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Connecticut Granger



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The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

February 2018

Educating & Elevating America



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

"Attend to every duty promptly, and keep constantly before the minds of the members the important fact that the great object, and the crowning glory, of our organization is to 'EDUCATE AND ELEVATE THE AMERICAN FARMER.'" I found this in the Manual of the Subordinate Grange in a section called "Helpful Facts to be Remembered." I bring this forward to remind all of us what our founders had in mind when they founded this great organization. We all should take a little time to re-read these Manuals to help us remember what the Grange is all about. I have been a Grange member for 43 years and have never seen this passage until a snowy day in January 2018.

The Farm Bureau held its National Convention and I watched their programs with interest. They had President Trump speak about the things he has done for our American Farmers, with cut-backs on regulations, trade, and the tax cut for estate taxes. But he seems more interested in Big Tractors, Big Equipment, Good cheap food. Yet our dairy farmers in New England are struggling with decreased milk prices, increased operating costs in feed, transportation,

property taxes, health care, insurance. We need a Farm Bill that puts money back into farmer's pockets, helps reduce farm debt and bring back fair trade deals for all. If not we will lost more farmers in New England. I am in favor of honest regulations because I believe in clean air and pure water and productive soil for our future generations.

The Heating and Air Handling system at the National Grange Headquarters is being installed. Insurance and loans are funding this huge project which had to be done.

The California State Grange litigation is still going on as more of McFarland's motions are being overruled or thrown out. We hope the end is near.

The National Grange Junior Department has a new Pen Pal program for Junior Grangers. Check the web page for information and details.

Since the weather has been chilly I hope that members are knitting and sewing items for the New England Grange Building at the Big E. We are looking for ideas on how we can promote the New England Grange Building during the off season to show the Big E we are alive and well. Any ideas, contact me.

Reminder that the Blue Book is a two year publication, so all contests and entries are in the Blue Book (unless additional information has been provided by the committees since it's publication). Last year we had very few entries in the Community Grange Honor Grange program,

check out the requirements to receive this honor.

March 16, 2018 is Ag Day at the State Capitol. This is the time we go and display Grange activities, and meet our Legislators and Governor.

Check out the National Grange website for many items that are downloadable since they are scaling back on printing costs. Also check with the State Secretary for items that are available at the office. We are getting furniture back from closed Granges if you are looking for Grange items, contact your State Master for items available.

Reminder to all Granges that before you decide to turn in your Charter, you must contact the State Master and follow the Digest before closing your Grange. I am not looking to close any more Granges, for we are not in the real estate business!!

Our community functions are the shining star of the Grange. We must advertise what we do to the outside so they can see that we are not just a vacant hall in town.

We still have grants available for new community service projects, check out the applications and sign-up today.

Reminder to all that Valentine's Day is the day that supports Agriculture, flowers, chocolate, fine dining, wine, so show the one you love how much you support our farmers and enjoy the day. XOXO.

Pomona Update

Todd Gelineau, State Secretary

Connecticut's three new Pomonas are working hard to get organized and open for business. Here's what we know:

POMONA A

On January 20, the members of Pomona A gathered at Eureka Grange in New Hartford (Nepaug) for the Organizational Meeting of the Pomona. The by-laws drafted by the committee were reviewed and this Pomona will meet quarterly and mostly on Saturdays at 4:00 P.M. at locations to be determined. One meeting will be held on a Sunday at 2:00.

The name selected by this Pomona is: **MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA**

As will be the case with all three new Pomonas, the number will be assigned by National Grange and will likely be the next three numbers unused by the Conn. State Grange (#14, 15 and 16) and will also most likely be determined by the order in which the Charter Applications are submitted to National Grange.

The new Master of Mountain Laurel Pomona is Peter Keefe of Winchester Grange #74 and current Pomona Deputy. A full slate of officers was elected at this meeting with a few elected in absentia. Following the meeting, Brother Keefe tracked down those members and three of the five elected in absentia accepted. Unfortunately, the person elected Secretary and the one year Executive Committee member declined. As it is necessary for a Secretary to be listed on the Charter Application, the election of a new Secretary and the one Exec. Comm. Member will be held at the March meeting of Mountain Laurel. Once this is done, the Charter Application can be completed and submitted to National.

POMONA B

The organizational meeting for this Pomona has not yet been set. The By-Laws Committee is still working on their draft. Once complete, it will be distributed to each Grange in Pomona B for review along with a notice for the Organizational Meeting. As has been done in A and C, please review the by-laws carefully in each Grange and make your voice known at the Organizational Meeting. This is your opportunity to help form this Pomona.

POMONA C

The Organizational Meeting for this Pomona was held on January 21 at Ekonk Community Grange in Sterling. The by-laws drafted by committee were reviewed and adopted by the Pomona.

The name selected by this Pomona is: **EASTERN CONNECTICUT POMONA**

The new Master of this Pomona is Noel Miller of Coventry Grange #75 (and your State Master!).

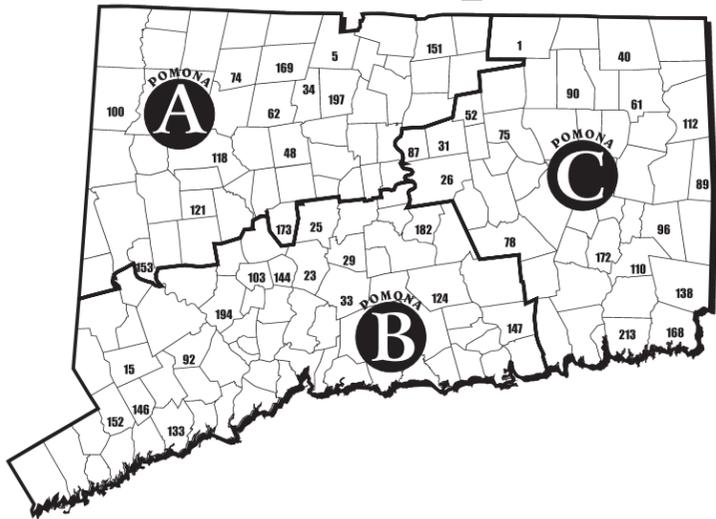
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Pomona Update



Continued from page 1...

The Charter Application has been completed and will be forwarded to National Grange as soon as possible.

This Pomona had an additional issue to consider - the fate of Good Will Grange Hall in Glastonbury. At the closing of East Central Pomona, this hall was turned over to the Connecticut State Grange during the interim between the closing of ECP and the opening of Eastern Conn. Pomona. At that time, the new Pomona members had the option of either keep the hall for their use or to release the hall to the Connecticut State Grange. Their decision was to turn over the hall completely to the State Grange. Your Executive Committee will now work on a plan for maintenance and possible upgrades to this hall. More on this later.

PROCEDURES

As we move towards the completion of all three Charter Applications, the necessary paperwork will be filed with the State of Connecticut and the IRS to establish corporate and tax identities for the three new Pomonas. This will be handled by the State Grange Secretary.

The 990-N filings for the seven closed Pomonas will also be handled by the Central Office. All will be closed with the IRS and the final Annual Reports will be filed with the CT Secretary of State's office along with the closing paperwork.

It is the intent of the State Executive Committee to make this process as easy as possible for each of the new and old Pomonas.

At the appropriate time, the membership information for each Grange will be forwarded to the new Secretaries to allow them time to establish their new record keeping systems.

NOW WHAT?

Our members have spoken loudly about Pomona. We want to keep the Pomona structure in our State. We have been given a new framework within which to work. The new treasuries of each Pomona allows them to work comfortably without immediate financial concerns. Our greatest concern, however, should be that every Pomona member gives the support necessary to ensure our Pomonas will succeed. It's time to prove Pomona can be a viable and relevant part of the Grange today.

The Grange and You

Welcome
to the
Grange



NOW Available from the State Grange Store

The CT State Grange has just received a fresh supply of "The Grange and You." This booklet is designed to give new members (especially those not immediately receiving Degrees) important background information about the Grange. Contact the State Secretary for more information.

How will we outlast the decline of service clubs?



Faith Quinlan, State Membership Comm.

Last month we printed an article by Michael Brand discussing the decline of service clubs. He offers some interesting ideas to help organizations find their "tribe" and how to attract the next generation. We received a lot of positive feedback on this article. At the newly established Mountain Laurel Pomona meeting it was suggested by a member that each Grange read and discuss some of the suggestions to grow our organization.

The article explains how the communities we live in have changed. "Our" people still exist and still very much want to be part of what the Grange has to offer. In a world where we carry communication tools in our pockets and the world feels like it grows smaller every day, we still need the right avenues to attract the "Do-ers."

I would absolutely love feedback. The committee would like to put together some presentations and speakers who can inspire us to find the best method to grow our organization as individuals and as a Grange

Which points make sense for you and your Grange? Do you find that certain ideas mentioned are new and may work for you? Do you have an idea you think we should consider? Please email me and I can collect the data for the next issue. I would love membership growth suggestions and stories of things that have worked for you in the past 2 years plus and any speaker suggestions you may have. Write to Faith Quinlan, Membership Committee at Membership_Faith@CTStateGrange.org

Past State Chaplain Amy Whitcomb passes



Amy (left) is pictured with the Pastor of her home church during her installation as Chaplain of the Connecticut State Grange.



The Connecticut State Grange mourns the unexpected passing of Amy Whitcomb on January 19 at Sharon Health Care Center. Sister Whitcomb served the State Grange in many capacities through the years including Deputy and most recently as State Chaplain. She was a Golden Sheaf member of Taghannuck Grange No. 100 in Sharon and Mountain County Pomona No. 4. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

A Memorial Service will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 2 P.M. at the United Church of Christ, 8 Bolton Hill Road, Cornwall, CT 06753. The church is located between the Post Office and the Town Hall.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Thinking Outside of the Box

by Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

With Grange Month right around the corner in April, now is the time Granges should be planning for their spring events. Think outside of the box. Be Creative - Be Brave - Be Bold. The following is a list of events, activities and project ideas for all times of the year to put your Grange on the Map.

New and Fresh Ideas:

- Sponsored Walks / Hikes / Runs
- Monopoly/Scrabble/Clue/Uno Tournament
- Chocolate Social
- Cemetery Clean-Up / Park Clean-Up
- Celebrate Baseball with a Pre-Season Hot Dogs, Peanuts & Cracker Jacks
- Social Awards (Oscars/ Grammys/ Tonys) Viewing Party (Red Carpet Event)
- Cupcake Decorating Workshop
- Baked Potato Social
- Gingerbread House Building Workshop
- Sunday Brunch
- Pajama Party
- Apple Picking / Berry Picking Trip
- Treasure Hunt / Scavenger Hunt
- Local Artist Expo
- Coffeehouse Cafe - Music, coffee and pastries
- Halloween Vampire Ball
- Movie Night
- Children's Book Reading
- Themed Dinners (Pirates, Princess, Dinosaurs, Circus, French, Italian, etc.)
- Lego Building Workshop
- Dinner / Dance
- Floral Arranging Lecture
- Tip a Waiter Dinners
- "Soupstock" - Soup Supper with Music
- Trivia Bowl
- March Madness Celebration

The Proven Standards:

- Crock-Pot Chili Cook-off

- Lasagna / Pasta Supper
- The Dictionary Project
- Pie Sale
- Mystery Rides
- Host a Farmer's Market
- Cookie Walk / Cake Walk / Cupcake Walk
- Group Trips / Cruises
- Boxed Lunches
- Open House
- Tag Sales / White Elephant Sales / Flea Markets
- Holiday Gift Wrapping
- Donations for Soup Kitchen / Food Bank
- Bake Sales
- Gardening Workshop
- Roast Beef / Ham / Baked Chicken Dinners
- Craft Sale
- Ice Cream Social
- Awards Banquet / Program
- Bakeless Bake Sale / Non-event Event
- Fashion Show
- Holiday Favors for Shut-Ins
- Travelogue
- Card Party / Game Night
- Community Pizza Party
- Pancake Breakfast
- Knitting/crocheting lap robes for nursing homes
- Plant Sale
- Writing letters to soldiers overseas

By publicizing your upcoming Grange events, and promoting the projects your Grange is working on, your Grange will attract attention and interest - and it is those people who are interested that could turn out to be your new members. Remember to plan your Grange functions far enough in advance to give adequate time for marketing and publicity. Need help? Let us know - we can lend you a hand. Email Terri at information@ctstategrange.org or Bob at publicrelations@ctstategrange.org today.

Legislatively Speaking



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

Connecticut's General Assembly convenes on February 7th for its 2018 annual session. These even year sessions are generally for budget adjustments only and run on a shorter schedule; from February until May. Of course general non-budget items are often added to

the agenda.

Even as this session starts, the State budget is still in flux. Multiple special sessions were held last year to complete the budget process. This ended up leaving towns and cities with much uncertainty about how much state money they would be receiving for various local programs and education needs. Even after a 'final' budget was passed, they had to go back and make an adjustment which affected the elderly. This adjustment was passed by the Legislature but was vetoed by the Governor. The General Assembly ended up in another special session to override the veto.

Education funding was a great concern last year as well as cuts to social services programs. The transportation system is reported to be in extreme need of repair. One of the resolutions that was passed at the last State Grange session proposed that the legislature impose a rule that if the state budget has not been settled by May 15th, that the formula for distribution of funds for the Education Cost Sharing Grant, Special Education Grant and Town Aid Road Grant be established as the same as the previous year plus three percent. I did communicate this recommendation along with a couple of other items to my local representative.

Connecticut is experiencing a fiscal disaster. The Legislature must carefully craft a budget that reflects realistic expected revenue. It also must study existing programs and determine where and how to adjust our spending. The state may need to add unpopular income generating taxes and program cuts. I see an increasing possibility of tolls returning to Connecticut. There was a recent report of the states that not have implements tolls on roads and bridges. Did you realize that in the Northeast only Vermont and Connecticut do not have tolls? The whole east coast has tolls all the way down including Florida. Going west you have tolls all the way out to Utah. Presently only 16 states do not have tolls. How much more can we increase the taxes on cigarettes and gas? Towns and cities also are in need of increasing their revenue. In some cities outside Connecticut there are additional taxes on hotel rooms. Unfortunately we must look for additional sources of income or drastically cut services and programs....but where?



The Connecticut House of Representatives in session.

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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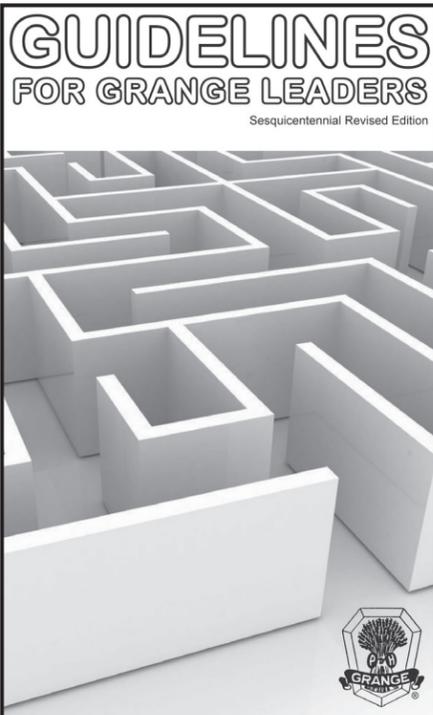
Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

Todd Gelineau,
State Secretary

renewed at the level from 2017 and you will be billed for that premium. A single check and one complete list must be returned to the National Grange very soon. The State Grange will have to advance the money on any and all Granges that haven't responded. The delay in responding isn't fair to those Granges who acted promptly.

In the next few weeks you should be receiving



a mailing of printed materials from the State Grange to include the 2018 Legislative Policy Book, 2018 State Directory and a new publication from the State and National Grange. The new publication is a companion to the Master's Handbook published a number of years ago—it is "Guidelines for Grange Leaders."

Many members have asked us for more detailed information on the responsibilities of officers and committees beyond the Master's Station and this book should help everyone. The original book was published by the National Grange and edited by National Master Betsy Huber. We have taken that volume and formatted similar in size to the Master's Handbook, adding information pertinent to Connecticut. Five copies will be sent to each Grange and we hope they will be shared by everyone in your Grange and handed down to your successors, like the Master's Handbook. Printing these books is expensive but we feel it is worth it if our Granges get useful information from them.

Unlike what they used to say on "A Prairie Home Companion", it has NOT been a quiet month in "Lake Wobegon"! With the many and varied issues we are working on at the State Grange level, the State Secretary's job has seemed to be more like one of those plate spinners at the circus - - give each one as much attention as necessary to prevent them from crashing to the floor. OK, that might be a bit dramatic... but not by much!

In December, I sent out a mailing to each Grange requesting two things.

1) A completed 990N E-Postcard form providing all the information necessary for me to complete your Grange's IRS filing for the year. The State Grange Board of Directors voted to have the State Grange take over filing for ALL Granges in 2018 as all employer identification numbers fall under the umbrella of the State Grange. I thank all of the Granges that have done so in a timely manner. However, there is a good number of Granges that have yet to turn in their forms. Please do so as soon as possible.

2) Each Grange received notice of the 2018 National Grange Bonding Program. This is also handled completely by me. However, it is up to each Grange to review the coverage available and decide what coverage is appropriate for your particular Grange.

A complete list of the levels of coverage and the premiums required was also included in the mailing. If you have not done so already, please complete this form and return it to the State Grange as soon as possible. This was due by Jan. 15. If we do not hear from your Grange, it will be

Your Granges will also be receiving receipts for the 990N filing with the IRS. When received, please put them in a safe place. With the extremely tight State budget and the reduced funding to cities and towns, our municipalities are looking for money everywhere. In many cases, Granges are receiving requests to renew their paperwork for tax exempt status on property and Grange Halls. Please don't ignore it. We know many of the forms are complicated but this is a necessary process. Failure to comply could result in your Grange having to pay property tax.

In a separate article in this issue, I have reviewed the news from our new Pomonas so I will let you read it there and not repeat it here. I do need to repeat information you may have missed. January 1 is the time when dues become payable for many of our Subordinate and Pomona Granges. Please pay your Pomona Dues as you always have to your collector in your Community/Subordinate Grange (if that's how your Grange handles it) or to your new Pomona Secretary (if they have been elected—Pomona A and C have done so). Also, please pay the amount you have previously paid to your old Pomona. If there is a change in the dues amount for your new Pomona, that change will go into effect for the 2018-2019 Grange year. The Executive Committee felt this was the best way to handle this fairly during this transitional period.

Has your Grange paid its dues to the State Grange for the quarter ended December 31? If not, please do so soon. Your Grange cannot receive the 2018 Annual Word key and cipher until your report has been filed. A \$25 fee will also be assessed on all reports received after Jan. 31.

As always, don't hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns. The Central Office is well stocked with supplies, apparel, and Grange merchandise. Please let us know if you have a need we can fill.

Until next time... stay warm— spring will hopefully be here before long!



Now that you've had time to build excitement for our 2018 Grange Month theme, "That's the Grange Way," it's time to place your orders for supplies and share your Grange pride with everyone! Order online now at The New Grange Store at Monroe Classic or download the order form and submit by March 1.

A downloadable, free poster for Grange Month is available at NationalGrange.org along with the Grange Health Survey and the order form for "Good Day!" magazine.

More Favorite Food



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Wow, as I write this the wind is howling and the snow is blowing. Temperatures are predicted to fall drastically for the next few days. Have you ever wondered if your Lecturer had lost her mind? Well, this may convince you. Tomorrow we leave for even colder Maine where they are experiencing the same blizzard conditions today and with promises that

the thermostat won't go above zero this weekend. My excuse for this – A late Christmas with our daughter, grandson and greatgrandchildren.

I hope by now you have given some thought to our current Grange year. Does your Lecturer need help with programs? It's possible your Lecturer is burned out. It happens. Why not offer to do a program for them. I'm sure it would be appreciated. We have to work together to make our Grange an organization that new members would like to join. Please, when speaking to others, be positive. Point out all the good things we do.

Do you like corn? Our essay contest remains the same this year. What is your favorite food? With the cold weather outside you might be thinking of a backyard barbecue. Why not tell us about those hamburgers, ribs, salads or even that watermelon for dessert. Complete rules are in the Bluebook and have been sent to all Lecturers. Below is last year's 3rd place winner.

My Favorite Food

By Sue Gray,

Ekonk Comm. Grange

Sweet corn, especially that grown from the farm fields locally, is my favorite food.

Dropped into a pot of boiling water right after being picked it

is simply divine! Cut it off the cob and served in a bowl, just as scrumptious and not as messy.

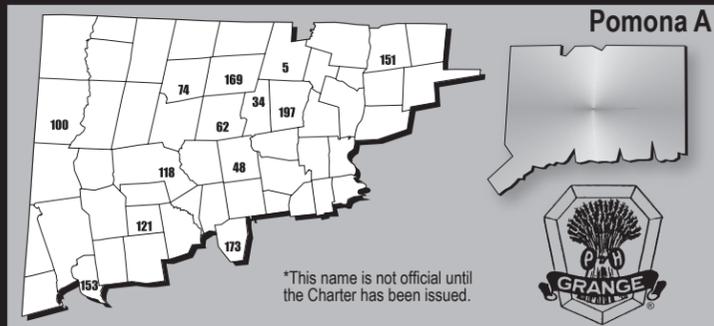
I always freeze a lot of sweet corn and we enjoy it until she has it again the following summer. Plantings are staggered so that we can get corn from the 4th of July until November!

Corn chowder has become a true family favorite; that is, except for my husband. When I make corn chowder, I always make him clam chowder.

I make steamers of corn chowder for our Grange Good Friday Chowder & Clam Cake Supper, our August Fair and Christmas Bazaar; corn: YUMMY!



Mountain Laurel Pomona*



- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Granby No. 5 | Bethlehem No. 121 |
| Cawasa No. 34 | Enfield No. 151 |
| Whigville No. 48 | Bridgewater No. 153 |
| Eureka No. 62 | Riverton No. 169 |
| Winchester No. 74 | Wolcott No. 173 |
| Taghhannuck No. 100 | Simsbury No. 197 |
| Beacon No. 118 | |

MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA

We know the news was spread in an article elsewhere in this issue, however we want to congratulate each of the new charter members and officers of Mountain Laurel Pomona.

While the name isn't quite official until the charter is issued by National Grange, we want to get used to using it.

The next meeting of Pomona will be on March 3 at 4 P.M. The location of the meeting will be announced soon.

A Secretary will be elected at this meeting along with one member of the Executive Committee. With a Secretary in place, we will be able to complete our Charter Application and have it filed by the State Grange with National Grange.

Please support your Pomona and come out to our next meeting. No night driving and the relaxed atmosphere of an afternoon meeting.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Feb. 13: Valentine's Day – Potluck at 6:00 P.M.

Feb. 27: Presidents or? – Ref. Todd Gelineau

Mar. 13: St. Patrick's Day – Ref. Bill LaTulipe & Shanin Star

The weather in the new year seems to be a little bit more kind to Winchester (knock on

wood). It has been bitter cold and the activities at the Grange Hall have been at a minimum as we are ALL waiting for warmer weather.

Our next meeting will be "Valentine's Day" on Valentine's eve. Please join us for the meeting and the potluck supper prior at 6:00 P.M. There was an error in our Program Schedule. Potlucks/Dinners are listed to begin at 6:30 P.M. This is incorrect—they will begin at **6:00 P.M.** I don't know of any Grange member that can eat and have the proper amount of time (if there was ever such a thing) for fellowship in the 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting at 7:00!

The holiday theme of programs continues with "Presidents or" on Feb. 27 and "St. Patrick's Day" on Mar. 13.

Winchester Grange will again be presenting dictionaries to Winchester/Winsted third graders as part of the "Words for Thirds" program. In this age of digital everything, it is interesting to see how well received an actual book can be. While it is convenient to be able to pick up a phone or a tablet and search for the definition or spelling of a word, it is still important to be able to manually look up words in an actual dictionary and stumble upon new words along the way.

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

From a report in the *Waterbury Republican-American*: WARREN – Last year's runner-up in the chili cook-off at Warren Congregational Church is this year's winner. Ruth Schnell's (of Taghhannuck Grange) chili was the lone entrant in the contest held during the town's Holiday on the Hill Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 2.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Barbara Chapman

Knife Skills Event Held at Simsbury Grange—Lela Waite

On November 6th, Simsbury Grange held a very special event that put our large kitchen to good use. Michelle Mullin, our Steward and the Director of the Children's Clubhouse of Simsbury, CT, sponsored a knife skills class. Twelve Grange members and friends joined Millwright's Chef de Cuisine, Niles Talbot, for an evening of informative meal-prep.

Talbot led the group through the preparation of the popular French dish Lyonnaise potatoes. At its base, the recipe often consists of fried potatoes, onions, and parsley. Talbot spruced up the classic recipe by using other in-season produce, including shallots and sweet potatoes.

After quick, informative demonstrations, everyone got the opportunity to practice the chopping techniques on the produce. And at the end of the night, each member of the group went home with a meal's worth of ready-to-cook vegetables and some sharp chopping techniques.

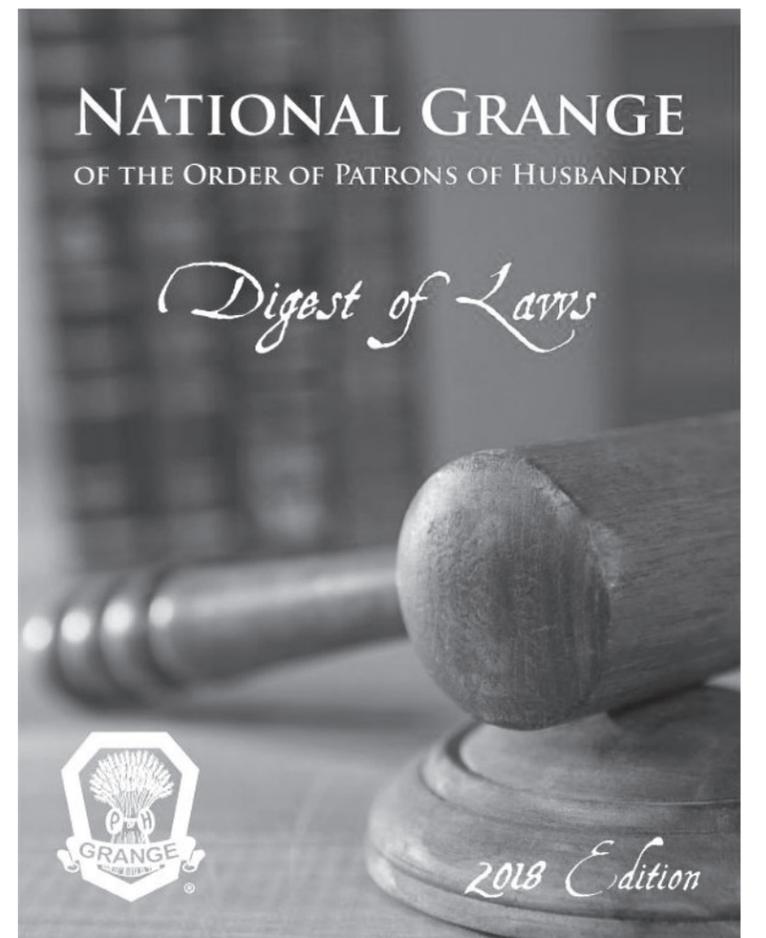
Under the instruction of Niles Talbot, it was a fun and informative evening at Simsbury Grange. Thank you to Michelle Mullin for organizing this event!

Bethlehem makes donation



On Wednesday, January 10th, at 7:30 PM, several members of Bethlehem Grange #121 headed by Grange President Albert "Skip" Maddox met with the Bethlehem Memorial Hall Committee President Richie O'Neil and his committee members to present a microwave oven to the Committee for use in the hall's kitchen. Grange member Cheryl Johnstone, who works for ConAir, procured the donation of a commercial quality Cuisinart microwave oven through a special program sponsored by her employer to make donations of like items to worthy non-profit organizations. Hall Committee President O'Neil thanked the Grange for the donation and noted that it was greatly appreciated and will make a nice addition to the Memorial Hall kitchen.

Identification of persons in accompanying photograph from left to right: Grange members Cheryl Johnstone, Grange President Albert "Skip" Maddox, Ray Johnstone, dual Grange and Hall Committee member Dorothy "Curley" Detlefsen, and Hall Committee President Richie O'Neil. Photo taken in Memorial Hall kitchen in front of new microwave oven.



The revised National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry Digest of Laws, 2018 Edition, that applies to all Granges of the Order, including Junior, Subordinate, State and Pomonas, is available for free download on the National Grange website: www.NationalGrange.org.

You may also order a printed copy of the Digest through the Grange Supply Store for \$20 plus shipping. It includes all 112 pages with cover, three hole punched and bound in a three-ring binder that allows you to quickly slip in updated pages as they become available each year.

There were a few changes in 2018, mainly regarding language about trusts, now referred to as custodial accounts. Please do take time to familiarize yourself with the Digest.

POMONA B



Redding No. 15	Greenfield Hill No. 133
Cheshire No. 23	Prospect No. 144
Southington No. 25	Norfield No. 146
Meriden No. 29	Lyme No. 147
Wallingford No. 33	Cannon No. 152
Harmony No. 92	Hemlock No. 182
Beacon Valley No. 103	Oxford No. 194
Higganum No. 124	

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Feb. 7: Box Supper, 6:30 P.M.

Feb. 21: Legislative Night

With 2018 upon us, we are getting back into the swing of things. Our craft nights will be resuming making seasonal items for our nursing homes and plans have begun for our Cheshire Grange Community Fair set for late August. We are following the progress on the new Pomona Granges. Organizational meetings are unfolding with a lot of work to undertake to get the three Pomonas in place. We will start to make plans for fundraising dinners for March and April.

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Please save the date – you are invited to the 125th Anniversary of Greenfield Hill Grange in Fairfield on Sunday, April 29, 2018 from 2 to 4:30 P.M. Program and refreshments. Access: two small steps then all on main floor. More information will be provided in the Granger as the date approaches.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

Feb. 1: Every dog has his day. Woof!!

Mar. 1: Lion or Lamb? CWA Contest for 2018 announced

Apr. 5: 1st & 2nd Degrees. Will the Deputy come?

On a cold December evening we had our Christmas party. The dining room was decorated with festive tablecloths and placemats. It is surprising how everyone brought something different for the potluck supper. Only two people brought dessert. However, we were so full from the ample dinner many did not have room for dessert.

demits. They will be moving soon.

Between Christmas carols, modern “Twas the Night Before Christmas”-the turkey snatcher and name the Christmas carol, oh and a gift exchange passing game, a real fun evening was had by all.

Everyone went home in a joyous frame of mind.

It was noted our furnace is on its last legs and needs help. A tree needs to come down on our fairgrounds and perhaps someone would do it for the firewood.

A new year is just around the corner and we’re looking forward to one of our favorite programs, “Hobbies”. Wonder what will show up.

Our Charter was draped in loving memory of Jean Lee.

Resolutions of respect were signed and will be sent to her next of kin.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

That Norman Stitham did it again. He delivered a whole trunk load of items to be donated to the animal shelter.

We voted to assist Social Services. A collection was held on the spot and over \$130 was collected. Also a drop off house was announced if anyone has more to donate.

We voted with regrets, to give Jim and Edie Pernal

Have a *Good Day!*

Chris Hamp, National Lecturer

I know each and every one of us is busy, busy. It is fair season, for most of you it is get ready for State Convention time, and of course, it is that glorious time of the year when seemingly everything in our gardens is ready to be canned, frozen, or dried!

I am asking you to encourage your Granges and Grangers to subscribe to our new National Grange magazine, *Good Day!*

This is a quarterly publication of the highest quality! In my opinion, *Good Day!* is a beautiful, glossy, substantive magazine with a breadth of content and information that can keep any reader interested and absorbed. I’m positive that you will also find a plethora of ideas for Lecturer’s programs (bonus!).

Please fill out and return the subscription card below to the National Grange in Washington. Feel free to distribute copies of the subscription card to your members, collect the money/checks and cards and mail them to National Grange in batches or send yours along as soon as you get this to ensure delivery of the next issue.

Be Awesome! Be a Doer!

Make it a *Good Day!*™

As a Grange member, for only \$14 a year you can receive our new quarterly magazine and enjoy great features, the latest information about the Grange, contests, programs, benefits and more!

Name: _____

Grange Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

email: _____

You may choose to be billed by checking here

To pay by credit or debit card, fill out the information completely. Please note if you have a different billing address than mailing address above.

Card # _____ Visa MC Disc.

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**Mail subscription card to National Grange,
1616 H St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.**

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Mar. 9: March Winds

Mar. 23: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled

Apr. 13: CWA Contests

Apr. 27: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Doolittle is Golden



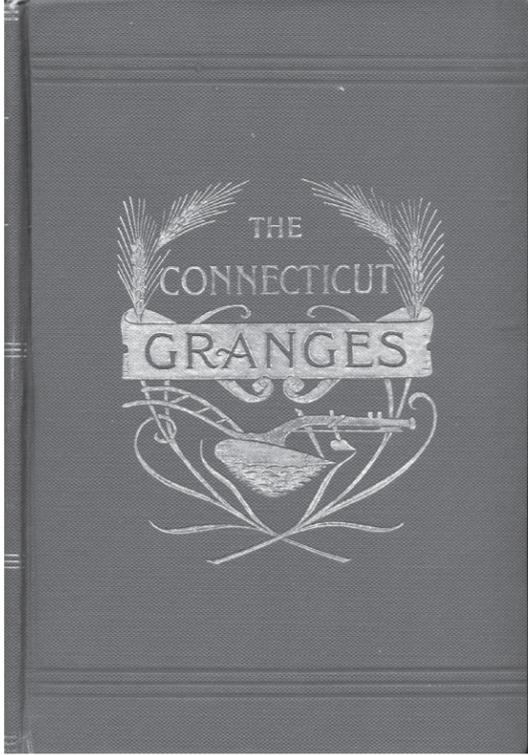
Nancy Doolittle, of Cheshire Grange #23, receives her Golden Sheaf for 50 years of continuous Grange service from Cheshire Master A. Ruel Miller on Dec. 28 at her home.

They’re “crafty” in Cheshire



We may have just finished putting away the last of the 2017 Christmas decorations, but the members of Cheshire Grange are already working on Christmas 2018 gifts for shut-ins and nursing home residents in their community.

Eureka!... we found it!



Todd Gelineau, Editor/State Sec.

In 1899, a committee formed by the Connecticut State Grange worked with Industrial Publishing Company of New Haven, CT to print the volume we now know as "The Connecticut Granges." It is described by its own title page as "An Historical Account of the Rise and Growth of the Patrons of Husbandry; Sketches of the State, Pomona and Subordinate Granges of Connecticut, with Valuable Statistics, Notices of Prominent Members, Portraits and Illustrations.

It is remarkable that this 695 page volume was published only 14 years after the establishment of the Second Connecticut State Grange and only 32 years after the founding/creation of the Grange by the Seven Founders in Washington, D.C.

We often receive phone calls/emails from members and/or people outside our membership looking for information about a Grange (past or present). More often than not, our starting point is in the pages of this book. It provides a wealth of information and photographs from the earliest years of the Grange in Connecticut.

From time to time, we plan to print excerpts from this volume. This month we present an article on Eureka Grange located in the Nepaug section of New Hartford. We hope you enjoy this new feature.

NEW HARTFORD - The Town

This (New Hartford) is one of the four townships set off to Hartford in the final division of the Western lands between that town and Windsor in 1726. At the meeting of the proprietors of these four townships, held at Hartford in 1732, the 23,942 acres comprised within the territory which became the town of New Hartford were appraised at fifteen shillings an acre. In setting off land to settlers the condition was imposed that two or three acres must be broken up and a tentable house

not less than sixteen feet square be built within two years, and that within one year more this house must be personally inhabited and that the residence must continue for three years more. Settlements were begun in 1733 and in these the town enjoyed an advantage over the other three towns in the tract, for it was settled by the original proprietors.

In May 1733, the General Assembly was petitioned for a name, and that of New Hartford was conferred. The Hartford proprietors made liberal provision for highways and were otherwise generous in the bestowal of land for public purposes.

There were few Indians in the territory, probably not more than a dozen families, but the settlers appear to have experienced some apprehension and took measures to defend themselves from possible attack. There was an Indian settlement at the west side of the river in the last quarter of the eighteenth century which finally lost its Indian character and became the rendezvous of renegades of assorted types, and was called Satan's Kingdom.

The town was incorporated in 1738. At the first town meeting, held that year, a committee was appointed to secure a minister. At the second town meeting steps were taken to have the General Assembly indicate a site for a meeting house. In July, 1739, the site having been indicated, it was decided to build a meeting house, the length "to be fifty boots and the breadth forty feet." The building was raised in May, 1740, with the usual "sutable preparations of liquer," but was ten years in building. The timbers were so heavy there were not men enough in the town to raise the frame and help was obtained from Hartford. The population at that time numbered 150, in twenty-four families.

The Reverend Jonathan Marsh accepted the terms of settlement and was ordained December 5, 1739. The preparations for the ordination ceremonies included a supply of "liquer." The choice of minister would appear to have been a happy one, for the pastorate continued for a period of fifty-five years.

The early records of the church were lost and the date of its organization is left to conjecture. There is reason for believing, however, that it took place in the early part of 1738. The records for 1741 give a hint that the society suffered an affliction of some sort, though the nature, cause or consequence of this is not indicated, save that the neighboring ministers were appealed to for advice and a day appointed for humiliation, fasting and prayer "for deliverance from present circumstances."



Eureka Grange Hall in the Nepaug section of New Hartford, as it appeared in 1899. The hall is still occupied by Eureka Grange #62 and looks very similar to the way it looked then.

The Society prospered, however, and gained in strength and numbers, till 1828, when a colony of sixty-two members was detached for the purpose of organizing the North Congregational Church of New Hartford.

With exceptional water privileges manufacturing has taken on large proportions. Many enterprises have been started with many failures, but some have survived and grown and these are so extensive as to have proved of unmeasured advantage to the growth of the town along all lines of progress. The total area of the town is embraced within a length of six miles and an average breadth of the same distance. It is a hilly region flanked and traversed with mountains of considerable altitude. Although there may be more inviting regions for the prosecution of agriculture it has a fruitful soil and prosperity has been the handmaid of its farming population. The rugged contour of the land furnishes scenic beauties hard to rival and gives to the town much of irresistible attractiveness.

EUREKA GRANGE No. 62

Located at Nepaug, was organized Feb. 28, 1887, at the house of Morton Sanford on "Town Hill". Twenty-seven people had enrolled themselves as charter members and met to be organized into a working Grange by Deputy A. Minor of Torrington, assisted by G.F. Douglass and T.C. Barnes of Cawasa Grange (Canton).

The number of members increased rapidly until the maximum enrollment of one hundred names was reached in 1892. Many of these have dropped out and the total number of members now is but twenty-five.

Eureka Grange has lost since its organization somewhat more than the average by death.

This Grange has borne its part in furnishing the State and Pomona Granges with efficient officers.

The Grange met at private homes and in the basement of the Congregational Church, also a short time in the hall over the Creamery, until November, 1888, when a bargain was made for the present Grange Hall. This is pronounced one of the prettiest Grange halls in the state. It is valued at \$300. Eureka Grange has been interested along educational and social lines rather than financial. At the outset there were many who saw intellectual advantages that were needed among a small population. This was more attractive to them than dollars and cents. It is along these lines that the Grange has been of great benefit to the community, and the members have been taught self command, knowledge of parliamentary rules and ability to express themselves practically and intelligently upon the various topics of the day.

E. Connecticut Pomona



*This name is not official until the Charter has been issued.

Stafford No. 1	Ashford No. 90
Glastonbury No. 26	Pachaug No. 96
Manchester No. 31	Preston City No. 110
Senexet No. 40	Killingly No. 112
Vernon No. 52	N. Stonington Comm. No. 138
Coventry No. 75	Stonington No. 168
Colchester No. 78	Norwich No. 172
Hillstown No. 87	Groton No. 213
Ekonk Community No. 89	

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

Feb. 1: All the Presidents

Snow storms and freezing temperatures played havoc with meetings. Hoping for early spring. Happy Valentine's Day to all.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

As I write this, Ekonk is being blasted by Old Man Winter in style! We have blowing snow, drifts, one way traffic across parts of the hill and yes, lots of wind! Junior Grange was postponed a week.

By the time you read this, Juniors and Subordinate Grangers will be uniting once again in songs and funny stories, preparing our annual fun program for our wonderful Richmond friends for Friday, March 2nd! We discovered so many significant events that affected our history that happened on the second day of March since 1776, some sad, some entertaining, but all important in one way or another. Did you know that on March 2nd, 1949, New Milford, CT became the first place in the United States to have all automatic street lights! Also on that same date, postage stamps increased to 10 cents; I am sure folks were horrified by the 2 cent increase!

March brings us back into supper season; St. Patrick's Day, Sat., March 17th, will be our annual Corned Beef and Cabbage supper, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Then on Good Friday, March 30th, will be feature clam or corn chowder and clam cakes; also 5:00 p.m. starting time.

With the Charter being turned in by Echo Grange, we added the entire Hnath family as well as Jim and Pat Palmer to our membership. New member, Brenda Craig, has fit in very well, substituting as Chaplain for her Aunt, our Snow Bird, Paulette Craig. Kayla Bonin has not missed a meeting since joining.

Love is in the air on Ekonk Hill! Colin Sebastian and Carly Bryon became engaged on New Year's Eve. Colin did the program in January, on his adventures teaching English in Korea for a year; returning to Ekonk this fall. Colin's father is our Vice-President, Ned Sebastian and the entire Sebastian family has made our Grange a big part of their lives.

Katie Molodich and Tom Sweet Jr. became engaged in October; Katie is a Past President and daughter of Past Presidents, Mike and Betsy Molodich. Katie and Tom work together in a sugar bush operation; Tom farms (hay and custom work) and Katie partners with her Mother in the family Farm Market business.

We extend best wishes to both couples for long and happy lives together! Visit us on the Hill anytime!

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

Feb. 27: 2 P.M. Meeting, Bluegrass at night

Happy New Year and a healthy one to all. I'm sitting here by my window looking out at the lovely snow but not wanting to out in this dreadful cold. Something we haven't had in quite some time. The last half of 2017 was rife with sickness

and sadness as we lost our Master Eleanor Davis (G.S.) in Dec. This was her second and last time as Master of Killingly Grange. Eleanor's Church of the Nazarine was her comfort and they held a lovely service for her with the help of her son William and family on Dec. 22nd. The State Master Noel Miller attended her wake the night before. Eleanor belonged to the Grange for over 70 years and she knew her ritual and was a proud member. We shall miss her "homey" ways.

Another member on the sick list was Bruce Kohle as was Nancy McCoomb, one of our newer members and Nancy also lost her husband in 2017. At present, our Master-elect David Griffith and family have all been homebound with some bad colds, flu, or whatever else going around.

At our January meeting, we will drape our charter in memory of Sister Eleanor. It will be a busy day as our first bluegrass concert will be performing. All are invited. Other bluegrass dates are in Feb. and March as will be our meetings in the afternoon.

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Feb. 9: Wherever you go, go with all your heart

Feb. 23: Snow date for Feb. 9, otherwise no meeting

Thirty-four happy people attended our gala Christmas party, seventeen of whom were visitors. We learned about Christmases around the world, with Jennie Watrous reading stories to the children who gathered around her on the stage. The children took part in the various scenarios; decorating the tree, hanging stockings on the mantel, placing shoes by the fire, wearing the crown of Santa Lucia and marching around the hall to the lively strains of Feliz Navidad. We all sang lots of Christmas songs before Santa arrived to the strains of Jingle Bells. His sack was stuffed with gifts for young and old and the smiles on the faces of the little ones were a joy to behold. The Grange presented apples and glittery

ornaments to all before we adjourned downstairs to enjoy a veritable feast of Christmassy goodies.

Our February meeting will be a game night. We are advised to "Come ready to play!" It will also be the

run-offs of the Talent and A-Number contests; so dig out that saxophone and brush up on your acting skills. If it happens to snow the meeting will be held on Feb. 23.

Chief Strong Horse Honored



Chief Strong Horse (far left), member of Hillstown Grange #87 in East Hartford, is pictured at the Turtle Spirit Drum Circle held in his honor at Manchester Comm. College.

MANCHESTER – At age 96, Chief Strong Horse of the Narragansett tribe retains a powerful singing voice and a steady hand on the drum.

The Turtle Spirit Drum Circle, held at the end of a ceremony Wednesday honoring the longtime tribal leader, combined resonant beats with the united voices of Native Americans from several tribes. Their songs filled the halls at Manchester Community College's Great Path Academy, where about 100 people gathered to recognize Strong Horse during the college's Native American Heritage Month.

Strong Horse, who now lives in Manchester Manor Health Care Center (and has held offices in Hillstown Grange #87), was named a "sub-chief" of the Rhode Island-based tribe in 1946. On Wednesday, he was recognized for his lifelong contributions to preserving the Narragansett's customs and culture.

Strong Horse recently donated many personal items, including an elaborate feathered headdress and 300 photographs, to the Tomaquag Museum in Exeter, RI.

"He's already reaching beyond his lifetime in the gifts he has given," museum Executive Director Lorén Spears told the audience.

Also known as Kenneth Smith, Strong Horse was born in Orange, CT, in 1921. In an interview before the ceremony, he said his father was three-quarters Narragansett and his mother a full-blooded member of the tribe. Both parents "taught me all the old ways," he said.

He graduated from Portland High School and then joined the U.S. Army in 1941, assigned to an armored unit. After the war, he worked for more than 30 years at a Wallingford steel mill. He has three children: a stepdaughter from his second marriage and two sons from his first.

Stepdaughter Joy Millard attended the ceremony in a buckskin dress her father made.

"I'm very proud of him," she said. "He's always been a person who teaches others."

Strong Horse's generosity was a recurring theme among speakers. Spears called him "a culture bearer," not only for donating about 200 Native American items that he made and collected, but also for the many stories he has shared about the Narragansett Tribe, which today claims about 3,000 members.

In his ancestral language, Strong Horse thanked those who attended the event, Native Americans and those from outside the tribes.

"I'm sure the Great Spirit will bless you," he said.

- This article was originally printed by the Hartford Courant.



To Our Readers...

Todd Gelineau, Editor

I know many of you are upset with the delivery of the January issue of the Connecticut Granger. I assure you that I am as well. Unfortunately, the weather was "Strike One" in a series of issues that caused the problem this month. The issue was scheduled for printing New Year's week. As you know, we had a snowstorm that week that was even stronger in eastern Massachusetts, where the Granger is printed. "Strike Two" was a comedy of errors on the part of the printer in delivering the paper to Torrington where I pick it up. It was scheduled for delivery a couple of times and not delivered and/or forgotten. When it finally arrived, it was already a week behind schedule. After a day or two for me to process it for mailing, it was delivered to the Winsted Post Office for delivery... yep, "Strike Three." For some inexplicable reason, the paper was delivered to some of our members in a day or two, while others took an additional week, while still others didn't receive it until an incredible date of Jan. 26! All I can say is I'm sorry for this, I'm not sure how this could have been avoided as I stuck to the schedule I follow each month. It just fell apart from the moment it left my hands until it returned to me and then again when it left my hands again to the Post Office. Hopefully you are reading this issue in the early part of February and all is well again.

In other news, the annual billing for the Granger subscriptions went out to all Granges in early January. We have started to receive lists and payments from Granges. I thank you for your patience as it has been incredibly difficult to get this out this year due to the many different Grange issues demanding my time this year. Don't be surprised if late December/early January becomes the new billing time for the Granger. It seems to make more sense to do this away from the hectic pace of preparing for State Session. We will see as October gets closer!

We would love to see more of our Community Granges reporting in each issue. Your reports don't have to be much more than a brief mention of your upcoming schedule and a few notes about what is going on in your Grange. It can be more than that if you wish as well. Please let me know if you need more information about Connecticut Granger reporting.

To our new Pomonas... I hope to hear from three new Correspondents from each of them in the coming issues. We know that two of the new Pomonas are well on their way and the third is progressing.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Chris Hamp, National Grange Lecturer
Grange friends,

I am working hard to increase participation in the contests that I oversee as Lecturer of the National Grange. In addition to working hard to improve communications with the State Lecturers and State Masters, and in ensuring I create and disseminate clear, concise and professional looking documents, I am increasing the prize money to make participation a little more appealing.

With that said, I am looking for sponsors from the Northeast Region (can be individuals, couples, families or Granges) for the different contests and classes in 2018. All sponsors will be recognized at the 152nd National Convention.

\$100 - National Grange Evening of Excellence – Vocal Division Winner (as determined by audience on-line voting)

\$100 - National Grange Evening of Excellence – Instrumental Division Winner (as determined by audience on-line voting)

\$100 - National Grange Evening of Excellence – Variety Division Winner (as determined by audience on-line voting)

\$100 - National Grange Evening of Excellence – Vocal Division Winner (as determined by audience on-line voting)

Excellence – Public Speaking Winner (as determined by audience on-line voting)

\$100 - National Grange Evening of Excellence – Sign-a-Song Winner (as determined by audience on-line voting)

\$150 - National Grange Photography Showcase – Adult Division (1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes as determined by judge)

\$100 - National Grange Quilt Block Contest – Adult Division (1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes as determined by judge)

\$100 - National Grange Quilt Block Contest – Junior Division (1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes as determined by judge)

Please let me know if you or your Grange are interested in being a sponsor. If yes, please write your sponsorship check to **Grange Foundation – Lecturer Fund**. The Foundation will send you a donation receipt for tax deduction purposes.

Please mail your check to: National Grange, 1616 H St. NW #10, Washington, D.C.

Thank you so much for your support! Also, please let me know if you would like me to send you the documents for any of these contests.

Thanks for all you do!



Join Brothers and Sisters from around the national promoting Grange policy priorities and gaining advocacy training so you can better present your community's concerns to elected officials and their staff.

The schedule includes briefings, agency meetings, and Hill appointments to meet with Senators and Representatives in Congress.

The Fly-In is one of the greatest ways members can engage in our advocacy and remind legislators of the unique grassroots way our policy is developed. For more info contact the National Grange. The event hotel is the Quality Inn Tysons Corner, 1587 Spring Hill Road, Vienna, VA.

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 Signature: *Todd A. Gelineau*, President/Editor Date: Oct 1, 2017

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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.



This Month



January



December

We heard from Jim Palmer about the December photo -- "I believe the two missing persons in the December photo are Fern and Roberta Patridge from Franklin Grange."

And also from Kay Ruff -- "Second row: Stephen Laputz, Roberta Patridge, her mother was Shirley Patridge, former editor of the Ct. Granger, then Danny LeVangie (then I believe the girl is a sister to Roberta but I don't remember her name) I also believe they belonged to Franklin Grange. Hope I am correct."

We didn't have any responses regarding the photo in the January issue.

Camp Berger Hockey Tournament 2018



January 27, 2018 • Connecticut State Grange Camp Maud Isbell Berger, Winchester Center, CT



Valentine Chex® Mix



Valentine's Day is the perfect time for a quick and easy snack while watching your favorite movie with that special someone. This recipe from Pillsbury is also great for a Valentine's Day themed meeting at your local Grange.

Valentine Chex® Mix

INGREDIENTS:

- 9 cups Rice Chex™ cereal
- 1 cup white vanilla baking chips
- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 3/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 cup red, white and pink candy-coated chocolate candies
- 1/4 cup red or pink jimmies sprinkles

DIRECTIONS:

In large bowl, place cereal. In small microwavable bowl, microwave baking chips, peanut butter and butter uncovered on High 1 minute to 1 minute 30 seconds, stirring every 30 seconds, until melted and smooth. Pour peanut butter mixture over cereal, stirring until evenly coated.

Place 1/2 of the cereal mixture in 1-gallon food-storage plastic bag. Add powdered sugar. Seal bag; shake until well coated. Spread on waxed paper or foil to cool, about 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, stir candies and sprinkles into remaining cereal mixture. Spread on waxed paper or foil to cool, about 15 minutes.

In serving bowl, mix both cereal mixtures. Store in airtight container.

SOURCE: <https://www.pillsbury.com/recipes/valentine-chex-mix/986e6fb7-5d0f-4497-80ef-62654ddf8e86>



by Hank the Burro

Hello to all of my Grange friends! Hope you are all staying warm and dry so far this winter. Noel and I have been out plowing and shoveling and cleaning up the Grange Halls every storm so far.

I've also been to the formation of the new Pomona Grange called Eastern Connecticut Pomona (formerly Pomona C). How wonderful to see the new Pomona Granges take off into their new adventures.

Please say Hello if you see me around this winter. Don't forget to follow me on Facebook for news of my latest travels. Please take a minute to follow the link and click the "Like" button. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>

In Memoriam

Christine Griswold
Cawasa Grange #34

Marion Culhane
Colchester Grange #78

Amy Whitcomb, G.S.
Taghannuck Grange #100

Eleanor Davis, G.S.
Killingly Grange #112

Jean Lee
Lyme Grange #147

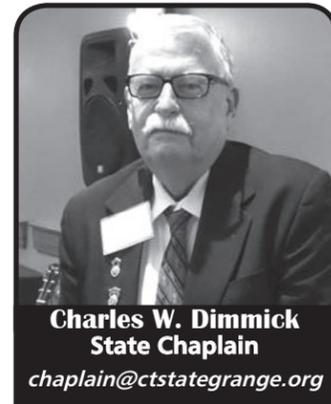
Not currently members,
but remembered by many:
Janet A. Beauregard
Victory Grange #189 & Riverton #169

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

Seeking the Kingdom

Seekye first the Kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things
shall be added unto you
Allelu Alleluia

Last summer, while
inspecting an agricultural fair,
I was approached by a young
evangelical who wanted to
know if I was preparing myself
so that I could go to heaven. I



argued with him, not very effectively, that I thought he had his priorities wrong. I was more concerned as to whether I was doing my part to bring the Kingdom of God here to Earth. After all, the prayer that Jesus taught us says: "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth".

In the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 12, Jesus seems to say that the dawning of the Kingdom of God on Earth has already begun: "If it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out the demons, then be sure that the kingdom of God has arrived to you".

In Luke we read that, when Jesus visited the synagogue and was handed the scroll of Isaiah, he read the passage "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free," and when he had finished reading he said "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

But, you may say, it certainly doesn't look as though the Kingdom of God is here. "Look at all the conflict and misery around us." Yet, what Jesus was really saying is that the Kingdom [that is, the rulership] of God is being offered to us right now, all we need to do is reach out and accept it by repenting of our sins and believing the good news that Jesus proclaims. Well, actually, one more step is required. If we believe the good news then we also need to show our belief by doing the good works that we are asked to perform. What good works are these? For a homework assignment go and reread the 25th chapter of Matthew, especially verses 31-46, the parable of the sheep and the goats. Following the examples therein you will be on the way to helping bring the Kingdom of God to fruition here on earth.