



# Connecticut Granger



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

Vol. 58, No. 12

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

SEPTEMBER 2018

## State President



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

When I started as your State Master the Board of Directors identified values for the Connecticut State Grange, a list that consisted of HONESTY, COMMUNITY, CHARITY, INTEGRITY, FRIENDSHIP, and CITIZENSHIP. These values are the goals that make our Grangers the best that we have to offer. Many hours are given by our Grangers to the community and strangers that need assistance. These values are our selling point as we encourage people to join the Grange. We have survived 150 years and have not lowered our standards in becoming a Granger. I tell people if they wish to live a long life, join the Grange because many of our members are receiving 50, 60, 70 year service awards. The other factor in joining the Grange is that our members know the history of our communities. We know the gossip and where the dirt is. It is a great asset that our members have the knowledge of our towns.

The National Grange is

## A Community Service Hero in Stonington

By Rosetta Jones of "The Resident"

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, Master Trad Dart of Stonington Grange No. 168 presented former Connecticut State Senator Catherine Cook with the 2018 Community Citizen Award in recognition of her many years of distinguished public service. Ms. Cook is the Executive Director for Work Vessels for Vets.

After two decades of public service, Ms. Cook retired from the Senate in 2006 as Chief Deputy Leader. Catherine went on to serve as the Governor's Executive Assistant for Veteran's Affairs where she concentrated her

reporting that the litigation in California of California State Grange verses the California Guild has been decided. The Guild has been found guilty of taking Grange funds and receiving dues from Community Granges. Damages are to be paid by the Guild to the California State Grange, treble (three fold). Some other items have been filed by the Guild but it seems to be a moot point. Many Community Granges have returned to the California State Grange and we welcome them back to the fold.

State Session will be here in October. This is Election of Officers so please have a delegate(s) present to cast your ballot. I thank Amanda Brozana Rios for being our National Representative this year. I think that you will find her energetic and has that Grange Spirit we all need. It has been a great ride for Marcia and myself as your State Master and hope to see the State Grange traveling toward the light of the future.

This year Farm Aid will be coming to Hartford on September 22, 2018. National Grange will be working with us with a hands on promotional booth at the event. They had a similar booth at the last Farm Aid concert. We will be looking for assistance in filling the staff at this event.

At the Big E, National Grange has teamed up with a group to promote awareness of the Opiate Crisis that has taken over our communities. They will have a booth in the

efforts on Gold Star families. She was instrumental in the creation of the higher education OASIS centers for Vets returning to college. Her connections enabled her to expand and support Work Vessels for Vets in all 50 states.

For the past 10 years, Work Vessels for Vets has assisted 1600 returning injured veterans with two million dollars in equipment to provide the tools they need to start a business or pursue career education.

Catherine explained how returning veterans with injuries are more likely to go into entrepreneur businesses

New England Grange Building with information and items to dispose of Rx safely. This is a crisis that we need to win. In just one day New Haven had 91 K2 drug related overdoses at the New Haven Green. Someone was giving away free tainted drugs to get people hooked on it, overtaxing the EMS, fire and police systems. We need to get this under control and provide funding to help these people get off this stuff and crack down on the loose regulations for prescribing these drugs. Greed has again shown its ugly head bringing down people across this country we all love.

The mid-term elections are upon us. This year is getting crazier and crazier. Let's all take a deep breath and use common sense as to who you should vote for. Let us not rely on any information as gospel truth. Just because it's on the internet doesn't mean that it is true. Do your homework and fact check everything that is said. I had a boss that always said, "Figures can't lie, but liars can always figure." This is the truth that you need to do your own work in giving your vote away. Just remember that we are the people that they have to represent.

The Central Office is filling up with Grange furniture from closed Grange halls. If you need newer items, check it out. We have stations, staves, newer song books, chairs, baskets. We need to liquidate these items. Take a look.

Fair season is here again. Please go out and visit a Grange Fair and share time with family and friends. See you in October.

than non-veterans, because of leadership and self-reliance skills acquired during military training, and having control of their daily work which allows for schedule adjustments without the consequence of getting fired if they are having a bad day from PTSD, discomfort from injuries, or have frequent medical appointments.

She believes Work Vessels

Continued on page 4

## National Representative



**Amanda Leigh Brozana Rios**

The Connecticut State Grange is pleased to announce Amanda Leigh Brozana Rios will be the National Grange Representative to the 134th Annual Session of the CT State Grange to be held October 18-20 in Norwich, CT.

Brozana Rios is the National Grange Communications and Development Director and works with the Grange Foundation as an associate. She is also past National Lecturer (2015-16), a member of Potomac Grange #1, Washington, D.C. and Cumberland Valley Grange #2104, Pennsylvania.

She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, a Master's of Arts in Journalism from the University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi, and completed doctoral work at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in Communication Studies.

She began her career in communications at 14 when she started working for the local weekly newspaper, the *Southern Schuylkill Call*, in her hometown area of Schuylkill County. She later worked for the daily *Pottsville Republican Herald* as a correspondent, intern, copy editor and reporter.

She has taught communications and journalism,

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**NEXT ISSUE...**  
**Articles Due**  
**Sept. 15**

# 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange

October 18, 19 & 20, 2018 • Holiday Inn Norwich



**Reservations:**  
860-889-5201

**Conn. State Grange Rate:**  
\$105.00/night, plus tax



**860-889-5201**

## Nat. Rep. Amanda Leigh Brozana Rios

*Continued from page one...*  
and American Studies, as a teaching assistant and then adjunct instructor at the University of Alabama, served on faculty at Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Al., and Bridgewater State College (now Bridgewater State University) in Bridgewater, Mass.

During her time at Alabama, she was the inaugural award winner for Student-led Community Engagement Partnerships.

She is married to Victor Barreto Rios, who is also a member of Cumberland

Valley Grange #2104, PA, and serves as Steward of New Deal Grange #447, Greenbelt, MD. Together, they live in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, where she has been newly appointed to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Amanda and Victor enjoy community service projects, simple signing using ASL and petting "all the dogs." They have three rescue dogs of their own - Wagneto, Austin and Maggie - and are the proud host parents of Anna Marie Wagerer of Schaalby, Germany.

Amanda grew up the daughter of a small-town police chief, an experience that destined her to live by the philosophy that, "You aren't going to be popular, but you can choose to do good, work your hardest and be right." She applies that each day to her work with the Grange.

During her time at the National Grange, she said she is most proud of launching the Communication Fellows program that has helped teach basic communication skills to members who prove to be part of our up-and-coming leadership core and the quarterly magazine, *Good Day!*.



## 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange

State Session is not just for the officers and delegates. All members are encouraged to attend all or part of the Connecticut State Grange convention to help celebrate our accomplishments during the previous year and start a new Grange year inspired and energized.

**ALL MEMBERS** (Delegates and Non-Delegates) are required to register to attend most sessions/activities of the convention. The exceptions are the Sixth Degree on Saturday and the Lecturer's Program during the Celebration Banquet on Friday evening, along with the Installation of Officers.. All other events require payment of a registration fee and/or purchase of a ticket. Registration for Friday and Saturday also includes admission to that days' buffet luncheon. The Celebration Banquet is a separate ticketed event. Please contact the Central Office if you have any questions. Make additional copies of this form, if necessary.

### REGISTRATION

Grange Name \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name _____	Delegate? _____	Jr. _____	Adult _____	Banquet Choice # _____
Name _____	Delegate? _____	Jr. _____	Adult _____	Banquet Choice # _____
Name _____	Delegate? _____	Jr. _____	Adult _____	Banquet Choice # _____
Name _____	Delegate? _____	Jr. _____	Adult _____	Banquet Choice # _____

### FULL SESSION (Full Session Registration includes lunch on Fri. & Sat.)

Adult Registration - \$30.00 # of Members \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Junior Registration - \$20.00 # of Members \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

### CELEBRATION BANQUET (FRIDAY Evening at 7:00 P.M.)

# of People \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Meal Choices (indicate the number of each person's choice above): **BEFORE SEPT. 15, \$30 - \$40 AFTER**

- 1) Grilled Fillet Mignon served with a Rosemary Demi Glaze
- 2) Chicken Marsala with Wild Mushrooms in an Italian Wine Sauce
- 3) Shrimp Scampi
- 4) Pasta Primavera

All entrees include Freshly Tossed Garden Salad, Warm Rolls & Butter, Chef's selection of Vegetables, Chocolate Mousse Cake, Coffee, Tea, Soda, Water



### THURSDAY, OCT. 18 & FRIDAY, OCT. 19 (ONE DAY Registration includes lunch on Friday)

Adult Registration - \$15.00 # of Members \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Junior Registration - \$10.00 # of Jr. Members \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

### SATURDAY, OCT. 20 (ONE DAY Registration includes lunch on Saturday)

Adult Registration - \$15.00 # of Members \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Junior Registration - \$10.00 # of Jr. Members \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** = \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to the Connecticut State Grange**

**Mail to:** Connecticut State Grange, P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033

**Questions:** Please call the Central Office at 860-633-7550 or the State Secretary's Cell 860-307-1522 or email: [Secretary@CTStateGrange.org](mailto:Secretary@CTStateGrange.org)

### SESSION & HOTEL ROOM REGISTRATIONS DUE NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 5

#### HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS:

Call the Holiday Inn Norwich at 860-889-5201 (mention the Connecticut State Grange to receive our group rate)

## Sixth DEGREE

Now is a great time to take the Sixth Degree and become members of the Connecticut State Grange. Why? National Grange is coming to Vermont in November and by becoming a Sixth Degree member, you become eligible to receive the Seventh Degree close to home!

What do you need to do? To be eligible, you must have received the Fifth Degree (Pomona) before taking the Sixth. Please check with your Pomona to see if they are conferring the Fifth Degree this fall prior to State Session.

Once you have the Fifth Degree, you can come to State Session on Saturday, October 20 to receive the degree. Candidates for the degree are asked to arrive at the Holiday Inn by 2:30 P.M. for the conferral which begins promptly at 3:00 P.M. in the Grand Ballroom.

There is an application and a fee of \$10 per member to receive the degree. Applications are available by contacting the State Secretary in advance of State Session. They can also be purchased at any time during Session and at the door on the afternoon of the degree.

This beautiful degree will also be conferred on the morning of the last day of National Grange Session for members unable to be present for a conferral in their home states.

Questions about State Session and the Degrees can be sent to the State Secretary - [Secretary@CTStateGrange.org](mailto:Secretary@CTStateGrange.org)

# 2018 Session Schedule

(This schedule is tentative and subject to change without notice)

## Thursday, October 18, 2018

- Ballroom, Holiday Inn Norwich, 10 Laura Blvd., Norwich, CT
- 7:00 P.M. Opening in form in the Sixth Degree  
Introduction of National Representative,  
Amanda Brozana-Rios, National Grange  
Communications Director  
Roll Call of Officers, Deputies, Committees  
Lower Grange to Fourth Degree  
Presentation of Fourth Degree Delegates  
Roll Call of Granges  
Report of Credential Committee  
Session Committee Announcements  
Introduction of Business to be referred without debate
- 8:00 P.M. Address of State President Noel T. Miller  
Report of Overseer  
Reports of Secretary  
Reports of Treasurer  
Report of Executive Committee/Board of Directors
- 9:00 P.M. Closing
- 9:15 P.M. Committee Work Begins

## Friday, October 19, 2018

- 9:00 A.M. Opening & Introductions  
Roll Call of Officers  
Minutes of Previous Day's Session  
Introduction of Business to be referred without debate
- 9:15 A.M. Special Order of Business: Election of the Officers  
of the Connecticut State Grange
- 9:30 A.M. Report of Legislative Committee  
Report of Agriculture Committee  
Report of General Deputy  
Reports of Pomona Deputies
- 10:45 A.M. **BREAK**
- 11:00 A.M. Report of Connecticut Granger  
Report of Camp Berger  
- Ruel Miller, Camp Liaison  
- Lyn & Chris Kimberly, Camp Directors  
Report of Connecticut State Grange Foundation  
Business Session (Resolutions)
- 12:00 P.M. Luncheon (Nutmeg Ballroom)  
Hosts: TBD  
- Blessing by State Chaplain Charles Dimmick  
- Family Activity Presentation & Awards  
- Membership Awards  
- Public Relations Awards  
- Agriculture Contest Awards
- 2:00 P.M. Recognition of Past Voting Delegates
- 2:15 P.M. Address of National Representatives
- 2:45 P.M. Business Session
- 3:15 P.M. **BREAK**
- 3:30 P.M. Report of New England Grange Building Trustees
- 4:30 P.M. Closing
- 7:00 P.M. Celebration Banquet (Ballroom)  
Professional Agric. Awards  
Scholarships  
Lecturer's Program  
Past Deputies Raffle

## Saturday, October 20, 2018

- 9:00 A.M. Opening & Introductions  
Roll Call of Officers  
Minutes of Previous Day's Sessions  
Introduction of Business to be referred without debate  
Junior and Youth Tour
- 9:15 A.M. Memorial Service
- 9:45 A.M. Business Session
- 10:45 A.M. **BREAK**
- 11:00 A.M. Budget Approval
- 11:45 A.M. FFA Representative
- 12:00 P.M. Youth & Junior Recognition Luncheon  
Hosts: TBD  
- Blessing by State Chaplain  
- Junior Recognition  
- Youth Recognition
- 1:30 P.M. Business Session
- 3:00 P.M. 6th Degree Conferral, Grand Ballroom,  
Holiday Inn Norwich  
(Open to Sixth Degree members, registration not required)  
Opening in form in the Sixth Degree  
Escorting of National Representative  
Recognition of Honored Guests & P.V. Delegates  
Conferral of the Sixth Degree in full form  
Rose Drill  
Recognition of G.S. Grangers  
Community Service  
Honor Grange Awards  
Closing in form in the Fourth Degree  
March to the Table - Officers and Court

Installation of Officers of the Connecticut State Grange - to immediately follow the Sixth Degree Conferral (a brief recess may be called in between).

**Please Note:** Candidates must be at the Holiday Inn Norwich by 2:30 P.M. Candidates must have the Fourth and Fifth Degree words and the Sixth Degree ticket stub to give to the Deputy at the door. Applications for the Sixth Degree will be on sale during the Session and at the door on Saturday. Cost of application: \$10.00.

# State Session Resolutions

The following are all resolutions received by the State Grange up to the time of printing. They have not been assigned to Committees by the State Master. We will print any additional resolutions received and the complete list of Committee Assignments in the next issue. Remember, deadline to receive resolutions is September 15, 2018. Any received after that date will be printed in the Session Book as long as it hasn't gone to print. Otherwise, copies for each delegate will have to be supplied by your Grange.

## 1) RE: SALE OF GRANGE PROPERTY

**WHEREAS** the by-laws of the National Grange Sec. 4.11.1 (G) limits the amount a Grange may retain after the sale of property to \$1,000 with the remainder to be kept in trust by the State Grange, and **WHEREAS** this section has not been updated in several years and value of property has risen dramatically over those years.

## THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that the first sentence of Sec. 4.11.1 (G) be changed to read: "When a sale of real property is concluded, the selling Subordinate or Pomona Grange shall account for the net proceeds of the sale received at the time of settlement and shall remit all but the sum of \$1,000 10% of such net proceeds or \$1,000 of such net proceeds whichever is greater to the State Grange having jurisdiction to be held in trust for the said Subordinate or Pomona Grange.

**SOURCE:** Riverton Grange No. 169

## 2) RE: ANNUAL REPORTS

**WHEREAS** throughout the complete Connecticut State Grange history up to and including the proposed budget for Oct. 2015 - Sept. 2016, item #40002, Dues-Subordinate has been reported as one figure, alone, and

**WHEREAS** the Treasurer's Report for 2016 changes item #40002 to read, Dues-Subordinate-Other, combining Subordinate with other income, contrary to auditing practices, and his own Delegate-approved budget.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Treasurer stop combining Subordinate and other incomes and report them separately in the Annual Report.

**SOURCE:** Granby Grange No. 5

## 3) RE: VOTING AT STATE SESSION

**WHEREAS** some delegates to the State yearly meeting are unaware of their obligations as a resolution voter.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that each Subordinate Grange be notified that their delegates to the yearly meeting must vote yes on all resolutions accepted by the members of their Subordinate,

and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all voting delegates under each Pomona must vote yes on all resolutions accepted by their Pomona.

**SOURCE:** Granby Grange #5

## 4) RE: RESOLUTION WRITING

**WHEREAS** a resolution writer must follow at least three sets of guidelines printed by the State Grange at different times,

Instruction Guide "A" has 4 pages with 12 paragraphs, undated, unsigned.

"B" has one page with 12 paragraphs, dated 2-23-2018 unsigned

"C" has one page with 6 paragraphs. *CT Granger*, 2-2009 unsigned, and

**WHEREAS** the writer then finds the three conflict with each other, such as, Instruction "A" says start with stating the general purpose,

"B" says start with page #, name of source, and writer.

"C" says number resolution, have clear concise title, and state problem.

Instruction "A" says the purpose of your resolution.

"B" says, start with one long perambulatory of general statements

"C" says state the problem, and

Instruction "A" says start with a fact that can be proven and at the end express your hopes.

"B" says start with one long sentence in which the opinion of the writer is reflected.

"C" says, do not express opinions, and

Instruction "A" says, end your statement with a semi-colon and the letter A, which is followed, without a space, the word and, which is followed by the letter "A" in a circle, and then followed by a semi-colon.

"B" says, after each clause a semi-colon is put.

"C" says, at the end put a semi-colon, followed by the word "and," and

Instruction "A," at the bottom, says, after the final resolve to add a line stating the name and number of your Grange.

"B" at the top, says, start with the heading title of the source Grange.

"C," has no advice on submitter, and

Instruction "A" says, when there's more than one resolve, end each with a semi-colon, followed by a capital "A", then the word "and" in small letters, and then an "A" in a circle.

"B" says, with more than one resolve, the next to last resolve be followed by the word "and", in capital letters.

"C" says, when there's more than one resolve, tie them together with, "and be it further resolved."

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that ALL resolutions be accepted,

*Continued next page...*

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

(USPS 563-220)

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## DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the **5th Day** of each month and should be sent to:  
Connecticut State Grange  
P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033

or

Todd Gelineau, Editor  
P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069  
Granger@CTStateGrange.org

## Connecticut Granger Staff

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

# Session Resolutions

Continued from page 3...

regardless of faults, for the annual state meeting, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the committee it is assigned to shall then re-write the resolution, keeping the writer's intentions intact, for the assembly vote.

**SOURCE:** Granby Grange #5

## 5) RE: THE SALE OF STATE OWNED REAL ESTATE

**WHEREAS** there have been several proposals in recent years to sell real estate owned by the State of Connecticut which were opposed by the general public, and

**WHEREAS** there were no public hearings or other official means for the public to express their opposition to these proposed sales, and

**WHEREAS** there will be a question on the ballots in the general election this fall which, if passed, will require the State to hold a public hearing on the proposed sale or transfer of any State owned real estate, and

**WHEREAS** the Grange has taken positions to preserve parks, forests and agricultural land in Connecticut.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Connecticut State Grange support the passage of the question on the ballots this fall to amend the State Constitution to mandate that public hearings be held on the proposed sale of any State owned real estate, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all Granges and Grange members be encouraged to advocate for the passage of the question concerning the public hearings on the sale of any State owned real estate.

**SOURCE:** Vernon Grange #52

## 6) RE: DOUBLING THE FINES WHEN A CHILD IS IN THE VEHICLE

**WHEREAS** presently Connecticut has established laws and fines concerning driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs or while texting, and

**WHEREAS** there was a recent study showing that many parents are still texting while driving even when there is a child in the car, and

**WHEREAS** there has also been occurrences of adults who have been drinking or under the influence of drugs and driving while a child in the car.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Connecticut State Grange urge the Connecticut General Assembly to double the fines of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs or texting while driving when there is a child in the vehicle at the time of the arrest.

**SOURCE:** Lyme Grange #147

## 7) RE: ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES

**WHEREAS** Executive reports must account for every penny going in and out at the Subordinate and Pomona levels, and

**WHEREAS** incoming and outgoing monies are handled by a variety of volunteers, who may do the in or the out, or sometimes both operations, and

**WHEREAS** State Executive Committee Report writers are setting a bad example by losing or gaining 50 to 100 thousand dollars between 11:59 Sept. 30 and 12:01 Oct. of the same year, and

**WHEREAS** when asked about the discrepancy, the delegates were told that was the only way they could correct the poor bookkeeping of the outgoing treasurer, and

**WHEREAS** after two treasurer changes the discrepancies continued, then asked again about the discrepancy and were told that it takes a month to get a certain figure, and

**WHEREAS** all the State's illusive answers were conveyed to the State President on 2-15-17, hoping for clarification, so that the delegates might return to their Subordinates with an understandable explanation of the State's answers, but clarification went unanswered.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Section "A" of the Executive Committee Report, detailing the 11:59 P.M. Sept. 30 ending figures be eliminated, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the listing of institutions where Subordinate monies are held be eliminated, adhering to Connecticut non-profit corporation law which states that "non-profits must be governed by their own boards and can't have outside management", this would stop publicity of Subordinate fund monies, making them more secure, and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that Subordinate and Pomona Executive Committee Report writers follow the National procedure which adds the yearly income to the outgo, and putting the balance into a special fund, which reflects the gain or loss for the year.

**SOURCE:** Granby Grange #5

# Entries are due Oct. 1



**Marge Bernhardt**  
State Lecturer  
lecturer@ctstategrange.org

**THANK YOU!** I want to thank everyone who has sent cards and letters and called me the last few months. Until you are under the weather yourself, you don't realize just how much a card or note from a familiar face can mean. I got a good report from my doctor this week and should be able to get out and visit again. His only suggestion was to spend less time on the computer and more time exercising.

For those of you who do not know, I have been sending out e-mails when one of our current or past pink sash wearers is sick. If you would like to be added to the list of people who receive these messages just let me know. My email is mbc76@yahoo.com.

State Session is just around the corner. Essays, Complete Programs, Should Auld Acquaintance Reports and Honor Lecturer Reports are due October 1<sup>st</sup>. I really do need these on time as some have to go out to judges and they all require certificates to be made up.

As the cooler, less humid weather of autumn approaches let's invest some time in our Subordinate and Pomona Granges. We have all worked too hard for too long not to appreciate what a great organization the Grange is.

See you around the State.



Stafford Grange No.1 Master Myron Royal Avery and his wife, Grace Masako Avery cut the cake at a celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary at Stafford Grange Hall.

# A Community Service Hero in Stonington

Continued from page one...

for Vets has figured out a winning formula.

"I can call up a company and say... I have a wounded veteran that lost both legs and he inherited his father's 67-acre farm. He needs a tractor. But I gotta tell you, he can't climb up in it. So, we gotta figure out a way to get him what he needs. So, I call up John Deere, and say okay John Deere... what you gonna do? We are a non-profit and you can donate to us and take the tax deduction... Great! But, now we gotta get that tractor for this injured kid, who was only nineteen when he got blown up in Afghanistan...

so they gave me a hydraulic lift, and a friend wrote a check for \$38,000. Today, he's running the farm. [It takes] A little bit of "who knows who" and a little bit of "chutzpah" to be able to make the call."

She also shared a story about a letter she'd received from an amputee who had lost one leg and the other was so badly injured it had to be all stitched together. He wanted a longarm quilting machine. When the wounded vets are shipped home, they all get a homemade quilt for the flight home. He'd received a quilt from Quilts of Valor who had been made by a Navy Seal. He figured if the Seal was macho enough to make a quilt, then he could. So, he went to a quilting class and found that it really calmed his PTSD. He forgot about the pain because he



**Catherine Cook**

was so engaged in the precision of putting together a quilt- but, now you have to stitch together the top, middle, bottom into a pattern. So, having only been able to raise \$8,000 toward the purchase of this \$40,000 quilting machine assembly, Catherine called the President of Gammill Quilts in Missouri, and in asking for her help learned that she was an "Army brat and her husband was an Army vet." She said, "Well since you've already raised some money, let me see what we

can do, and they donated the whole thing... So, from Missouri they sent the instructor, trucked the

equipment down to him and now this young amputee has not only learned to operate the machine, he's learning to repair them for companies all over the eastern part of the United States and is now supporting his wife and two children."

Catherine considers... "this little non-profit the pride and joy of Eastern Connecticut." Work Vessels for Vets has developed partnerships with various foundations, such as Farmers Veterans Coalition.

To learn more about Work Vessels for Vets, call are encouraged to visit their website: [www.WorkVesselsForVeterans.org](http://www.WorkVesselsForVeterans.org).



# Meet the next generation of Grangers

<b>GENERATION Z</b> <b>1997-2015</b>	<b>MILLENNIALS</b> <b>1980-1996</b>	<b>GENERATION X</b> <b>1965-1979</b>
		
<b>AKA: iGeneration (IGen)</b> <b>Post-Millennials</b> <b>Homeland Generation</b>	<b>AKA: Generation Y</b> <b>Echo Boomers</b> <b>Boomerang Generation</b>	<b>AKA: Latch-Key Kids</b> <b>MTV Generation</b> <b>13th Generation</b>

by Faith Quinlan

I received quite a lot of great feedback on the last article and I would like to continue sharing more concepts from *The End of Membership as We Know it* by Sarah L. Sladek.

“The United States is on the brink of the largest shift in human capital in history. Most of our nation’s companies, government, and nonprofit organizations are vastly unprepared for the loss of their leadership and most loyal talent.”

Change, is inevitable. There are a few different responses people have to change: Denial, Fear, Acceptance and Embracing. To move the Grange forward, more clearly, to keep the Grange alive, we must respond by embracing change. As Sarah so clearly communicates, “Of course, it’s easier to keep doing things as you’ve always done them. In fact, it would be easier to create a brand new association than to change an existing one.” Unlearning the ways that no longer serve us in recruiting new members and beginning to welcome new people is uncomfortable but possible and important.

It isn’t anyone’s fault things need to change, no one is to blame, it’s just time to prevent ourselves from becoming irrelevant and time to stop jeopardizing our future, Let us embrace change so we can be sure the Grange can live another 150 years as a proud, community asset.

Under the 3 categories Sladek uses to explain organizations in membership crisis, who are suffering the worst membership loss, we fall into the “Antique Associations” which are marked by being established many years, losing relevance and unable to adapt to today’s audience. All very harsh words I realize, but for many community granges it is accurate. The legacies are our blessing and our curse. Tradition, ceremony and a long history will not sell to the younger generations. They have had a hugely different experience of the world and they have global and local civic values. The Grange does also and that is why our message about who we are needs to shift so that people with these great ideals are drawn to join us. We want a larger membership but to do so without compromising who we are and what we want, loyal and active members.

The best way to attract these members is membership benefits. Focus on the future and we can find reasons that will compel younger people to join the Grange. As Sladek explains, “Your association must address the wants and needs of the under-45 crowd because these people could not care less about your association’s history, insurance discounts and annual conference.”

So, What does Generation X (1965-1981) and Y (1982-1995) care about? X and Y are focused on 3 main objectives: Leadership, Learning, and Making a Difference. How

does that translate for the Grange? They will respond and invest in membership if it benefits them personally or professionally and their community or industry.

These are areas we have a direct knowledge of and already do. This transition may already look less menacing than we originally believed. They want leadership roles, check. But there is a catch, of course, they do not want long terms and prefer fewer and shorter meetings because they prefer to roll up their sleeves and make something happen. They want to enjoy leadership and that means real outcomes and recognition for their efforts. How does this translate to membership benefits? Leadership training and opportunities like leading service projects, volunteers and recognizing these efforts in the Granger, online or distribution of awards.

Learning new skills is a key characteristic of this generation because they are the first generation not to know job security. Adding new skill-sets to their personal arsenal makes them much more marketable professionally. The good news is they are already well educated as a group, fast learners and capable of multitasking. This generation is raising their children, working and, in some cases, care for aging relatives. They have mortgages, daycare and college debt and pressed for time so the education needs to be affordable and offer that education through more ways than in-person (online and mentor/internships that work around their schedule and self guided programs).

Making a difference is my personal favorite aspect of this generation. Salary and prestige take a secondary role to work-life balance and working for an ethical organization. Social consciousness is a motivating factor to whether they will join. “These are generations that want to know their participation in your association can literally make a difference in the world.” Benefits like fundraisers to support not only the Grange but also the community are appealing. Service projects that are tangible and visible and allow them to volunteer and make a difference hold strong appeal. Environmentally friendly business practices and projects are absolutely of high concern to this group as well. Community outreach that supports the Grange’s mission are the best place to begin.

My hope is we begin to understand how we are similar to these potential new members, accept that change is happening and not lose any of the things that make the Grange an amazing organization already!

Remember I am available for questions, comments and suggestions at membership\_faith@ctstategrange.org.

## Work continues on the 2018 Farm Bill



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

Two years ago you were hearing a lot about the Federal 2014 Farm Bill which finally was passed in 2016. The Farm Bill is in effect for four years and even though it was passed in 2016 it was effective as of 2014. The Federal House of Representatives and Senate are now working on creating

the 2018 Farm Bill. This bill seems to be moving along faster than the previous bill, but hopefully I did not just jinx it. At this point both the House and Senate have passed their own versions of the 2018 Farm Bill. The House has already voted to send their 2018 Farm Bill to a conference committee. The Senate still needs to vote on sending their bill to conference but it is expected that will happen soon.

Once the Senate votes on sending the Farm Bill to a conference committee then the House and Senate conference members will begin working on negotiating a final bill that is acceptable to both. The goal is to complete the Farm Bill by this September 30<sup>th</sup>. This is the date that many of the previous Farm Bill programs will expire.

Even though this bill is titled “Farm Bill”, a major portion of funding in this bill is for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance or SNAP program. Seventy percent of the Farm Bills funding is allocated to SNAP. The remainder of the funding is for crop insurance, commodity programs, conservation and other programs.

Parts of the House and Senate versions are very similar and close to the 2014 Farm Bill as far as commodity titles and crop insurance titles.

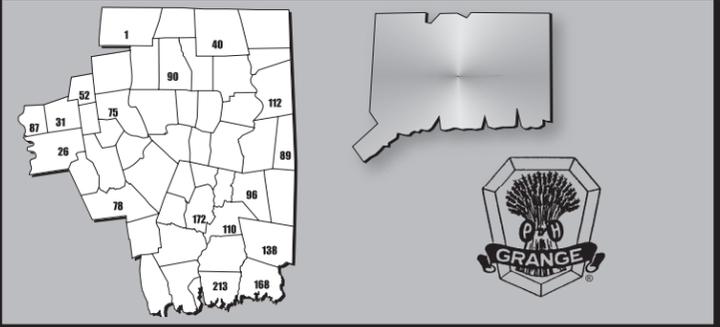
The greatest stumbling block of the 2018 Farm Bill will be added SNAP requirements proposed by the House. The House version requires those who are able to work to do either work or job training for a minimum of 20 hours a week. There are exemptions for recipients with dependent children. The Senate version does not include this requirement and many oppose adding it.

## Senexet Scholars



**Hannah Walley (left) and Ciri Miller are pictured receiving 2018 Senexet Grange Scholarships. Ciri will be attending UConn in the fall with a major in biology in hopes of becoming a doctor.**

## E. Connecticut Pomona No. 14



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	

### E. CONN. POMONA #14

*Corr: Noel Miller*

**Sept. 8:** Meeting, 7 P.M. at Glastonbury Grange meeting place, in South Glastonbury, Route 17A in the Masonic Hall.

### SENEKET GRANGE #40

*Corr: Diane Miller*

We have been meeting regularly. Several young members of the Grange took it upon themselves to do some outside yard work. lawn mowing and weed removal. Our Grange hall is on a very busy road and the exterior has needed some work. We want to try to make it look better. We will be helping with Celebrating Ag on Sept 22. This event displays agriculture in a positive way. We will also be holding our annual fair on Saturday Sept 15 from 9-noon. Showcasing the skills of our members and others in the community. We had new heater units installed in the meeting room after three failed from a power surge. We were saddened to hear of the death of long time Gold Sheaf members Lorraine Duhamel, George Lawrence and Jotham Reynolds. At our annual awards night held in August we awarded the scholarships to member Ciri Miller who will attend UConn in the fall, as well as Woodstock residents Hannah Walley, Leah Reynolds and Zeenat Choudhry. We are working on the Grange exhibit for the Woodstock Fair, this year with a theme of recycling.

### VERNON GRANGE #52

*Corr: Cherie Robinson*

**Sept. 7:** How We Started: A History of the Grange  
**Oct. 5:** Grocery Bingo  
**Oct. 26:** Craft Night

In June, Manchester Grange brought to us, their program "The Movies", complete with popcorn to munch on during the presentation. We enjoyed a fun program and great company. On the 25th we took our program "Looking in The Rearview Mirror" to Manchester

Grange. As always, we had a nice evening visiting there. We enjoy exchanging programs and encourage your Grange to try it!

In July, our topic was be "Freedom!". On July 10<sup>th</sup>, we had a booth set up at Rockville's July in the Skies Celebration. We distributed free hearing protection to help conserve hearing during the fireworks.

August brings our annual potluck picnic, held at the Strong Farm, weather permitting. We will be writing postcards gathered from our summer vacation trips, to send to military personnel to thank them for their service that allows us the freedom to travel.

We will start our Grange year with a look at Grange history. October brings Grocery Bingo. Many of us are planning on taking the 6<sup>th</sup> degree on October 18 at State Session. On Craft Night we will begin to make holiday decorations for a local nursing home. We welcome visitors, please feel free to come to our meetings.

### COVENTRY GRANGE #75

*Corr: Noel Miller*

**Sept. 6:** Installation

Coventry Grange #75 will have its installation of officers on Sept. 6. We had a Tag Sale on Aug. 25 "Back to School" hoping to do well. Hoping to give out awards for 25, 50 and others that night.

### HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

*Corr: Frank Forrest*

**S e p t . 1 5 :**  
1 3 0 <sup>th</sup> H I L L S T O W N  
G R A N G E  
A G R I C U L T U R A L  
F A I R, Contact Frank  
Forrest at 860-690-2845  
hillstowngrange@aol.com.

Hillstown Grange's 130th Agricultural Fair will be held on Saturday, September 15th from 10 am to 2 pm.

Craft people, artists, gardeners, and cooks of all ages are encouraged to enter their best items to be judged for our fair. Judged items may be awarded ribbons and cash prizes. All entries must be brought to the Grange Hall Thursday,

September 13 between 5 and 7 pm. and picked up at 2 pm on Saturday, September 15.

Garden categories include vegetables, fruit, flowers, and our special "Pink Pumpkin Contest". There is an adult and youth level. Please see our entry form for number of items needed to enter.

Kitchen categories include baked goods, canned goods, jelly and jams. We are the only local fair in the area for entries in the Connecticut State Fairs competitions and we had one winner going all the way to win the State title of 'best apple pie'. Both at our fair and the State level is open to all with both an adult and a youth level.

Crafts, hobbies, and photos can be entered at adult and youth levels.

Lunch is available with our famous hot dogs and hamburgers with peppers and onions will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The bake sale usually runs out of pies by 1 p.m. so get here early to get a homemade pie. Raffle numbers will be pulled at 2pm. A farmer's market will be held outside weather permitting.

Hillstown Grange Fair is the area's only Agricultural Fair, serving the towns of East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester for 130 years, come and feel the history.

For more information or entry forms contact Frank at: 860-690-2845 or email hillstowngrange@aol.com.

### EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

*Corr: Sue Gray*

"Tis the season for love! As I write this, Katie Molodich and Tom Sweet are enjoying their Jack and Jill at Brooklyn Fairgrounds; they will marry in Oct. When you read this, Colin Sebastian and Carly Byron will be married. The day of our Grange Fair, Grangers Ethan Jordan and Karolyn Card will be married! Congratulations to all three amazing couples; all in their 20's and all Grangers (except Carly, who is working on her Doctorate in Chemistry down south). 16 of us enjoyed a picnic, fellowship and swimming at Larkin's Park in RI as guests of Richmond Grange. 17 from Ekonk helped in some way at Washington County Fair in RI and by this reading Brooklyn Fair will also be history~special thanks to Jodi Ann Cameron for again heading up the Ekonk Booth at this major fair!

Lillian Sharpe has applied to be our State Junior Ambassador. She cooked chicken for 208 people at our Blueberry Supper, which she co-chaired with her Mother, Deborah Sharpe. Six Juniors are very interested in traveling to VT

for National Junior Days: exciting times at our Junior Grange. Evelyn Dexter and Victoria Carrier spent 3 and 4 weeks respectfully as CIT's at Camp Berger this summer.

We have met and planning to again serve breakfast and lunch at Celebrate AG at the Woodstock Fairgrounds September 22nd; last year we fed 700 hungry farm people breakfast!

80 year Granger, George Turner, was honored at the annual Moosup VJ Day Parade. He rode on a patriotic float surrounded by other Subordinate and Junior Grangers and spearheaded by Andrea Truppa, our Chaplain. Mike Molodich drove the tractor. George Turner is a Veteran pilot of World War 11 who flew planes for 3 years during the War.

### N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*

**Sept. 14:** "Humility is the solid foundation of all virtues"

**Sept. 28:** "Surprise"

We are sorry to report that long-time member Miriam Shabunia has joined the Great Grange Above. Miriam was our Pomona for many years and will be sadly missed.

We are happy to report that Meredith Key was welcomed into our Grange on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Meredith has been a great help to us at the ham and bean dinner at our agricultural fair. The Fair was well attended this year with good weather all four days. Many thanks to all those who work unending hours to make our Fair a success.

Debbie Barnes is finally, happily home after months in various hospitals. We hope she will be back with us soon at meetings. Get well wishes go out to Thurlow Coats who is recuperating at home after a stay in the hospital.

The annual 4H Expo is now history. We couldn't run our little food booth without help from a few dedicated Grangers and some friends crazy enough to volunteer to melt in 90+ degree heat and run their fee off or sizzle behind a grill or fryolator for hours at a time. We cannot thank these people enough for all they do.

Our officers will be installed at the first meeting in September. Come to our second meeting to see what our Lecturer Sue Pianka, has cooked up for us. It will be fun, whatever it is. And if that darn four-pronged Bambi that keeps eating my tulip tree out back will just go back into his storybook, next time we will tell you all about awesome August.

# Simsbury Grange Fair & Upcoming Events

*by Susan Masino*

The Simsbury Grange Agricultural Fair is *Saturday Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> from 10-3* – Fun for all - don't miss it! Live music, hayrides, great kids games, and food provided by the Old Well Tavern. September 15<sup>th</sup> is a busy day because that evening we will be cosponsoring a free, with donations requested, "Concert on the Green" with the Simsbury Historical Society at 800 Hopmeadow St. The concert is from 5:30 -7:30 featuring Liviu Pop and friends. Liviu is an internationally renowned drummer and was recently inducted into the CT Blues Musicians Hall of Fame. The Simsbury Historical Society is hosting a number of amazing statues that are part of Simsbury Art Trail ([www.simsburyarttrail.com](http://www.simsburyarttrail.com)).

Upcoming events include a series of Do-It-Yourself workshops. The first, titled "Colonial Woodworking and Timber Framing" will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 – 5:00 pm each day. This unique two-day workshop is an introduction to early Colonial timber framing. The course will be co-taught by Nevan Carling and Lou Lestini and includes log hewing and timber frame joinery all done with hand tools. Participants will receive hands-on instructions in recreating unique examples of Colonial joinery used in a range of historic buildings found across New England. Age requirements: 14 and up with permission of parent/guardian. Limited to 16 participants. Must be responsible and comfortable handling extremely sharp tools. Course materials fee \$50, \$25 if under 18, and waived for financial hardship. Bringing your own hand tools is acceptable and encouraged. R.S.V.P. to [nevancarling@gmail.com](mailto:nevancarling@gmail.com). *Nevan Carling is a senior at Classical Magnet High School in Hartford with a keen interest and accumulating expertise in archeology and historical crafts, particularly those involving wood. He will be doing an on-site demo at the Simsbury Grange Agricultural Fair between 10am -3 pm on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Nevan recently attended a three week timber framing course in Latvia during which he built two structures using traditional hand tools and techniques. Lou Lestini is a teacher at the Classical Magnet School. In addition to his teaching he is a hobbyist blacksmith with a*

been interest in reviving and teaching trades.

The second workshop is titled "Cultivating Health in Your Garden: (You Can Do It, We Can Help!)" and will be held Tuesday, October 23rd, 6:00-7:30 pm at Simsbury Grange. This will be a user-friendly fun evening with an outline of tasks, goals and achievable aims to get the most from the agricultural real-estate on your door-step. Interesting and manageable 'how-to-do-it' session with hands-on advice, demonstrations, action calendar, support, resources, applicable skills + Q & A. Grangers know that the time is ripe to get ready to commune with the land for your own (and your families') good - with long-lasting benefits! Jon Gooch is a West Simsbury resident who successfully (and very economically) turned his backyard into an annual cornucopia of fruits, flowers and vegetables for his family and friends. This program features refreshments and

is co-sponsored by Simsbury Public Library.

The third workshop is titled "Beekeeping 101" and will be held on Monday, November 19th, 6:00-7:30 pm at Simsbury Public Library. Beekeeping is easier than you think! Come see and hear the tricks of the trade from Hartford educator Jared Lewis. Jared raises bees, harvests honey, and makes several natural products from the honey and the beeswax. There will be a presentation and a show and tell of basic equipment, specific activities and key timepoints in successful beekeeping. Plenty of time for questions will make sure you can learn how to get started! Jared Lewis is a teacher at the Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy and an experienced beekeeper both at home and alongside his students at the Trinity College Community Garden in Hartford. This program features refreshments and is co-sponsored by Simsbury Public Library.

# Ashford honors veterans



Members of Ashford Grange No. 90 decorate the graves of local veterans with flags for Memorial Day.

## 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](mailto:submissions@ctstategrange.org).



*This Month*



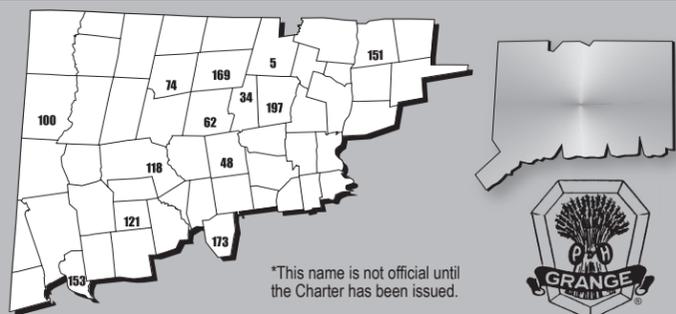
**HINT!** In the middle of the table there is a can of "Patio" soda. Patio Diet Cola was only produced by PepsiCo for a couple of years (1963/64) until it was rebranded as Diet Pepsi. The can on the table appears to be Patio Grape Soda which was only produced for a 10 year period from 1963-1974. NOTE: There is a calendar on the wall but the year is difficult to make



*Last Month*

There were no answers to last month's picture.

## Mountain Laurel Pomona No. 15



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

Granby No. 5  
Cawasa No. 34  
Whiggville No. 48  
Eureka No. 62  
Winchester No. 74  
Taghhannuck No. 100  
Beacon No. 118

Bethlehem No. 121  
Enfield No. 151  
Bridgewater No. 153  
Riverton No. 169  
Wolcott No. 173  
Simsbury No. 197

### WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Sept. 11: First & Second Degrees, Ref. Peter & Mary Lou Keefe

Sept. 18: Third & Fourth Degrees, Ref. Harvest Potluck Supper (6:30 P.M.)

Sept. 25: Installation of Officers, Ref. Ramona Fassio

Well, the Grange Fair and Flea Market has come and gone. In past years, if there was rain, it held off until just before or just after our closing time. This year was much different with showers starting almost right at the start of the Fair. Despite the rainy weather that held on throughout the day, we had a decent showing of visitors and a respectable profit for the day. We always remind ourselves that holding the Fair ultimately means we don't have to pay property taxes on our hall and the land it sits on. We thank all of the members and friends of Winchester Grange who contributed time, talents, entries and items for this year's fair. It certainly couldn't happen without the support of our community and it would be hard to find a better Grange community than Winchester Center!

By the time you are reading this, our annual Awards Night and Picnic will have been held. We will hopefully have more on this along with pictures in the next issue.

Do you know of anyone who would like to join the Grange? If so, please contact Secretary Sue Addison so we can plan for the degree nights list above in the calendar listing. If we do not have candidates we will have a regular meeting on Sept. 11.

### TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Saturday September 8th we will be exhibiting at the Cornwall Agricultural Fair

from 9:00 - 4:00. The fair is located on the Pine Street Green. Our aim is to recruit new members and you can help by attending and "talking up" the Grange. You will enjoy the great food and fellowship.

Our September 13th meeting will have a program presented by Chris Hopkins about "What in the World? - WWI"

On September 27th we have our Harvest Dinner at 6:30 in our Hall. This is a potluck dinner and we would be pleased to have you attend. It is open to non-members also and I would appreciate knowing if you will attend so we can set up the correct number of tables. (860) 364-5373. Awards will be presented after the dinner with a musical program to follow. Seals will be awarded to Debbie Hanlon (35 yrs); Lucy Gould (40 yrs); Ruth Schnell (60 yrs) and Paul Johnson (70 yrs).

### BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Charles Perry

Sept. 8: Bridgewater Grange Breakfast @ Bridgewater Pavilion, 8:30-11:30 A.M.

The Bridgewater Grange is hosting a breakfast at the Bridgewater Pavilion Saturday, 08 September 2018. Time: 8:30 am - 11:30 am. \$7.00 per person, Children (12-) no charge. We want to offer our guests, before or after breakfast, to ride bicycles, or go on a walking tour around Bridgewater. If you would come to the breakfast and too lead the walkers.

Bicycle and walk routes: Sarah Sanford E., Rt. 133, Clapboard, Hut Hill, back to the pavilion. Easy routes and not long especially for a walker.

Proceeds from the breakfast will benefit the many community programs of the Bridgewater Grange.

# Taghhannuck Picnic



Members of Taghhannuck Grange No. 100 in Sharon gather for a picture during their annual Summer Picnic. Other members arrived shortly after the taking of the photo.



## Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

## The best type of publicity is sometimes physical

by Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

There are different types of Granges across Connecticut.

Grange #1 often misses their meetings, sometimes due to bad weather or other circumstances, but many times due to lack of members to meet a quorum. This Grange many no longer have a meeting hall, or if they do, it most likely is in a state of disrepair. This Grange is declining.

Grange #2 is meeting once a month, but barely makes a quorum. This Grange has one or two small events a year to raise some funds to keep the Grange going for another year. This Grange either no longer has a Grange Hall, or if they do have a hall, it may need at least a good cleaning, or even a paint job and some repairs. This Grange is barely existing.

Grange #3 meets once or sometimes twice a month. This Grange hosts a dinner, a Bake Sale, a Fair, or an event of some type a couple of times a year. They may even have a community service project they work on each year. They might get 10 or 12 members out to a meeting, or 15 or even sometimes 20 members to a meeting on a special occasion. This Grange is surviving.

Grange #4 meets regularly, and will often have a good turn-out at meetings, and even fill the hall on special occasions. They have a number of events, and are always working on community service projects or activities. Their Grange Hall is clean and reflects their community accomplishments. This Grange is working toward growth, and often thriving.

In looking at the Granges of Connecticut through the eyes of a non-member, what do they see? Do they see a dilapidated old building, screaming for a paint job and with little signage, which rarely has cars in front of it? Do they see a building that they recognize the name of, but know little more about the organization? Or are they familiar with the group and the building, visiting it frequently for events and activities?

For those Granges that do not have a

Hall, how is your group perceived by non-members? Does the community even know your group exists?

Here's a few suggestions to help improve the appearance of your Grange Hall / meeting place in the eyes of the community.

-- Paint the exterior of your Grange Hall. A coat of paint can go a long way. If the building has siding, a power washing could make all the difference.

-- Keep the area around the building clean. Pick up trash, and remove unnecessary items.

-- Spruce up the landscaping around the building. Make sure the yard is kept neat, and that the lawn is mowed in the summer and the snow is plowed in the winter. Plant a few flowers - or even a community garden!

-- Add accent lighting. Solar lighting prices have dropped to where they are very affordable. Line the Grange walkway with solar lights, or even accentuate the sign on the front with a spotlight.

-- If you do not have a Hall, perhaps your Grange members can lend a hand to help improve the location where your group is meeting.

Sprucing up the outside of your Grange Hall can take your Grange from declining to existing. Or from existing to surviving. Or from surviving to thriving.

When members are actively involved with their Grange - even if that involvement is planting a community garden or mowing the lawn - those members feel a sense of enthusiasm and responsibility toward the organization, believe that their involvement is helping to make a difference, and take pride in the outward appearance of the Grange in the community and particularly that of their building. Non-members will notice the difference, and see a group that they want to know more about, and perhaps even be a part of.

Looking for custom brochures and flyers your Grange? Send an email to Bob at publicrelations@ctstategrange.org or Terri at information@ctstategrange.org with your needs and questions, and we can get the process started for you.

# State Secretary



**Todd A. Gelineau**  
State Secretary  
secretary@ctstategrange.org

The weather feels like summer but you would swear it was fall around the Central Office with all of the planning going on for our Annual Session, October 18-20 at the Holiday Inn, Norwich. We are happy to welcome Sister Amanda Leigh Brozana Rios to Connecticut as our National Representative. Room reservations appear to be coming in at a reasonable rate and we haven't heard of

any issues with the room rate since early July. I do know the hotel is now out of king rooms and, like last year, will likely begin running short on all rooms before long. If you haven't made your reservation, PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION SOON. We were caught off guard last year and made an emergency arrangement to have rooms available at the Hampton Inn. No arrangement has been made this year as there has been ample notice to all of you for the need to reserve early.

We hope that all Granges send delegates to Session this year. It's an important year as the term of Master Noel Miller concludes and the term for a new State Master and his officers and committees begins. Installation of Officers will be held on Saturday afternoon this year following the Sixth Degree Conferral. We hope all members will try to attend and support them. It is also important to encourage members who may not be delegates to visit Session and see what it's all about. The future of the State Grange depends on inspiring new generations of members to participate on this level of the Grange.

We have a number of Granges at this point who have not paid their second quarter dues to the State Grange. I must remind you that Granges cannot have their delegates seated at State Session if the dues of that Grange for the second quarter (and all previous quarters) have not been paid in full. Notices have been sent to all Granges in this category and additional notice will be given if payment has not been received by the time delegate cards are returned to the Central Office.

State Session is also the time when we are able to "roll out" the full Grange Store for all members to shop to their heart's content. We have t-shirts, jewelry, pins, lanyards, key chains, silk ties, Grange publications and supplies and so much more available. It's reason enough to visit all or part of Session.

I am aware that at least one Pomona is still having difficulty setting up a bank account. Unfortunately, it's the "luck of the draw" when choosing a bank these days. On the one hand, it's good to know they are taking security seriously but on the other hand it is extremely difficult for everyone else who legitimately wants to open a bank account. Not all banks require the extensive background documentation that some are requesting.

As I have reported in past issues, the Connecticut State Grange has retained a non-profit lawyer who specializes in tax and corporate filings. The initial Corporate paperwork is nearing completion and should be ready for filing by the time you are reading this. The initial State and IRS tax documents will be filed shortly thereafter. I'm sure it was a much easier process 50 years ago when the more recent wave of Granges were organized in this state. Not so today. The most important thing to remember is that when completed, our Pomonas will be filed properly with both the State and Federal governments and should not have any issues going forward. It just takes additional time to get there. Thank you to all of our Pomona secretaries and officers for being so patient as we navigate through these oceans of paperwork. It's worth it in the end.

Also by the time you are reading this, the annual mailing of Dues Receipts will have been sent out to Granges who have ordered them. We only ask that Granges promptly pay for these as soon after receiving them as possible. We have actually received payments six, seven, and eight months after the beginning of the Grange year.

Do you need to take the Sixth Degree? Do you have members in your Grange who want to take the Seventh Degree in Vermont this year? If so, then the conferral of the Sixth Degree at State Session will be on Saturday, October 20 beginning at 3:00 P.M. Tickets for the degree may be purchased from me anytime before or during Session and can also be purchased at the door. We ask that all candidates for the Degree be at the hotel and ready to go at 2:30 P.M. Please contact me if you need further information.

## Hank's Pudding Icebox Cake



With the official start of autumn around the corner, it's time to break out the apple recipes that make your kitchen smell so good. TheKitchn.com has a recipe for Apple Yogurt Cake with a Cinnamon-Sugar Streak that is both easy and delicious.

### Apple Yogurt Cake with a Cinnamon-Sugar Streak

#### INGREDIENTS:

- Cooking spray or olive oil
- 1 1/2 cups whole regular or Greek yogurt, well-stirred
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2/3 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 3 large eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 pounds apples (preferably tart, such as Granny Smith)
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Pinch freshly ground nutmeg
- 2 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon, divided
- 1/2 cup packed light or dark brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature

#### DIRECTIONS:

Arrange a rack in the middle of the oven and heat to 350°F. Lightly coat a 9x13-inch baking pan with baking spray or olive oil.

Place the yogurt, granulated sugar, oil, lemon juice, eggs, and vanilla in a large bowl and whisk to combine. Peel and core the apples, then chop into rough 1/2-inch chunks. (Do not grate the apples or the batter will be too wet.) You should end up with 4 to 4 1/2 cups of apples. Add the apples to the yogurt mixture and stir to combine.

Add the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, nutmeg, and 1/2 teaspoon of the cinnamon. Stir just until no dry pockets of flour remain; set aside. Place the remaining 2 teaspoons cinnamon, brown sugar, and butter in a small bowl and smash with a rubber spatula to combine.

Pour 1/2 of the batter into the pan. Sprinkle with 1/2 of the cinnamon-brown sugar mixture on top, dropping it on the batter in small lumps. Spread the rest of the batter over the top, then sprinkle with the remaining cinnamon-brown sugar.

Bake until a tester inserted in the center comes out clean, covering with aluminum foil toward the end if the top is browning too much, 45 to 55 minutes. Place the pan on a wire rack and let it cool for at least 1 hour. Cut and serve the cake warm or at room temperature.

**Storage:** This cake can be covered and stored at room temperature for up to 4 days, and it gets even more moist as it sits, due to the apples.

**SERVES:** 12

**SOURCE:** <https://www.thekitchn.com/recipe-apple-yogurt-cake-with-cinnamon-sugar-streak-dessert-recipes-from-the-kitchn-141995>



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange friends! We've been going to many of the Grange Fairs around the State. It's so much fun seeing all the wonderful exhibits and catching up with my friends. September brings back to school time, and the time that many Granges start gearing up for their Fall and Holiday activities. State Session will be here before we know it!

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>

## NUTMEG POMONA No. 16



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	

### NUTMEG POMONA #16

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

The next meeting will be September 16, 2018 and we will be conferring the Fifth Degree at Cheshire Grange – time 2:00. If we have no candidates, Lecturer Lois Evankow will present a program entitled “How did your garden grow?” Refreshments will be served by the members of Hemlock and Southington Granges.

Degree rehearsal will be held on Sunday, September 9, 2018 at 2 o'clock at Cheshire Grange.

We held our picnic at the home of Marge Bernhardt, good time was had by all attending. Marge is a great host and son Rich a good cook.

We voted a campership to Caleb Allen. Caleb grandparents are members of Beacon Valley Grange.

### CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

*Corr: Ruel Miller*

**Sept 5:** Installation of Officers 6:30 Pot Luck Supper 6:30pm

**Sept 15:** Fall Social -Open Meeting

As I write this we all are gearing up for the 134th Cheshire Grange Community Fair which is a busy time for us. Hopefully all will go well to include the weather. Our craft nights will reconvene in early September as we make Christmas favors which will be delivered to our shut-in members in December.

It has been a fast moving summer as it always is and we are looking forward to the new Grange year and the installation of our officers.

### BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

Our members have been very busy even during the hot weather. We had a tag sale at the Grange and a bake sale at WalMart in June. Both with a good profit.

In July we had our officers planning meeting, participated in the Pomona picnic, had our monthly open mic and had a card night.

So far in August we had our picnic, an open

mic and an information table at Naugatuck's Meet and Greet Day. The town has been holding one of these every quarter. Our first one was on one of the coldest days and this one was probably one of the hottest days so far this year. It was much too hot to either meet or greet.

For the end of the month we will have a card night. Now for September – September 14 will be our regular meeting, September 15<sup>th</sup> we will have a tag sale and open mic. And September 16<sup>th</sup> we will be attending the Nutmeg Pomona meeting and on September 28-30 we are having a clothing and household item collection. Friday and Saturday from 9 to 5 and Sunday 9 to 12. Volunteers to be at the Grange to accept items will be appreciated. We could also use your donation of clothes and other items.

Keeping busy is keeping us young, so come and help and see how young you feel.

Our Grange was saddened by the death of Sister Mary Pranulis. Mary was a 73 year member and Past Master. She was a meticulous sewer and organized the Quilting Group which met for many years at the Grange. Her talent is missed.

### PROSPECT GRANGE #144

*Corr: Jean Meehan*

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at the Prospect Community Center.

We had an annual picnic catered by a former Junior Granger and enjoyed an enormous amount of delicious food with 17 in attendance. The weather was perfect. We were saddened with the loss of Marguerite Moran, a long-time member and friend.

We were hit hard this year with our Lecturer being sick and battling cancer and our Chaplain with heart

problems and our Treasurer with illness as well. Our Secretary has had several bad days as well, but we manage to keep going.

Our programs have been fun and interesting through it all and we look forward to the new Grange year and what it has to offer.

### LYME GRANGE #147

*Corr: Lois Evankow*

**Oct. 4:** How did your garden grow? Ag Program.

**Nov. 1:** Will any of us venture up to National Grange in Vermont to see the Seventh Degree?

Aug. 2 turned out to be blistering “HOT”! Sixteen brave people and one guest came to our picnic. What a fabulous amount of food!

We voted to delegates to state session. We also voted yearly donations to CWA projects. Our resolution was read, voted on and will be forwarded to the State Secretary.

Due to our fair using our meeting room, it was emptied of all regalia. Soon a work party will arrive to move furniture into the attic and the locked boxes and tables set up for the fair. It takes a lot of willing volunteers. Thankfully, they always come.

Hope the man upstairs sends us some nice weather for our Fair.

### CANNON GRANGE #152

*Corr: Don Offinger*

Sept 6: Business Meeting and Fair Wrap-Up

Sept 20: Business Meeting

Oct 4: Business Meeting and Program

Oct 18: Business Meeting and Program

The day for our 86th Agricultural Fair was a good day for all, and we hope if any visiting grangers came that they had a good time and enjoyed the festivities. We know all the local people from town and the surrounding area all had a good time based on all the smiles we saw. We're already at work planning next year's fair.

After a year off, we're welcoming back Doug Shepherd as President for the next year, and our new Vice-President will be Dearta Fusaro. Bil Mikulewicz is taking over the helm of Programs and we're excited for all the fun and interactive programs Bil has planned. John Kriz is going on the Executive Committee. Michele Clark and Don Offinger will continue in the roles of Secretary and Treasurer.

Please note our meeting schedule. Meeting time is 7 PM at the Grange Hall.

Visiting Patrons are always welcome -- won't you join us?

### HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

*Corr: Maureen Sanborn*

**Sept. 14:** Installation

**Sept. 28:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled

**Oct. 12:** Hail Columbus

**Oct. 26:** Omitted, Unless regular meeting is cancelled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

### OXFORD GRANGE #194

*Corr: Robert Buck*

**Sept. 7:** Fall Gardening

**Sept. 21:** Spaceflight

**Sept. 28:** GOMAD potluck and music, 7:00 PM

The handicapped ramp is progressing slowly as those building it are carrying on as they are able. Hank from the David S. Miles Post 174

American Legion in Oxford has volunteered his time where Selectman Jeff Haney was unable to continue due to illness. The framework for the ramp has been extended by several sections, but will need decking. Perhaps another fundraiser soon to help out or we will apply for a grant. One of our members is looking into a grant.

The summer has been slow, and attendance somewhat sparse, as people are busy. We plan to open the Grange to host vendors for the 46th Oxford Cultural Arts Commission Arts and Crafts Show on November 3. We take some of the overflow that can't fit in the school auditorium. In August, once again, Glenn Belinsky and his mother Evelyn hosted the Summer Grange Picnic on August 24. We thank them for their hospitality.

## Shofar at Norfield

The new Westport/Weston Hebrew after school program presents an event for the entire family, called make your own authentic Shofar. The event will be held Tuesday, September 4 from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Norfield Grange, 12 Good Hill Road in Weston and is open to all. Freida Hecht is director of the program.

The cost is \$10 per child. Participants will saw, sand, drill and go home with their own rams' horn called, Shofar in Hebrew, in time for the Rosh Hashanah holiday that begins Sunday Eve, September 9.

The Jewish culture after school program features the Aleph Champ Hebrew reading and writing program and a hands-on learning approach with children learning about Jewish history, traditions, holidays, Israel and more through games, drama, arts and crafts and baking. The school offers a Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation and celebrations.

New for this year is the B'nai Mitzvah Division for 6 & 7th grade students preparing for their Bar & Bat Mitzvah, which will include a Jewish Discovery Course, Social Action Opportunities and Stump the Rabbi discussions.

The program is open to kindergarteners through seventh grade and meets on Tuesdays from 4:00 to 5:30 pm at Norfield Grange, 12 Good Hill Road, Weston, CT. All are welcome, regardless of affiliation, level of observance, or prior knowledge. For Registration and Information call 203-493-6505

## Social Connection

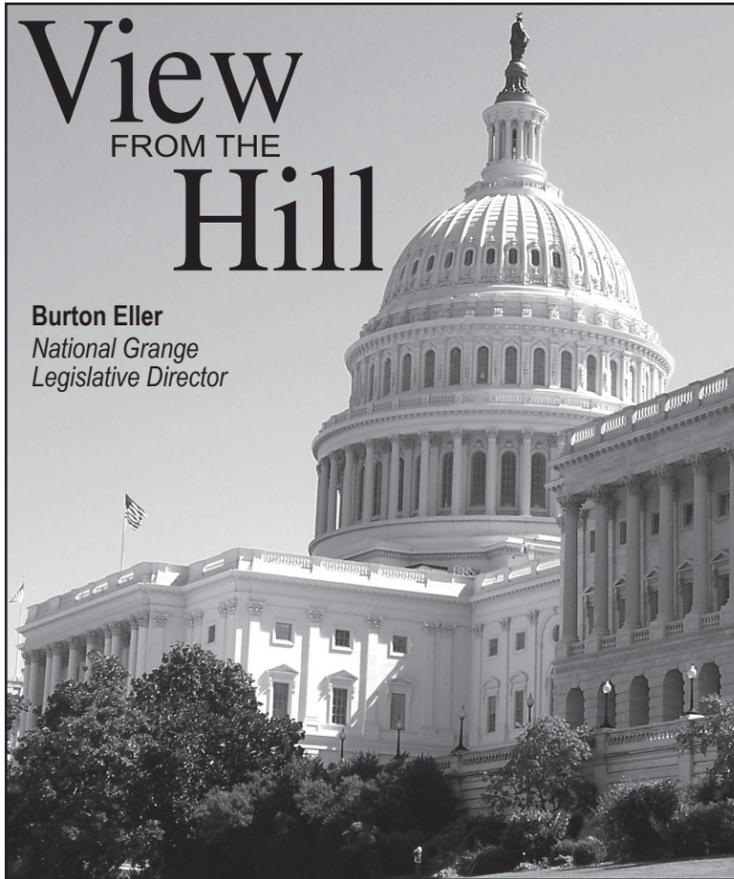
As our term comes to an end, our last request is for socks filled with items for the West Haven Veterans Hospital. These can be brought to State Session or given to Joanne or Barbara ahead of time. Some suggested items are: toothpaste and brushes, playing cards, deodorant, candy, stamps or anything you might come up with. Of course put in the other sock so they have a pair. See you at State Session.

## So. CT Past Masters

We will not be holding a meeting in September. Our next meeting will be Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at Beacon Valley Grange. This will be our annual Fun Fair. Premium Books can be obtained by calling Joanne Cipriano. Cooking contest is stew which we will enjoy for supper in place of our usual potluck supper. Judging of the stew will be held at 6:15 P.M. so it will be hot and ready for supper.

Robert Buck, President will preside over the meeting which starts as soon as the dishes are done.

As always we will have a country store. Visitors are always welcome.



# View FROM THE Hill

**Burton Eller**  
National Grange  
Legislative Director

## OVERVIEW:

The House of Representatives is on traditional August Recess until September 4. In an unusual move, the Senate will stay in session during August. The Senate is expected to complete the fiscal 2019 appropriations bills to fund USDA, EPA, FDA, and Interior during this timeframe. Hill work on the farm bill will continue behind the scenes. Agriculture anticipated a House vote on a specific ag worker bill during July and sponsors of the legislation had assurance from House leadership for floor time. Opposition by California interests caused the ag worker bill to be pulled from the calendar. Fake milk and lab grown meat are on FDA's agenda. The National Grange and several state Granges are helping with the Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative (RALI) to fight the nation's opioid crisis. Drug prices and pharmacy benefit manager mergers are targets of a House Committee. Trade wars have farmers and ranchers nervous. President Trump announced a \$12 billion agriculture relief package July 24

## AGRICULTURE & FOOD

### The 2018 Farm Bill:

Both the Senate and House have passed their version of the new farm bill. The House voted to go to conference with the Senate to iron out statutory language differences and come up with a compromise farm bill that will go back to Senate and House floors for final action. The Senate is expected to name their conferees and vote soon to go to conference with the House. Staff and committee leadership will work through the August congressional recess to resolve as many differences as possible and the conference committee should convene in early September. The goal is to complete the

farm bill by September 30 when many programs in the 2014 farm bill will expire. Both bill commodity titles and crop insurance titles are similar and largely consistent with the 2014 farm bill. The bills differ in overall conservation funding and their approach to working lands conservation. The most difficult issue to reconcile between the House and Senate will be food assistance known as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP). The House bill would require able-bodied persons 18 through 59 without dependent children to work or do job training for at least 20 hours per week. The Senate version does not seek additional work requirements. The legislation is still called the farm bill but 79% of farm bill spending goes toward food programs. The remainder of farm bill spending is for crop insurance 8%, commodity programs 6%, conservation 6% and miscellaneous 1%.

### Proposed Relief for Livestock Haulers

Eleven Senators have introduced bipartisan legislation to provide common sense to the Department of Transportation's new hours of service and Electronic Logging Device regulations. The livestock industry is concerned about the health, safety, and welfare of animals in transit especially during weather extremes and feels this flexibility will add practical guidelines to the DOT's new rules. The Transporting Livestock Across America Safely Act provides that:

- These regulations do not apply until a driver travels more than 300 miles from their source
- Extends the hours of service on-duty maximum time from 11 hours to a minimum of 15 hours and maximum of 18 hours for on-duty time

- Loading, unloading and waiting times are exempt from hours of service

- Grants flexibility for drivers to rest at any point during their trip without counting against hours of service

- Allows drivers to complete their trip regardless of hours if they are within 150 air miles from the delivery point

- After delivery, the driver must take a break for a period that is 5 hours less than the maximum on-duty time

### Whole Milk, Cheese and Butter Vindicated?

A new study in The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition is yet another addition to the ongoing vindication of dairy products. Evidence continues to mount that perceived health risks of dairy fats are less clear than previously believed. An analysis of 2,907 adults found that people with higher and lower levels of dairy fats in their blood had the same rate of death during a 22-year period. This implies that whole vs. skim vs. 2-percent milk didn't matter, nor did butter vs. margarine.

### Fake Milk

The dairy industry has been struggling for years over use of the term "milk" during the market expansion of plant-based almond milk, soy milk, coconut milk and more. Even though the federal government has formal standards of identity definitions for food items that include the term "milk" as the product of a lactating animal, the FDA has not enforced the definition. That may change. FDA Commissioner Gottlieb indicates his agency will crack down on non-dairy products labeled as milk and yogurt. FDA will solicit public comment before taking further steps to redefine the labeling rules.

### Lab-Grown Meat

Now the meat industry faces not only labeling challenges but jurisdictional hurdles as well. Several start-up companies have successfully produced cell-cultured meat and sea food from cells grown in the lab outside of the animal. Several of these companies are pushing for commercial market opportunities. What will be the oversight for these new unusual food products to enter the consumer food chain?

FDA Commissioner Gottlieb points to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act language that FDA has "jurisdiction over food which includes articles used for food and articles used for components of any such articles." USDA Secretary Perdue has jurisdiction over the Federal Meat Inspection Act that defines "meat" as the muscle of any cattle, sheep, swine or goats, and "meat food

product" as any article capable of use as human food which is made wholly or in part from any meat or other portion of the carcass thereof. These statutory definitions appear to give USDA jurisdiction. However, determining who will regulate cell-cultured meat promises to be a heated interagency turf battle.

### Are Homegrown Foods Safer?

Food safety is often cited as a primary reason why people grow their own produce. Fact is, food-borne illnesses are almost as likely to be caused by homegrown produce as by fresh foods acquired elsewhere. Disease-causing bacteria can contaminate produce from the soil, compost, manure, and water. Almost half of all food-borne illness outbreaks are caused by fresh produce eaten raw. Thorough washing of produce, hands, utensils and cutlery is imperative.

### ENVIRONMENT:

#### Emissions Reporting

The Environmental Protection Agency has announced it is implementing legislation passed in March that exempts farmers from having to report emissions from animal manure and other wastes.

Current statutory reporting requirements were initially intended for superfund sites many years ago.

#### Brown Gold?

U.S. dairy producers in growing numbers are making money from what they are calling "brown gold." These dairymen are using digesters to turn manure into biogas which is later compressed into compressed gas. The leftover liquids and solids are made into fertilizer, plastic, biodegradable flower pots, animal bedding, peat moss substitute and more.

### HEALTH CARE:

#### Meeting the Opioid Crisis

The National Grange is helping coordinate the roll out of the Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative (RALI), a new coalition to fight the nation's opioid crisis. State Granges in Maryland, New Hampshire, Indiana and Nevada are already part of the coalition in their states. Granges in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont will host RALI coalition activities at the New England Grange House during the Eastern States Exposition in late September.

#### Lowering Drug Prices and Out-of-Pocket Costs

The National Grange has worked with several patient groups and medical provider organizations in July to provide feedback to the Department of Health and Human Services on

their request for information on their HHS Blueprint to Lower Drug Prices and Reduce Out-of-Pocket Costs. Suggestions included taking a close look at prices and rebates along the drug supply chain, putting the patient first in line to receive discounts and rebates, and protecting current Medicare D and Part B programs with the patient in mind.

### Spotlight on Pharmacy Benefit Managers

The House Energy and Commerce Committee sent a letter to the Federal Trade Commission on July 27 asking for a retrospective review of mergers of pharmacy benefit managers and how these mergers have affected drug prices for patients. Pharmacy benefit managers oversee drug plans for employer and union-sponsored health plans. PBMs negotiate with drug makers to get rebates for putting their drugs on a health plan's formulary. The three largest merged PBMs account for over 50 percent of market revenues. The concern is that pharmacy benefit managers are getting paid by both sides of a transaction: the insurance companies who pay PBMs a fee as their customer and the drug makers who PBMs are supposed to be negotiating against.

### Rural Hospitals Continue to Close

Medical care continues to become an issue of distance for those living in rural America. For many, the doctors who were in the old hospital that was just around the corner are now 100 miles away. Since 2010, at least 85 rural hospitals have closed. Contributing to the closings are lack of personal insurance, cuts to public health insurance programs, struggles with debt, cost of technology upgrades, and sharply worsening finances in states that do not expand Medicaid.

### Air Ambulances on the Rise

As rural hospitals continue to shutter their doors, the medical helicopter, or air ambulance, has attempted to fill the gap in many areas. The number of ambulance helicopters has steadily grown from around 100 in the early 1980's to 1,045 in 2016. The main problem with air ambulances is cost, so they are only used in extreme emergencies. According to the Government Accountability Office, the average cost of a medical flight was about \$30,000 in 2016. That same year Medicare paid an average of \$6,502 per call. Under Medicare rules, whatever Medicare pays, that's all the provider will get. Those without insurance or Medicare are liable for the entire bill.

*Continued next page...*

## View from the Hill

Continued from page 11...

### IMMIGRATION / AG WORKFORCE:

Any hope of major comprehensive immigration has stalled out for this congressional cycle. Immigration, like so many other issues has become a political football without an end game. On the other hand, the need for ag labor encompasses the whole country and transcends political parties. The National Grange has been part of a large agriculture coalition working to get specific ag worker legislation through Congress separate from comprehensive immigration legislation. Sponsors of the bipartisan Agriculture Guestworker and Legal Workforce Act had commitments from House leadership to address ag labor the week of July 23. But unfortunately, opposition developed from California that caused the legislation to be pulled from the floor. The August recess lasts until September 4. A floor vote in September hinges on bringing the California interests to the table. In the meantime, numerous crops are well into harvest and needing ag labor.

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS: Farm Bill Directs Broadband to Unserved First

The Senate version of the farm bill places new restrictions on the USDA's Rural Utilities Service Broadband Loan Program. The Senate broadband provision gives priority to loan applications that propose to provide broadband service to rural communities that do not have any residential broadband service.

### Telemedicine More Important Than Ever

As rural hospitals close or consolidate, residents have the option to drive an hour or two or three to reach expert medical care. Another option the National Grange is continually focusing on is telemedicine. New telemedicine programs leverage the internet with a local clinic to provide patients with diagnosis and monitoring that previously were only possible at a hospital. A virtual clinic is a third great option. Nurses, doctors and technicians are available to patients online using high speed internet service and two-way cameras. Patients measure vital signs with medical tools that plug into iPads and data is relayed directly to the doctor for diagnosis.

### TRADE: Producers on Edge

America's current trade wars have farmers and ranchers on edge. Our NAFTA agreement could not be finalized with

Canada and Mexico before trade disputes erupted with several more countries. As American commodities lose market share because of retaliatory tariffs, other countries jump in to expand their market share. As the President tries to realign America's trade balance with the rest of the world in items like cars, parts, intellectual property, steel, aluminum, and many more products, retaliation from abroad on U.S. food and agriculture products jumps to the forefront. Agriculture may take more than its share of body blows as the trade war escalates.

### Short Term Relief

On July 24, President Trump and Secretary Perdue announced a \$12 billion relief package aimed at insulating agriculture producers in the short term to give the President time to work through longer term trade deals. The reaction from most farmers and ranchers was, "We would rather have trade than aid." But most producers acknowledge short term infusion could help. How USDA will implement the aid package:

- The Commodity Credit Corporation (created in 1933 to provide price support for farmers during the Depression and Dust Bowl) will provide incremental payments through the Farm Service Agency. Still to be determined is how and to whom will these payments be made and in what amounts.

- Additional food program purchases and distribution

- Trade promotion to new markets

### PERSPECTIVE:

"The Earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with fruitful stewardship. We cannot say we love the land and then take steps to destroy it for use by future generations." *Pope John Paul II*

"A leader must be a good listener. He must be willing to take counsel. He must show a genuine concern and love for those under his stewardship." *James Faust*

"If more politicians in this country were thinking about the next generation instead of the next election, it might be better for the United States and the world." *Claude Pepper*

## Hillstown Grange Fair

EAST HARTFORD - The Hillstown Grange's 130th Agricultural Fair will be held on Saturday, September 15th from 10 am to 2 pm.

Craft people, artists, gardeners, and cooks of all ages are encouraged to enter their best items to be judged for our fair. Judged items may be awarded ribbons and cash prizes. All entries must be brought to the Grange Hall Thursday, September 13 between 5 and 7 pm. and picked up at 2 pm on Saturday, September 15.

Garden categories include vegetables, fruit, flowers, and our special "Pink Pumpkin Contest". There is an adult and youth level. Please see our entry form for number of items needed to enter.

Kitchen categories include baked goods, canned goods, jelly and jams. We are the only local fair in the area for entries in the Connecticut State Fairs competitions and we had one winner going all the way to win the State title of 'best apple pie'. Both at our fair and the State level is open to all with both an adult and a youth level.

Crafts, hobbies, and photos can be entered at adult and youth levels.

Lunch is available with our famous hot dogs and hamburgers with peppers and onions will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The bake sale usually runs out of pies by 1 p.m. so get here early to get a homemade pie. Raffle numbers will be pulled at 2pm. A farmer's market will be held outside weather permitting.

The Hillstown Grange Fair is the areas only Agricultural Fair, serving the towns of East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester for 130 years, come and feel the history.

For more information or entry forms contact Frank at: 860-690-2845 or email hillstowngrange@aol.com.



The Vernon Grange No. 52 Deaf Activities got their name out before the public at the Rockville "July in the Skies Celebration." They distributed ear plugs at the event.

## In Memoriam

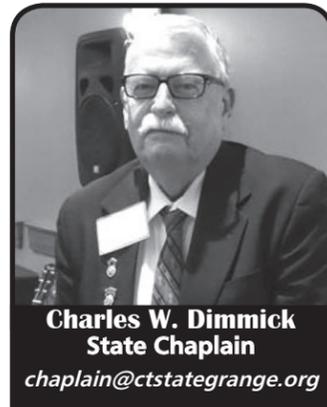
Stanley Carmen, G.S.  
Cheshire Grange #23

Lorraine Duhamel GS  
George Lawrence GS  
Jothan Reynolds GS  
Senexet Grange #40

Mary Pranulis, G.S.  
Beacon Valley Grange #103

Miriam Shabunia  
N. Stonington Comm. Grange #138

## A Lamp Unto My Feet



"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105

Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling! Psalm 43:3

One of the most common titles given to the earliest Christians after the Resurrection was "followers of the way". If we

also are to be followers of the way then we need to be able to see where the way is and where it goes. How do we do so? The psalmist tells us that God's **Word** is the light which shows us the way. The Word is presented to us in our reading of scripture, in our listening to scripture being read, by good preachers expounding God's **Word** from the pulpit, and by the Holy Spirit revealing the **Word** to us in our hearts.

In a sense, the term **Word** is a misnomer, in that we need to read or hear more than just a single word or a single sentence in order to find our way. We should study all of scripture, and a great deal of commentary on scripture to be truly enlightened by God's **Word**. In the words of Thomas Cranmer [slightly modernized]:

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

One error for some people is to take a short phrase from scripture and try to use it to justify a theological position while completely ignoring the context of that phrase. This is called proof texting, and has been the cause of much religious contention and strife over the ages. But to truly understand the meaning of any scriptural passage we need to put it in context. We need to see not only the literal meaning of a passage (what it says or seems to say), but also the historical setting (who said it, to whom was it addressed, how was it understood at the time, and what was the background at the time it was written). Then we need to compare it with other scriptural passages, so that we can get a fuller understanding. Only then will we see the light that shows the way.

