and has received two more members by demits. At our September meeting,

The welcoming ceremony was conducted on four of the new members and one other member by Brother Robert Buck, Steward of the Connecticut State Grange and other Grange members.

Our Christmas Boutique has been scheduled for December 5. More information will be forthcoming.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich
Nov. 16: Thanksgiving, Dinner 6 P.M., Meeting 8 P.M.

In September, we hosted Fairfield County Pomona's regular meeting, which was preceded by a dinner. At our monthly meeting, we learned this year's Fair was a financial success, although we would have liked more exhibitors and attendees. A Tomato Tasting in daytime and a Cabaret Show in evening rounded out the month's events.

During the summer, the future Junior Grangers were active, one Saturday morning, with jam making. For information on Junior Grange activities being planned, contact Cindy Wakeman-D'Andrea at (203) 243-1887 or email her at cak631201@aol.com.

Our regular meeting on November 6th will be preceded by a Thanksgiving Dinner at 6 P.M. The meeting is scheduled for 8 P.M. Contact our officers to coordinate the side dishes.

Also take time to reflect on things for which we should give thanks!

Something this correspondent is already grateful for is the enthusiastic presentation on membership recruitment techniques, which was held the first Saturday of October in Cheshire Grange.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger
Nov. 5: Business Meeting

Nov. 12: Special Event - presentation by Superintendent of Schools
Nov. 21: Acoustic Night, 7:30 P.M.

Dec. 3: Business Meeting
Dec. 5: Holiday Market (10 AM - 4 PM)

Dec. 17: Holiday Party

Our Grange sponsored and held a Forum for the 1st selectman candidates on October 1. Our forum was the first event in town for the public to meet the candidates, helping to kick off the election season. A large attendance, two hours of questions and answers all made for a splendid evening with the Grange Hall as the center of activity.

A delicious dinner was prepared and served on October 3 by our president, Doug Shepherd, to celebrate our recent Agricultural Fair and all of the Best of Show ribbon winners. Grange members receiving award items during the evening included: our two junior members, Anna Clark (receiving a Youth Grange carrying bag) and Sara Shepherd (receiving Grange cookie cutters), and John

Kriz, Bil Mikulewicz and Michele Clark (each receiving the marble Grange paperweight).

Our Grange is sponsoring a public forum for town residents on November 12 when the Superintendent of Schools will be presenting his views of education in town and what goes into preparing the Board of Ed. budget. Should be another well-attended program.

Please note our Holiday Market scheduled for Saturday, December 5th. Now in its third year, our Holiday Market hosts some very fine local vendors who offer their hand made wares of clothing and crafts, printed note cards, plants, holiday decorations,

handmade chocolates and much more. The Market resembles the Christmas Markets seen throughout Europe, complete with Gluhwein, light snacks, music and even a visit with Santa and an Elf or two scheduled to arrive at noon. The Holiday Market is not to be missed!

We welcome back to membership Rita and David Anspach, CarolAnne and Dan Keely and welcome into membership Victoria Guaglianone; all of whom came via our recent Agricultural Fair!

Please note our meeting and event schedule. Visiting Patrons are always welcome - won't you join us?



Granger Shout Out



Andy Olson who is receiving his 60 year seal at Taghannuck's Harvest Awards Dinner on Nov. 12th.



A shout out to all who entered the CWA contests, they are all winners.
 - From the Family Activities Committee



Shout Out from Cannon Grange to: Doug Shepherd for preparing and serving a terrific German-style Oktoberfest dinner of pork tenderloin & applesauce, red cabbage, potato salad, butternut squash and handmade apple strudel. DELICIOUS!

Submit your Shout-Outs today!
 Granger@CTStateGrange.org
 Mail to: P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, Connecticut 06069

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 history to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of 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.



We heard from Alma Graham on the October photo. From left to right — Nancy Whitehouse, Mrs. Weeks, ?, Ellsworth Weeks, Joyce Weeks Roscoe, and Ellsworth Covell. The photo is from Echo Grange. Alma also confirmed the answer for the September photo as Ralph Ingalls, and Helen Coombs.





Michelle DeDominicis
State Junior Grange Director
juniors@ctstategrange.org

Michelle DeDominicis,
Junior Grange Director

It's 2015, do you know where your children are?

With reality TV, YouTube, iPods, and smart phones, our world is constantly changing. With the plethora of information and distractions right at our fingertips, we really need to ask ourselves, "Do you know where your Grange children are?"

With a raise of hands:

- How many Granges donate dictionaries to local school children?

- How many Granges support the Foster Children

Junior Grange

program?

- The State Grange Scholarship Fund?

- Support Camp Berger?

- Support Connecticut's Junior Grangers?

For all of you – with joy in my heart, I say thanks!

Please stand if your Grange has: A Junior Grange – Junior members.

Connecticut State Grangers- we do more! Once these Juniors turn 14, they become our members!

This past year, we have had several Granges take advantage of the Plus One Program which allows Granges to have junior members without having a Junior Grange. This allows younger people to become active. I bet if you asked anyone that has a plus one member- they can let you know how the dynamics of the Grange changes- more energy is felt, meetings

and Grange activities are updated to accommodate the difference and ages.

Even the same old, same old takes on a new life!

Going forward- you should be aware that the Quarterly Dues Report has been updated so that your Grange can report if you have plus one members and Junior Grangers. A bonus- hey look Mom – no fees! Junior Grange members are currently "free" on the state reports!

This coming year – we will be putting together some best practices for having Junior Grangers and Plus One members!

Next year – when I ask – Do you know where your Grange Children are? I know each and everyone of you will have stories to show how you have helped our Grange family grow.

Past Master Edward Andersen



Past National Master Edward Andersen

Edward Andersen, Past National Master, passed away in his home on Friday, October 16, 2015, at the age of 89. He was the son of Hans P. and Minnie (Sorensen) Andersen, born on June 6, 1926 in Omaha, Nebraska.

During his early childhood years, Ed lived on a dairy farm in Carter Lake, Iowa. When he was 6 years old, the family moved to rural Waterloo, Nebraska, where he attended elementary school at rural District 15 and 24, and then Valley High School.

He enlisted in the US Army where he spent much time guarding and transporting Federal prisoners across the country.

Upon returning home from the service, he farmed briefly for Ralph Zimmerman feed yard in Elkhorn.

In November 1947, Ed married Darlene Denker. Shortly after, they started operating the family dairy farm south of Valley, where they raised their family of four children; Robert, Susan, Nancy and Peggy.

During this time, Ed and Darlene were very involved in numerous community organizations. Also, Ed was elected to various leadership positions on local and state agricultural boards.

Ed was dedicated and committed to the Grange organization for 60 plus years; serving as President of the Elkhorn V-E Grange, the Pomona Grange, and the Nebraska State Grange. While serving as

President of the Nebraska State Grange, he was elected Vice President of the National Grange. In November of 1979, he was elected President of the National Grange. They moved to McLean, Virginia for eight years working in the National Grange office. While in D.C., Ed was appointed and served on numerous national advisory committees and boards. Peggy and her husband, Kent took over the farm at the time of Ed and Darlene's move to Washington D.C., and continue to operate the family farm.

Upon returning to Nebraska in 1988, they built their current home adjacent to the farmstead. Ed maintained his interest in farming, and was active in the American Legion, Church, and Grange. He enjoyed being able to watch his grandchildren and great-grandchildren grow as they participated in activities from school and church programs to sporting events and weddings.

Ed is survived by his wife Darlene, son Robert (Jackie) Andersen, daughters; Susan (Terry) Gilfry, Nancy (John) Prestia, Peggy (Kent) Merryweather, 10 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, brother Nels (Opal) Andersen, sister-in-law Marge Grabow, brother-in-law Howard (Lois) Denker of Elkhorn, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, 3 brothers, 1 sister, and great grandson Mason Schultz.

The family would like to say "Thank You" for your support, prayers, and your friendship.

Funeral service Tuesday, 11 AM at Bethany Lutheran Church, Elkhorn with military honors. Visitation Monday from 2-8 PM with the family receiving friends from 5-8 PM at the funeral home in Elkhorn. Private interment at Prospect Hill Cemetery Elkhorn.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorials to the Waterloo Rescue Squad or the Valley Veterans Club.

Cards and Condolences may be sent to: Darlene Andersen, 102 S 264th Street, Waterloo, NE 68069



State Chaplain

Charles Dimmick, State Chaplain

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." Thus begins Psalm 107. Almost the same words occur in the 16th chapter of 1st Chronicles. Giving thanks to God occurs about three dozen times in the Psalms and about three dozen

times in St. Paul's epistles. Closely linked to giving thanks to God is giving him praise. For example, in 1st Chronicles, chapter 29 we read "Now, our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name." It is difficult to separate the two. Another phrase tied to thanks and praise is "bless the Lord". God blesses us in the forms of giving us life and an abundance of the fruits of the earth. But how can we bless God? And yet we are told time and again in scripture to "bless the Lord". God blesses us by giving us what we cannot have without him. What can we give God in return to bless him? God has everything, or so it seems.

Is there anything that we can give God that he cannot have unless we give it to him? Surprisingly enough there is. God has given us free will in making certain decisions. One decision is whether we reciprocate God's love for us by loving him in return. I am reminded of Christina Rossetti's poem "WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM?"

"What can I give Him,

Poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd

I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wise man

I would do my part.

Yet what can I give Him?

Give my heart."

Thus we come full circle. God blesses us because he loves us. And we express our love for God by giving him thanks and praise, thus returning the blessing.

"Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities; who heals all your diseases; Who redeems your life from destruction; who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies." (Psalm 103)

Colchester plans trips

Colchester Grange #78 is offering two trips to help raise funds for our scholarship fund. We offer two scholarships yearly to two local high school students. People will find both trips very interesting.

PANAMA CANAL AND CARIBBEAN CRUISE: Departing March 7 - 18 2016. You will be transported from Colchester to the airport for a flight to Fort Lauderdale. Transfers to and from the pier and enjoy 11 nights on the beautiful Zuiderdam. You will visit Half Moon Cay (private Island) Aruba, Curacao, Cartagena, Colon, Panama, Costa Rica and enjoy a partial Panama Canal Transit. Prices start at \$2199pp twin for an inside cabin, plus \$365 Taxes.

New trip being offered this spring. It is early but we must book early for rooms and theater space.

New production at the SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRE IN LANCASTER, PA: May 3-5, 2016 - in the heart of Lancaster PA. staying at the Historic Cork Factory Hotel, Enjoy reserved seats for the brand new show "SAMSON". When Samson stands between two colossal columns in a godless temple and start pushing this immersive scene will literally bring the house down! Enjoy a designed "Heritage Tour" as a authentic experience of local culture - a GUIDED AMISH VIP (VISIT IN PERSON) tour. Travel the back roads to an Amish home where you will be invited into their home. Visit a local schoolhouse and talk to the teacher. Enjoy a narrated horse drawn carriage ride through a covered bridge. Contact Cathy by calling 887-9621 or crussi45@sbcglobal.net to learn more about the three day visit including motorcoach ride, 2 nights hotel, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, sightseeing and admissions and tip for the escort and driver for \$441 pp double.