



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

July 2019

From the President's Desk



George Russell
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169
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As I am writing this column in the middle of June, the temperature this morning was 49°! Pretty cool morning for the middle of June. Hopefully by the time you read this article in July we will have some summer-type weather and maybe some dry weather to go along with it.

In July the Connecticut State Grange will be hosting the Northeast Youth Conference which will be held on July 12-14 at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. Dawn Anstett, Youth Director, is putting the final touches on this conference.

Sharon and I will be attending the Northeast Lecturer's Conference at the Devens Common Center in Devens, MA on Aug. 5-7 hosted by the Massachusetts State Grange. The theme of this year's conference is "Down on the Farm." Sharon and I will be putting on a skit for Connecticut as part of the program. We will also be attending workshops and a tour of Jordan Dairy Farm in Rutland. These are a couple of events that I will be attending this summer.

Todd Gelineau, State Secretary, has sent out the material for the committees (formerly called the Blue Book). Among the materials is the Honor Community Grange Report form. The report is the same as it has been in the last several years. It continues to have three levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold. The Granges that qualify will receive their certificates at the annual session in October. You may want to look them over now and

see which category your Grange falls into and if you need to do a couple of things on the list to qualify. You will also see in this packet the Agriculture Committee contest, the Junior Grange contest is Seed Painting and for Community Grange members, Seasonal Harvest Centerpiece. The committee is also looking for nominees for Outstanding Agricultural Young Professional, Outstanding Agricultural Professional and new this year the Outstanding Agricultural Promoter. The committee is looking for these nominees to be submitted by September 1.

Noel & Marcia Miller, State Community Service Chairpersons are looking for nominees for Outstanding Firefighter, Educator and Law Enforcement Officer. These applications can be found on the National Grange

Sustainable eco-friendly projects

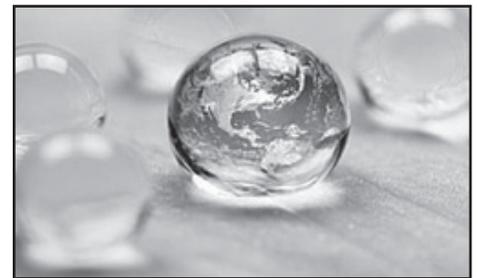
by Faith Quinlan, Membership Dir.

Little eco-friendly changes made in our lifestyle add up to big improvements for the environment. It's no secret the environment is doing poorly. Global climate change seems inevitable, and its exact impact is uncertain. We need to change certain aspects of our lifestyle and habits to ensure a better tomorrow for the future generations. Today's younger people have a few concerns that stand out as the real priorities of 2019 and the future like islands of garbage, loss of natural resources, death of sea, arctic and rainforest life due to the volume of plastic, deforestation and air pollution. Our waters are poisoned with pharmaceuticals, chemicals and toxins and other things that should not be ingested

website under Community Service. Last year the Northeast Outstanding Firefighter was Mr. Skip Beebe from Lyme Grange. The winners will be announced at the banquet at State Session and sent on to the Northeast Connection for judging. The community service report forms are also in that packet along with the Community Service grant program. The other committee contests are also in the packet, so ask your secretary if you can see the contests that are offered this year.

I am still looking for volunteers to help in the New England Grange Building on September 26 and 27 at the Big E. The times are 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. or 3 P.M. to 9 P.M. Please call or email me if you are interested. Let's hope there will be good weather for the fair this year.

I hope everyone has a great Fourth of July and if you buy fireworks, don't buy them from Jeff Barnes!



by humans or animals.

In my life I have seen drastic downturns in air quality and food safety. Foods full of man-made chemicals and fillers, steroids,

Continued on page 11...



The Connecticut State Grange

A part of the National Grange

*American Values,
Hometown Roots*

**NEXT ISSUE ...
Articles Due July 15**

Cannon plants chestnuts



Thank you so much for your continued support of Lilly through the Love for Lilly Campaign. The outpouring of support means so much to our family! She is 6 months into her 25 months of treatment. She has a long road to go, but she is being a trooper, and is an inspiration to us all. We are incredibly grateful for the support, love, and prayers from our Grange family!

~ The Sharpe Family



John Kriz, Cannon Grange member, alongside interns and members of the New Canaan Land Trust plant American Chestnut Seedlings in June.

Dutchess County Degree Day Festival

Dutchess County Pomona Grange #32 (NY) will host a Degree Day Festival on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019 at the Freedom Plains Grange Hall, 20 Dr. Fink Rd., LaGrangeville, NY (off the Taconic State Pkwy. at Route 55 heading toward Poughkeepsie behind McDonald's and near Arlington High School. We will begin with the conferral of the 1st & 2nd Degrees by Stanford Grange at 3. A short break will follow, and the conferral of the 3rd & 4th Degrees by a Dutchess Cty. Pomona degree team will begin at 4:30 P.M. A covered dish supper will be held at 6 P.M. (please bring a dish to pass if you are able) and the Fifth Degree will be conferred at 7 P.M. by Dutchess County Pomona.

Your State Grange is cordially invited to send any candidates you may have for any of these Degrees. If candidates only need certain Degrees and not all of them, they are welcome to attend whichever Degrees they may need. We will have Fifth Degree applications available that evening, and they will be forwarded to the candidate's appropriate Pomona Grange for dues collection. If you don't have candidates, it's always nice to have a refresher course on Grange ritual and heritage. Any Granger is welcome to spend the day with us.

Ryan Orton, Secretary
Dutchess County Pomona Grange #32

If you are interested in attending or taking degrees on Oct. 5, please contact CT State Grange Secretary Todd Gelineau who will reserve space for you with Dutchess County Pomona. You may email Secretary@CTStateGrange.org or call (860) 307-1522.

Southern Conn. Past Masters

The annual picnic of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters will be held on Saturday, July 13 at the home of Marge Bernhardt in Cheshire. Time will be 2:00. Those attending are asked to bring a picnic supper dish and a small door prize.

Picnic to be held rain or shine. Marge has a huge enclosed back porch.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Summer is a great time to work on projects

by Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

The Public Relations committee is once again offering three contests for 2019, all with a deadline of October 1. It's easy to participate. Let's take a quick peek at each one.

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

2) Best Cooperative Partnership Contest: An integral part of Grange public relations is partnering with other local groups and organizations. This could be a co-hosted event, a co-sponsorship of a project or initiative, a project to benefit or honor a group/organization, and so much more! Write a description of how your Grange has integrated/ utilized a Cooperative Partnership, and include a photo to accompany the description if appropriate.

3) Social Media Participation Contest: Create a Buzz about your Grange, its projects, activities and events by managing a proper Facebook or Twitter Page. This contest is open to all Community Granges. Pages must be active at any point within the period of November 1, 2018 – October 1, 2019.

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

Vernon Grangers donate to NE Grange Building

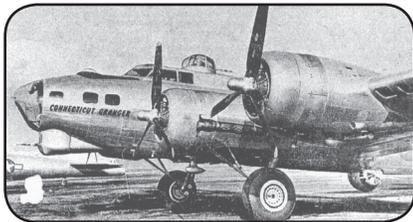


Vernon Granger Paula Peterson and her sister have been very busy creating wonderful afghans, quilts, hats, mittens, scarves, dish cloths and linens for the New England Grange Building sales room at the Big E. There is still time to make items!

The information enclosed in each issue of The Connecticut Granger is for information purposes only. The Connecticut Granger assumes no liability or responsibility for any inaccurate, delayed or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon. The information contained about each individual, event or organization has been provided by such individual, event organizers or organization without verification by us. The opinion expressed in each article is the opinion of its author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Connecticut Granger. Therefore, The Connecticut Granger carries no responsibility for the opinion expressed therein.

the Connecticut Granger

Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

STAFF

President/Editor Todd A. Gelineau
Vice President Terri Fassio
Treasurer Jody Cameron
Secretary Noel Miller

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the 15th Day of each month and should be sent to:

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P.O. Box 3

Winchester Center, CT 06094
or Todd Gelineau, Editor
P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069
Granger@CTStateGrange.org

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WINDOW TO THE PAST

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



There were no answers submitted for the June Window to the Past picture.



SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane & Paul Miller

We are keeping busy with our meetings and trying to keep members informed. We received applications for our scholarships and have invited the recipients to our Aug. 1 meeting. We will publish more info about them after they and their families join us and chat about their future plans. We continue to hold monthly meetings. Our annual fair will be held on Sat. Sept. 14 with entry day the evening before. Any members or the general public can enter. We always have a great variety of produce and craft items as well as baked items. It is very important to show the community that we have an active organization that truly supports agriculture and the family. Several of our members have an active role in the Celebrating Ag event at the Woodstock Fairgrounds on Sat. Sept 21. This very popular event has a wonderful breakfast prepared and served by the members of Ekonk Community Grange. Hope many will join us for both of these events.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kay Ruff

July 11: 7:30 p.m. Program: Red White and Blue - Refreshments: pot luck desserts by all
 Aug. 1: Meeting 6:00 p.m. - Summer Picnic - Cookout , Hotdogs & Hamburgers provided by the grange - assorted salads by all members - Chef Tom Breen assisted by Kay Ruff

At our June meeting Dr. Brian Chiffer, a member of the local Historical Society, spoke to us. He said that the Historical Society would like to feature the grange in the fall. He suggested it could be on a Sunday afternoon beginning at 4:00 p.m. a supper at 5:00 p.m. followed by a Power Point presentation by him. This sounds really good to me. I will contact the State Grange office to pick up some grange literature for handout and a supply of a few grange applications. We are waiting to hear from the Mason's to see if the hall will be available on November 3rd. More information will follow when available.

Here we are in the month of June already. Where did Spring go? I don't think we had one.

Glastonbury wishes all a "Happy 4th of July " and a very enjoyable summer. Before you know it, it will be Labor Day.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Cherie Robinson

July 19: Meeting(please note date change) It Happened in the USA

August 2: Annual Potluck Picnic

At our June meeting, we let go of some stress, learned about yoga and practiced breathing for stress relief. We took our program on the road to Norwich Grange and had fun practicing yoga and breathing there. While we were in that neighborhood, we also logged some geocaches as Grangers.

Come on over to our tag sale table at the Strong Farm Big Bad Barn Sale. We are sure to have just the right treasures for you. All proceeds from sales at our table will benefit the veterans of Phelps Village in Rockville.

Our annual potluck picnic will be on August 2nd at Strong Farm, weather permitting. If the weather doesn't lend itself to a picnic, we will picnic in our Grange Hall. A few days after the picnic, off to New England Lecturer's Conference, hope to see you there!

We welcome visitors, please call

ahead.

EKONK COMM. & JR. GRANGES

Corr: Sue Gray

We are alive and well on Ekonk Hill! Three Juniors graduated 8th grade June 13th: Abbie Dexter, Jared Gervais and Lillian Sharpe. Congratulations to all! We now have a second LARGE commercial refrigerator in our beautiful kitchen, which, due to increased patronage at our suppers, is much needed! The Juniors not only got an education, but enjoyed placing the flags at the graves of all veterans at Oneco's Riverside Cemetery and of course the pizza afterwards at the Municipal Building added to their enjoyment. Betsy Molodich and Katie Sweet cleaned up the veterans memorial at the Municipal Building and planted many of their beautiful flowers in time for parade goes to admire them. Our Grange had its first of many to come experiences Chairing the Sterling Memorial Day Parade and comments were most favorable. We are planning for a bigger and better Fair August 10th! We have numerous vendors, lots of free activities for children, Fire Departments, etc. and the Dennison Pequot Nature Center is doing a hands on program at 1pm: "Bird Beak Buffet!". As always, lots of wonderful food in the Grange kitchen! July 20th is our annual Blueberry Supper. Chicken is the featured meat and native blueberries baked into a luscious crisp topped with real whipped cream in the dessert! We are now providing food regularly for 12 Sterling families in dire need of assistance. We exist to help those in need and are thriving! Congratulations to President-elect, Brenda Craig, who will be installed at our August meeting.

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

July 18: "Off We Go Into the Wild Blue Yonder"

At our May 10 meeting we honored long-time members and

Continued from previous page...
 our Community Citizens for 2019. Present to receive their Golden Sheaf Certificates were Clyde Myers and Milton "Red" Banker. Paul Ames was awarded his 55 year seal. Our Community Citizens, Sue and Mark Starr, are a husband and wife team well-known for their service to our town. State Lecturer Marge Bernhardt was on hand to help present the honors. We were also happy to welcome State Chaplain Charles Dimmick to our hall.

Let's Celebrate Winners

Cindy Legg, Family Activities Dir.
 Hello everyone. First of all, I want to apologize for not writing articles sooner, but was having trouble with my computer and didn't have access to another one. It's finally fixed, so here I am.

I would like to thank everyone who entered the Needlework contests, the baking contest and craft contests. The following is a list of the winners:

Needlework:

Class A: Afghan: 1- Pat Martelony (Vernon #52), 2- Dawn Percoski (Enfield #151).

Class B: Doilies: 1- Carol Nelson (Vernon #52), 2- Maryalyce Lee (Cheshire #23), 3- Cindy Legg (Beacon Valley #103).

Class C: Embroidery: 1- Irene Percoski (Enfield #151)

Class D: 3 Piece Baby Set: 1- Shirley Moore (Riverton #169), 2- Lois Evankow (Lyme #147), 3- Maryalyce Lee (Cheshire #23)

Class E: Plastic Canvas: 1- Diane Godin (Beacon Valley #103), 2- Joanne Cipriano (Beacon Valley #103), 3- Dawn Percoski (Enfield #151)

Class F: Counted Cross Stitch: 1- Mariellen Baxter (Vernon #52), 2- Barbara Foskett (Cheshire #23); 3- Sandy Peterson (Lyme #147)

Class G: Adult Garment: 1- Maryalyce Lee (Cheshire #23), 2- Pat Martelony (Vernon #52), 3- Shirley Moore (Riverton #169)

Class H: Latch Hook: 1- Dot

We participated in the town's Memorial Day Parade with our float proudly carrying the Fair Queen and one of the Princesses. Many thanks to Richard and Gloria White for the loan of their hay wagon and truck and the brave crew who put together and took apart the float. The bunting, made by Flo Mullane many years ago, is still as bright and beautiful as the day it first graced our float.

On May 25, we manned the food booth for the North Stonington

Education Fund and fed over 250 runners and volunteers.

We hold only one meeting in July as the North Stonington Agricultural Fair is held on our grounds July 11-14; and the New London County Expo takes place on the grounds July 26-28 will be about air travel-anything from bi-planes to jets. And if that little copperhead that was peeking out from under the brush pile the other day will just find a new place to play, next time I'll tell you all about jolly June.

Macdonald (Redding #15), 2- Lois Evankow (Lyme #147)

Craft Contest (Other Media): 1- Barbara Foskett (Cheshire #23), 2- Richard Bernhardt (Cheshire #23), Geno Piacentini (Redding #15).

I would like to thank Bob Sendewicz and Dot Jockovich for being two of my judges. Also the members of my committee, Pat, Claudia and Anne-Marie for their help. A special thank you to Dawn Percoski for all of her help on Saturday.

If anyone has any questions, or suggestions please feel free to call me (203) 632-5532 or email cmrl_1983@yahoo.com

Also, keep working on items for the New England Grange Building at the Big E. I'll be happy to take them for you. Please let me know.

Hope you all have a wonderful summer season.

Jockavich (Redding #15), Dawn Percoski (Enfield #151)

Class I: Quilted Wall Hanging: 1- Alma Graham (Coventry #75), 2- Lois Evankow (Lyme #147), 3- Karen Macdonald (Redding #15)

Class J: Stuffed Toy: 1- Jennifer Strong (Vernon #52), 2- Dawn Percoski (Enfield #151), 3- Lois Evankow (Lyme #147)

Class K: Baby Afghan: 1- Dawn Percoski (Enfield #151), 3- Shirley Moore (Riverton #169)

Baking Contest: 1- Pat Fischer (Beacon Valley #103), 2- Shirley Moore (Riverton #169), 3- Emily Alexander (Cheshire #23).

Make A Clown Contest- 1- Emily Alexander (Cheshire #23), Barbara Foskett (Cheshire #23), 3- Richard Bernhardt (Cheshire #23).

Craft Contest: 1- Karen





WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

Corr: Debbie Brown

Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 13th when Whigville Grange (in Burlington, CT) will present its annual Country Flea Market (& Bake Sale Too!) from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Want to rent a table? There are indoor and outdoor spaces available. Call Debbie at 860-582-9863. Or just come and find special treasures. Whigville Grange Hall, S. Main St., Whigville (Burlington), CT (off Route 69, Burlington Ave.). This event will benefit the Whigville Grange.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Since our last report, Father's Day has come and gone and with it our annual Strawberry Festival. Unfortunately, the bad tradition of this event is the lower turnout when it rains. We saw attendance drop by nearly half due to the rain but those that did attend enjoyed delicious shortcake prepared and served by the members of Winchester Grange with the assistance of the Laurel King & Queen and their court (one of the nicest traditions of this event!).

Coming up on August 10 is our 68th Annual Grange Fair & Flea Market held at the Grange Hall and on the Green in Winchester Center. As always, there will be exhibits and judging of Baked Goods, Fruits & Vegetables and Flowers along with a giant book sale, a flea market and lots of food for sale. Fill

up the car and join us for a relaxing day in scenic Winchester Center.

For those of you who live in the Center, you may have noticed the damaged siding on the south side of our hall (the side with the entrance to the Post Office). Wind and water damage over the winter have torn yards long strips of siding off of the hall, exposing the insulation and original wood siding underneath. Thanks to the persistence of our Treasurer, Bill Ahrens, we are pursuing an insurance claim that will likely pay for a substantial amount of the repairs needed to restore the siding to the hall. In the meantime, please pardon our appearance!

In June, Winchester Grange lost one of its most devoted and treasured members, Shirley Lemieux, a 71 year member. For those who think they don't know her, you might remember her as one of King & Betty Beecher's daughters and/or wife of Jerry Lemieux who served on the Camp Berger Trustees for many years. To Winchester Grangers she was a fixture in the kitchen working on Chicken Dinners, Strawberry Festivals and making countless meals and sandwiches for Pomona Suppers and Grange Fairs. Her baked goods were delicious—homemade whoopie pies and the best cookies you could get anywhere. She was a Past Master (Winchester's first woman Master), Lecturer, Secretary and so many other things throughout the years. Her dedication to the Grange and to her family is unmatched by anyone. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Our sympathies go out to all in the Beecher and Lemieux families.

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Taghhannuck Grange had a very successful Rummage & Plant Sale last month. We made over \$1400.00 and want to thank everyone who helped with the set up of the sale, donated to the sale and/or bought rummage and plants at the

sale.

At our June 13th meeting we began a Memorial Book project with the help of Debra Tyler. Everybody told stories of past Grangers who meant something special to them. This will be an on-going book-making project put together by Debra, to honor those Grangers who have personally impacted our lives. Not only will sharing stories about past Grange members keep their memories alive, but it will affirm and inspire our living Grange community. The 5"x5" book can keep expanding as more stories are told.

Our July 11th program will be planning for our exhibit at the Fair in either Bethlehem or Cornwall. We will also have a round table discussion of what "local foods" means to different members. This idea for discussion came about because of an article in the May edition of the National Grange View From The Hill.

We are very happy to have four candidates for membership, voted in at our June 13th meeting, taking the Obligation on July 11th. Thank you Todd for agreeing to perform the Obligation Ceremony.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

July 13: Pizza Party

Aug. 17: Watermelon Daze

Sept. 14: Vegetable Bingo

Our next meeting is our summer Pizza Party. The program time will be used to prepare our calendar for the coming year. Bring your ideas along with your appetite.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Mark your calendars- the Riverton Grange Fair is coming up on Saturday, Aug. 17 at the Grange hall, 17 Riverton Rd., Riverton, CT from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. Breakfast and Lunch will be served with a bake sale, raffle and a very special feature.

Walk Through Historic Riverton

Join Paul Hart and Mike Day,

Continued from previous page...
from the Barkhamsted Historical Society as they guide you through Historic Riverton. This two hour tour starts at 11 A.M. in the Grange Hall with a slide show presentation, before you will walk down Main Street and learn about the history on this side of town. At the Riverton General Store, you will be treated to an ice cream, courtesy of the store.

We want to make sure we have enough seats at the Grange and, of course, the ice cream!

For additional information or to sign-up for the tour, please contact Dave Roberts at dave@daveroberts.org or 858-775-9241.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Susan Masino

Here is a glimpse of the recent past and the near future at our Grange.

Our regular meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M.

On June 8th the Simsbury Grange co-sponsored (with the Simsbury Historical Society) a donation-based blues concert ("Concert on the Green") held downtown at Simsbury Historical Society featuring national blues artist Chris Tofield. We will have another show with Liviu Pop and friends on Sept. 14.

On June 15 the Simsbury Grange co-sponsored (with the Public Library) an edible and medicinal plant walk at the Grange Hall Farm at 120 Old Farms Rd. and about 20 people attended. We advertised through the library, the local paper, and the farm Facebook site. We found so many amazing plants that we barely got out of the parking lot in the time allotted. We plan another walk later this year.

On September 14th the Simsbury Grange will host its annual Agricultural Fair from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The Fair will feature a bake sale, vendors, exhibits from civic organizations and farms, games, demos, a bargain basement, and

contests with ribbons and cash prizes. Contests include adult and children's categories such as fruits and vegetables, canned, jammed and pickled produce, needlework (all types, made in the past year), flowers and plants, and baked goods. Children are welcome to enter original Lego Creations (up to 12" x 12") and 2-dimensional original art and photographs made in the past year. Entry is free and the first 100 attendees will receive a special welcome bag. Featured activities include hay rides by Flamig

Farm, children's activities sponsored by The Children's Clubhouse, a silent auction, original music by Northwest CT Idol Bill Benson. Anyone under 13 can accumulate stamps for a free game or a hayride through the fields of West Simsbury. Non-profits are welcome to a free table (attended or display) and all vendor tables are \$25. Contact us at info@simsburygrange.org. Details and an on-line entry form can be found at www.simsburygrange.org.



Hello Grange friends!

It's been a busy Spring and Early Summer. George and Sharon are out and about! I had the pleasure of going to Beacon Valley Grange's 130th Anniversary meeting on May 31st, where I had the pleasure to pose for a photo with Master Joanne Cipriano and Citizen of the Year Recipient James Goggin. We then went to Mountain Laurel Pomona Grange's meeting on June 1st, where I got to spend some time with my friends Eloise and Carol - the Treasurer and Secretary.

Let's Celebrate Day was loads of fun this year. Got to see many of our Grange friends, and some beautiful exhibits of handiwork too. The afternoon was fun watching the talent run-offs and the A Number competition. Congratulations to North Stonington Grange on the winning "Holidays" skit, and to the gals from Cheshire Grange who won the Talent Competition.

We also went up to Granby Grange for a visit, where we met

some new friends, including Robert Sheldon, who was awarded as a 75-year member! Congratulations!!!

Want to follow us on all of our fun Grange adventures? I ask each of you to follow the link to my Facebook page, and then click the "Like" button once you are on the page. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>





NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

As the song says “Summertime and the Living is Easy.” So to heed these words we will not hold a regular meeting in July but will be enjoying a picnic at the home of Marge Bernhardt in Cheshire on Saturday, July 13 at 2:00. Those attending are asked to bring a picnic dish to share for supper. Also a small door prize if you would like to participate.

It’s time for each Grange to send in their material for the Nutmeg Pomona handbook. This material must be sent to Marge Bernhardt by July 13. So send it, email it or bring it to the picnic. Let’s get all Granges included in the handbook this year.

Letters have been sent to each Grange with information regarding the picnic and the handbook.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, September 8th at Cheshire Grange. We will be conferring the Fifth Degree. Read more about this meeting in the next issue.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Officers for the next two years have been elected. Can’t tell you as of this writing who they are as it is in between the time we need the news sent to the Granger. Check in next month.

On July 12th we will be holding our annual Officers’ Planning meeting. Supper to be served at 6:00. Come and get yourself involved.

Our 130th Anniversary celebration was a fun night. We were honored to have in attendance: State

Master George Russell and wife Sharon, National Overseer Phil Prelli and Maureen, Past Voting Delegate Bob Sendewicz and State Officers Marge Bernhardt, LAS Eloise Osuch, Pianist Mary Lou Keefe and General Deputy Peter Keefe and our Mayor Pete Hess.

We honored James Goggin as our Citizen of the Year and our members Ron and Pat Fischer for all they do for our Grange and presented a Past Lecturer’s pin to Cindy Legg.

The judges were good to BVG at Let’s Celebrate. In the Lecturer’s Dept. Ron Fischer placed second singing an original song he wrote about the Grange and in the A Number Contest we placed second for our Memorial Day number. In the CWA Dept. Pat Fischer placed first for her peanut butter cupcakes, Diane Godin placed first and Joanne Cipriano placed second for their entries in the Plastic Canvas and Cindy Legg received a third place for her toy.

Our July Open Mic is on Saturday- July 20th, time 2 to 5. Our Grange Band “The Bad Boys” who perform each month and at our anniversary will be entertaining.

Hall clean-up day is held the third Wednesday of the month at 1:00. I’ll be there, will you?

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

July 4: Omit – Happy Birthday America

July 11: Celebrating the 4th a week later

Aug. 1: Dog Days of summer. Picnic at 6:30

Sept. 5: Installation. How did we do this year?

On a wonderful, no rain evening in June we had our election. All chairs were filled with the exception of Secretary and Treasurer. Hopefully they will be filled by our July meeting.

Our food and plant sale netted \$1,062.00. It was wonderful how everyone comes together to work on a project. Many thanks to all the hard workers who gave of their time and talent to make it such a success.

The Eagle Scouts are still busy. Latest project was a horseshoe throwing facility at the senior citizen center. Troup 26 will be camping on Mt. Washington later this month. Hopefully the weather will behave and they don’t freeze.

A cake was fired up and Happy Birthday was sung to Amy Winger as her birthday fell on our meeting night.

Looking forward to lazy, hazy days of summer. We report on July’s meetings next month.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

July 12: Picnic

July 26: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Aug. 9: Dog Days of Summer

Aug. 23: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Rob Buck

July 3: (Wed.) Business Meeting, 7:30 P.M., “Are You Having Patriotic Thoughts?”

July 17: (Wed.) Social Meeting, 7:30 P.M., “Is Climate Change Real?”

July 26: (Fri.) GOMAD, Potluck and Music, 7:00 P.M. Open to the public and all Grangers.

With elections of officers to be over in early June, we move into a new era. Maggie has stepped down from the Master/President position due to health problems and other pressing responsibilities running her farm business. The yoga studio run by Agnieszka Chapska has been a welcome addition to our hall.

The landscaping continues as Raye is able to work on it. At times, it may appear to be a diamond in the rough, but it will take time to develop. What I can tell you is that it is not expected to take on the appearance of a formal garden, but rather a self sustaining landscape in the permaculture tradition. I am sorry if I don’t travel and visit more Granges, but health problems and taking care of my mother with her health problems since March occupies much of my time nowadays.

The Foundation and you...

Todd A. Gelineau, CSG Found. Secretary

There is a great deal of confusion, understandably, about IRS classifications and tax exempt requirements. It becomes a sea of letters and numbers for many of us that have little or no logic. What follows is a basic explanation and some pointers to use as you may consider looking for donations and/or grants for your Grange.

What is 501(c)3? 501(c)3 is an IRS tax classification that allows donors to write-off the value of money or goods on their taxes.

Are Granges 501(c)3? To my knowledge, NO Granges in Connecticut are 501(c)3. Most are either 501(c)5 or 501(c)8.

What is 501(c)5 or 501(c)8? These are also tax exempt designations but they differ from 501(c)3 because individuals/businesses that donate goods or money to your Grange cannot deduct the value from their taxes. These designations do allow your Grange to file a 990N e-postcard with the IRS that waives any income tax for your Grange as long as your gross receipts are less than \$50,000 annually.

How can my Grange receive tax deductible donations? About ten years ago, the Connecticut State Grange established the Connecticut State Grange Foundation, Inc. as an independent 501(c)3 tax deductible charitable foundation. The primary reason for its establishment is to have a tax deductible entity available to the State and Subordinate Granges. By IRS law, Granges cannot be 501(c)3 charitable organizations on their own. While we are an educational organization (which is allowed), we are also a legislative organization (which is not allowed). The CSG Foundation does not involve itself in any legislatively related activities.

This is where I need to pause..... This is the most important point you need to take away from this article - - **BEFORE YOU PROCEED WITH ANY GRANT APPLICATIONS OR SOLICIT CHARITABLE DONATIONS, CONTACT THE CSG FOUNDATION FIRST!** This really cannot be emphasized enough. We have had numerous Granges apply for Grants and get most of the way through the process before contacting us.

At that point, there is often little to be done to correct errors made early in the process. In addition, there are key questions that you need to ask before you apply. When going through the Foundation, your donations (i.e. the checks) must be made payable to the Connecticut State Grange Foundation with an earmark for your particular Grange. In most cases, there is an administrative fee of 3%-4% that is charged by the CSG Foundation to facilitate these donations/grants because they commonly require a substantial amount of paperwork to be completed by both the community Grange and the CSG Foundation. The percentage is determined on a case by case basis. We have found that we need to do it this way to be sensitive to the requirements that vary widely. This administrative fee is a standard practice for most Foundations and any organization you work with should not be surprised, especially when you are aware of it and make them aware of it at the beginning of the process.

Here's another difficult area.... Let's say your Grange goes to a local business and asks for the donation of merchandise to be raffled off for the benefit of a charity your Grange supports. Invariably, the question asked by the merchant is, "What is your EIN (Employer Identification Number) or 501(c)3 number?" We then receive a phone call or email from that

Grange asking for the Foundation's tax exempt numbers to give to the merchant. It doesn't work this way. First, you have to contact the Foundation to let us know what you are planning to do before you do it. Second, the donations may be accepted in the name of the Connecticut State Grange Foundation BUT we have to issue letters to the donor/business owner acknowledging the gift and its value, thereby giving them the tax exemption they are looking for. We can't have members throughout the state soliciting donations in the name of the Foundation because mistakes will be made and our 501(c)3 status could be placed in jeopardy. If a donor has difficulty with this, we can always get in touch with them and explain the process.

Charitable foundations like ours have strict licensing requirements both on the State and Federal levels and there are many regulations that we must follow to maintain the Foundation in good standing. We are here to help and serve the Granges in Connecticut but communication is key.

Changing subjects – In June we lost the first Secretary and current member of the CSG Foundation Board of Directors, Edith Schoell. She will be greatly missed by so many of us. Her seat on the Board is now open and we encourage anyone interested in serving on the Foundation to get in touch with me soon.

If you have any questions, please email me at Secretary@CTStateGrange.org, you may also call (860) 307-1522.

Decoding the letters and numbers

Many of us are not aware there's more than one 501(c) designation and our Grange organizations fall under several of them (3, 5, 8 and 10). Here's what the numbers mean:

501(c)1 – Organizations (like credit unions) organized by an Act of Congress. They do not file tax returns.

501(c)2 – Are created to hold titles for exempt organizations. They are required to file taxes.

501(c)3 – Most nonprofits fall under this designation which includes, foundations, churches, educational, charities, scientific and literary organizations. Donations made to them are tax deductible.

501(c)4 – Civic Leagues, Social Welfare Organizations or Local Employee Association

501(c)5 – Labor, agricultural, and horticultural organizations. Their missions are education, improvement of working conditions, and increases in efficiency and quality.

501(c)6 – Trade or Professional Association. They include business leagues, chambers of commerce, and real estate boards.

501(c)7 – Social or Recreational Club. Their purpose is to organize activities that lead to pleasure, recreation and socialization.

501(c)8 – Fraternal Societies. They are created to provide for the payment of life, sickness, accident, or other benefits to members and to further the development of its members. They can include service clubs, lineage clubs, or secret societies.

501(c)9 – Employee Beneficiary Association

501(c)10 – Domestic Fraternal Societies and Associations – Nonprofit organizations/fraternal societies that do not provide any sort of payment to members. Basically they use member dues to support outside causes with no benefits for members.

The designations continue on from **501(c)11 all the way to 501(c)27!** (*None of these apply to us.*)

Sustainable eco-friendly projects

Continued from page1...

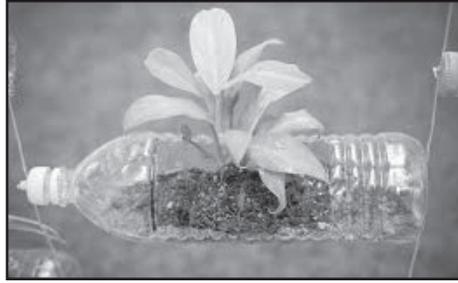
hormones and antibiotics. Concern for the environment is also a concern for our health from exposure to these things plus today's increases in stress.

We can compare today and what is right or wrong with our country, young people, a political party, the rest of the people of the world, but these comparisons do not help. Standing on the sidelines and not sharing our knowledge and gifts is selfish. Many of us over age 50 will die before this world barely resembles what it did when we were younger. The over population, destruction of animal species, natural wonders, dirty oceans, pollution and smog, intensity of the sun, loss of beaches near the ocean, etc.

I want you to know that as I type this my heart is hurting. Imagining my children unable to enjoy the beautiful creatures and outdoor spaces of this amazing country in the same way I have been able to and if they are brave enough to give me grandchildren, I hope we can do better or at least get things back on the right track soon.

Of course we alone are not responsible for all of this but have we been diligent enough in our fight to keep corporations accountable for the toxins they poison our Earth with? Have we worked hard to tell our local politicians to protect our waters and regulate the pollution practices that take place in our cities and towns? We are all in this together. It is a world problem but we can only control as much as within our reach. So as a collective we will be proud of ourselves and start right here and right now becoming more active in this together.

If you already have been active with cutting back on plastic use, cleaning public areas, recycling, composting, avoiding dangerous chemicals on your laws and garden



and the like, then you are the leaders. We need leaders who can get us on track to a sustainable life. Lead us on how to make these changes, what to avoid and simplest practices. I know the Grange is full of people who naturally or ambitiously pursue a healthier planet and sustainable living. Please step forward and lead the Grange and our communities. It is my belief that projects to help the environment are key to being relevant in this time. Could we be the leaders we once were when we helped to get roads paved so farmers could get to market easier? This is a place where we can shine and we can each do it in the way that serves our Granges and welcomes new faces.

I love that so many of us are volunteering in our communities and some are already volunteering to clean riverbanks and highways, help animals and that others repurpose and recycle diligently. Younger environmentally minded people feel like this is their cause of a lifetime. There are many eco-friendly trends that we see even in my part of the state, like, tiny houses, eco-friendly tourism, thrift store shopping, composting, reusable grocery bags and up-cycled home decor.

If you watch the news and see that parts of Europe are experiencing extreme heat, usually warm places are warmer and are in a drought or are on fire, or the extreme storms flood or freeze out other parts of the world. There is no doubt these are effecting young people across the globe who are super focused

on these issues. There has been a huge rise in vegetarian and vegan lifestyles. Plant based lifestyles are being embraced because there are studies that have proven large negative impacts on the Earth from animal agriculture, particularly factory farming. Plant based food producers create less carbon and use much less fuel. Large changes in the concerns of our society should be acknowledged by the Grange. An organization of our size and agricultural background can easily be a leader in this environmental surge of interest.

These eco-friendly potential members are committed to voting for government officials who support environmental protection issues, they are not afraid to stand for what they believe in and that is nature and its inhabitants. Online is how they find each other and work together. People can find each other, share ideas and get new ideas about how to live their best sustainable life.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat are the social media avenues where they reach out to find like-minded people and share the projects and events happening within their eco-minded communities. These online communities are not bound to the town they live in but have the ability to reach across the world. Activism is easy to find online, no matter how specific your interest. People can find each other, share ideas and get new ideas about how to live their best sustainable life. They share information about the organizations that are "green" and they support them with their purchases. They are willing to pay more for recycled and reusable products, products made locally or that give a portion of their proceeds to help clean up the environment. These same people are diligent activists, passionate and fierce in their attempt to help make the world a better place to live.

Continued next page...

Agriculture

Irene Percoski, Ag. Committee

Juniors will have a chance to show their creativity by making a seed painting, using fruit and vegetable seeds. The picture can be anything you can imagine, a face, an animal, a building or a general scene. This is to be on poster board and no larger than 11”X14”.

The adult contest is to make an attractive Harvest table centerpiece. Size limited to 12”X12”X12”. No

Eco-friendly projects

Continued from previous page...

They want projects to participate in that relate to their areas of concern. What kind of project can you organize to get them to volunteer? Projects like this make opportunities to talk about your Grange and show they who you are as a group. As we have been discussing, the key to growing your membership is through events. Eco events will attract people. Try to remember to keep the amount of time reasonable so they will not feel overwhelmed or unable to get it into their schedule.

Does your Grange have a lot of crafters who have a project that involves plastic items that can not be recycled but can be made into something they might want? Do you have Grangers who like to garden? Can they teach people how to start a small garden or maybe plant bee and butterfly friendly flowers outside of the Grange or at the library. Clean-ups at the water, the local park, the streets of your town are all great and will keep people busy for a few hours. If you have a project off your meeting premises you can also invite everyone back for treats. Be sure you are sensitive to the environmental aspects of your event. Filtered water or lemonade in glasses, with paper straws. You want to honor that we are aware and working toward a better future for our natural world. This is one of my favorite topics and I would love you to email me for ideas if you need them. Pinterest is a wonderful spot for ideas too. Lets have some fun and make a difference!

artificial fruits, vegetables or greenery allowed. These will be judged at State session and must be there before 9:00 p.m. on the first day of the session. Late entrees will be eliminated.

Our Pomona challenge is to nominate a Pomona member who has done the most to promote agriculture. Anyone can make a nomination giving a brief summary of what that person has done to earn the award. All nominations must be

received by October 1, 2019. Send to J. Allen Cameron.

Start looking for that special person you think is the Outstanding Agricultural Professional and Outstanding Young Professional of the Year. You can find the requirements for both of these awards in the 2018 Blue book. The rules are the same today. All Nominations for these awards must be received by October 1, 2019. Send to J. Allen Cameron.



Coconut & Raspberry Jam Pie

Sometimes it is just too warm in the summer months to turn on the oven, but don't let that stop you when you want a quick and easy dessert. WomAn's Day has a recipe for a no-bake Coconut Cream and Raspberry Jam Pie that is easy - and perfect for potlucks!

INGREDIENTS:

34 chocolate wafer cookies (we used Nabisco Famous Chocolate Wafers)
 6 tbsp. unsalted butter, melted
 1 8-oz. package cream cheese, at room temperature
 3/4 c. unsweetened coconut cream
 1/2 c. confectioners' sugar
 1 1/2 c. very cold heavy cream
 2 tbsp. seedless raspberry jam
 Sugared berries, for serving

DIRECTIONS:

In a food processor, pulse the cookies to form fine crumbs. Add the melted butter and pulse to combine. Transfer to a 9-inch pie dish and press evenly on the bottom and up the sides. Refrigerate for at least 20 minutes.

Using an electric mixer, beat the cream cheese, coconut cream, and confectioners' sugar in a large bowl on medium-high speed until smooth, 2 minutes. Reduce mixer speed to low and gradually add the cream. Increase speed to medium-high and beat until stiff peaks form, 3 minutes. Spread evenly into the crust.

Working over a bowl, push the jam through a fine-mesh strainer to create a smooth paste, then dollop 6 spoonfuls around the perimeter of the pie. Drag a wooden skewer through the jam in a circle to create hearts.

Refrigerate until the mixture is set, at least 4 hours and up to 2 days, covering lightly with plastic wrap after 1 hour.

Just before serving, make the sugared berries. Using a small brush, coat blueberries and raspberries with a lightly beaten egg white*, then toss them in granulated sugar. Spoon into the center of the pie.

SOURCE: <https://www.womansday.com/food-recipes/food-drinks/recipes/a58996/coconut-cream-raspberry-jam-pie-recipe/>

State Secretary



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary
Winchester Grange #74
Secretary@ctstategrange.org

The days are just flying by lately with all of the work involved with moving the State Grange from Glastonbury to Winchester. Unfortunately, there is still a great deal of “stuff” still in Good Will Grange Hall. It’s an immense challenge that has to be completed before the hall is sold... and we expect this building to sell rather quickly as Glastonbury (and this property in particular) sits in one of the most highly sought after towns in Greater Hartford (in Connecticut, really).

My long 990 e-postcard nightmare is finally over! After so many delays due to the website either down or just not operational for a myriad of reasons, I was finally able to file for all of the Granges in the state. All Granges should have received their receipts for the filing in the mail from me. If not, please let me know. I have received questions about the year listed on the filing. The receipts you have received are for the latest report the IRS shows as due for your Grange. Some of the filing years of our Granges do not fall at the same time as some of the others and those earlier ending dates may be the cause for the 2017 year listed on some.

The important thing to remember is that all Granges have filed this year and you are in no danger of being in “trouble” with the IRS unless you have failed to file for three consecutive years. I can assure you, as long as I am State Secretary, you will never be in danger of falling into that category.

In addition, the IRS generates a master list of all Granges that fall under the group exemption umbrella of the Conn. State Grange. I go through this list each spring (and

have already done so for this year) making sure that all active Granges are properly listed with the IRS. It’s a complicated system, but in the end I have no doubt that all Granges in the state are in good standing with the IRS with the exception of one Grange that is aware of their status.

As if I needed additional things to worry about, State Session is creeping up on us again. By the first week of August, all Granges will receive the call to State Session and information about registration and reservations with the hotel. Pricing will be exactly the same for both meals and rooms. The only difference will be slight changes in the banquet menu. More on that when things are finalized.

Unfortunately, I received a hand-written note from a Grange requesting seals for members. The request was not written on a form and the name of the Grange wasn’t written on the note either. The note was separated from the envelope so barring handwriting analysis, I can’t tell what Grange made the request. This is why we require the proper forms to be filled

out completely when requesting membership awards. The note only asked for quantities of seals and did not include names of members to be awarded the recognition. The forms ask for the name of the member, the Grange originally joined, and the date the member joined. When I receive the request, the information is verified with the State Grange membership records and the awards are issued and noted in the records of the State Grange. If this Grange hasn’t received requested seals and is reading this article, it might be you! Please get in touch with me ASAP.

On the subject of forms... there are a number of Granges that still haven’t sent in their dues for the first quarter (due on March 31). Dues for the second quarter are now due as we pass July 1. I have to remind all Granges that your dues must be current up to the second quarter for your delegates to be seated at State Session.

Enough rambling for this month—get out and enjoy the summer weather! Hopefully there will be more summer than the small amount of spring we were able to enjoy this year.

Lecturer’s Dept. Winners

My thanks to all who participated in our contests during “Let’s Celebrate”. The winners are as follows:

Talent Contest: 1- Cheshire; 2- Beacon Valley; 3- Hillstown

“A Number” Contest: 1- No. Stonington; 2- Beacon Valley; 3- Hillstown

Photo Contest Winners/America The Beautiful: 1- Irene Percoski, Enfield (Best In Show); 2- Dawn Percoski, Enfield; 3- Raine’ Pedersen, Riverton

Animals: 1- David Roberts, Riverton; 2- Angelina DeDominicis, Hillstown; 3- Lois Evankow, Lyme

Grangers in Action: 1- David Roberts, Riverton; 2- Susan Belle-Isle, Riverton; 3- Michelle DeDominicis, Hillstown

Family Celebrations: 1- Irene Percoski, Enfield; 2- Lois Evankow, Lyme; 3- Dawn Percoski, Enfield

Historic Places or Events: 1- Angelina DeDominicis, Hillstown; 2- David Roberts, Riverton; 3- Susan Belle-Isle, Riverton

Antique Vehicles: 1- David Roberts, Riverton; 2- Michelle DeDominicis, Hillstown; 3- John Alexander, Cheshire



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer
Cheshire Grange #23
Lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Let's write some resolutions!

Burton Eller,
National Legislative Director

The Grange has a long history rooted in member participation in our policy development through our resolution process. Each Granger is tasked with addressing voids and surpluses in our policy and can propose to implement these changes by offering amendments to your local and State Granges. Drafting resolutions may seem like a daunting task at first, but if you follow three simple steps listed below, you will soon be on your way to writing a clear and effective resolution.

First, it is important to know the anatomy of a resolution. There are three main parts: the Title, the body or Whereas section, and the conclusion or Resolved section.

The Title should clearly state the issue to be addressed. For example, if you are drafting a measure to deregulate the postal service, your title should be something along the lines of:

Example:

Deregulation of the Postal Service rather than just Postal Service

The Whereas section is where you get to make your argument for why this resolution is necessary. This section does not become policy but explains to other Grangers why the issue is important and provides details, data, and other reference material so they can be better educated on voting for the issue.

Example:

Whereas, the federal government imposes unreasonable regulations and mandates on the U.S. Postal Service but no longer funds any of the organization's operating costs; and

Whereas, the U.S. Postal Service will continue to be forced to close local post offices and reduce services under such a business model; and

Whereas, the U.S. Postal Service could survive and compete if allowed to create its own business model free of Congressional oversight; and

Whereas, the National Grange has a rich tradition in helping to

ensure the rural free delivery of mail; be it

The Resolved section must be a complete sentence which sums up what your resolution is trying to achieve and can stand alone without any of the supporting information. Example:

Resolved, that the National Grange support legislation that creates an autonomous U.S. Postal Service which can set its own operating procedures and business model without the undue regulation of the federal government.

Writing Resolutions that Stand the Test of Time

In closing, make sure your resolution can stand the test of time. A good deal of Grange policy dates back 75 years or more and continues to be relevant because the ideals and concepts hold true today. However, we also have policy that is out-of-date and relates to issues that have been dealt with on the local and congressional levels. If you have a resolution that deals with an issue that is connected to a current event or particular bill, your resolution may be included in the committee of jurisdiction's policy statement for that year, rather than passed as a resolution. Rest assured that this is still very important and is actually a better home for your resolution. Good luck and happy policymaking!

Riverton Grange Fair 3rd Saturday in August



Food Available
Agriculture, Photo
& Craft Exhibits



On June 8th Bridgewater Grange #153 held a roast beef dinner and honored scholarship recipients Mason Gsell and Ricky Gamelin.

No budget increase but plenty of new taxes



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Coventry Grange #75
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

The 2019 Connecticut Legislative session wrapped up on June 5th with the passage of a budget. Governor Lamont had pushed for a budget that did not include an increase in the sales tax rate and that did occur. What they did instead is expand areas that will now be taxed. You will now pay a tax on tickets to entertainment events such as theaters and games, prepared meals, parking, dry cleaning, automobile trade ins and ride sharing (Uber, Lyft) among other areas. The proposed tax increase on investments income on the wealthy was dropped. They did add a statewide conveyance tax on the sale of homes costing over \$2.5 million.

There is some good news such as the phase out of income taxes on Social Security and pensions. There was no decrease in aid for city and town schools with some district receiving a small increase in funding. The budget introduced a program to provide a debt-free college program at community colleges for Connecticut residents funded by creating a new on-line lottery.

Included in the budget is a new fee on single-use checkout bags with the eventual phase out of single-use plastic bags. Starting August 1, 2019, stores will be required to charge a ten cents fee for every plastic check-out bag provided to the customer. Exempted from this fee are other plastic bags such as, compostable plastic bags, bags provided for meat, seafood, loose produce or other unwrapped food, newspaper bags and laundry or dry-cleaning bags. Compostable plastic

bags are defined as plastic bags that conform with the American Society of Testing Material standards and is capable of biological decomposition. Starting July 1, 2021, no owner or store will be allowed to provide or sell single-use checkout bags to customers at point of sale.

Outside the budget bill, license renewals will now be done every eight years instead of six and motor vehicle registration renewals go from every two to three years.

Failed bills included the adoption of tolls on our highways which will come back in a special session. Legalized marijuana and school regionalization of local school district failed. They also did not approve a bill that would allow the importing of drugs from Canada

and other recommendations to decrease health care costs. Bills concerning the ban on plastic straws, Styrofoam food containers and the expansion of the bottle bill to teas, juices and sport drinks also died at the end of the session.

Now is the time to start working your Grange resolutions to be sent to State Grange. How do you feel about some of the state topics such as banning plastic straws and Styrofoam containers, early voting, and other topics? Write a resolution and let us know. The Connecticut Grange web site has information for the proper formatting of resolutions. You can also contact any member of the Legislative Committee for assistance in writing your resolution.

75 Years of Grange membership

Cheshire Grange Master A. Ruel Miller presents Sister Phyllis Beard a certificate from National Grange in recognition of 75 years of continuous membership.



Naugatuck Citizen of the Year Honored

State Lecturer Marge Bernhardt presents the Citizen of the Year Award to James Goggin at Beacon Valley Grange's 130th Anniversary Celebration in June.



Faith & Doubt



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?” Matthew 14

I think most of us can identify with Peter in the above episode. Faith is a wonderful thing; it can move mountains. But once a bit of doubt creeps in our faith may suddenly weaken, and we begin to sink, sometimes rapidly.

One definition of faith is trust in God. This is epitomized in the Old Testament by Abraham’s faithful trusting in God despite the twelve times that God put Abraham to the



test, including the call for Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. Of course, it is possible that Abraham sometimes had his doubts, but they don’t appear in the Biblical record.

As for the rest of us, and for the rest of the Biblical record, doubt runs rampant. The most famous example to most of us is “Doubting Thomas”, who, when told that Jesus had been resurrected, stated that he would not believe until he could touch Jesus’s wounds. Eight days later Jesus appeared to Thomas and the other apostles, and Thomas’s immediate reaction was to say, “My Lord and my God”. Doubt was

instantaneously replaced by belief.

Jesus on several occasions rebuked his disciples for their lack of faith. In Matthew 8 Jesus and the disciples are in a boat on the Sea of Galilee when a fierce storm arises, terrifying the disciples. Jesus is awakened by them, and his immediate response is to say “Why are you afraid? You have so little faith”. Then he rebukes the storm into calm. One can imagine him then going back to sleep. And in Luke 17 we read the Lord said, “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

So, doubt is ever the enemy of faith, keeping our faith from growing, holding us back. Perhaps we should remember every time that faith has won out, and use this experience to hold back doubt.

In Memoriam

Shirley Lemieux, G.S.
Winchester Grange #74

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”