



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

June 2020

We'll get through this together



George Russell
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169
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As I am writing this report in the middle of May; We are all affected by this COVID-19 pandemic. Our Granges are unable to meet face-to-face and carry out our fundraisers. The Granges that have farmer's markets and plant sales are allowed to hold them as long as they are outside and they are following the Governor's Executive Order and all local and state regulations.

Your Board of Directors voted to provide a one-time stimulus payment of: \$1000 to Granges that own their halls and \$500 for those Granges that do not own a hall but rent. We hope this money will help offset some of the fundraisers that you were unable to hold.

During these times that we are unable to meet or have fundraisers we must keep up our Granges as best as we can; especially the ones who own their own halls. We have to keep up the insurance liability and fire insurance in case something happens to our buildings. We don't want our members have to pay to get a building fixed or even cleaned up after a fire if your building is not covered by insurance. So please look over your policies and keep them up-to-date. When I was listening to the

National Grange live Stream the other day: Burton Eller: Legislative Director for National Grange, mentioned to check with your liability insurance to see if viruses are covered if you are planning to put on a fundraiser. This will cover you in the event that someone who has attended your fundraiser gets sick and comes back on the Grange with a lawsuit.

As of the middle of May, 15 fairs have been canceled for the year in Connecticut. Two major fairs sponsored by Granges and four Grange fairs. As of this morning's paper the Big E is planning to go ahead with the fair on September 18 to October 4.

As the governor is reopening the state on May 20; some of the guidelines for social gatherings will be restricted to a maximum of five people, individuals in the high risk group or over the age of 65 should continue to stay safe and stay home. Face coverings should continue to be worn in public at all times. With the restriction of five people our Granges cannot hold legal meetings. The second round of re-opening the state is supposed to be in 3 to 4 weeks. We will have to wait and see what the new restrictions are and will have to carry-on as best as we can through this pandemic.

The Connecticut State Grange Agriculture Committee is setting up an outreach project to purchase masks for agricultural workers in our state. This will be a joint project of the Ag. committee and



Hillstown Grange held a "Social Distancing" version of their annual Plant Sale in May. More on this event inside.

the Community Service Committee to purchase masks and distribute them in the eight counties with the help of Connecticut State Farm Bureau. The State Grange will be purchasing 80 boxes /4000 masks to distribute to our agriculture community. J Allen Cameron, the Connecticut State Grange Agriculture Director is heading up this project.

We have heard many times that we are all in this together so stay safe and healthy and we will get through this together and have a stronger Grange.



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

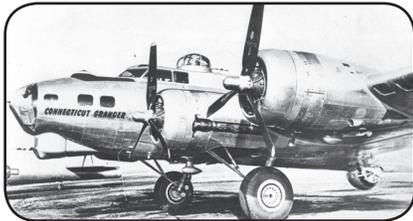
**NEXT ISSUE ...
Articles Due June 15**

Bridgewater Grange works on the "Garden of Life"



the Connecticut Granger

Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

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Bridgewater Grange #153 has been working on "The Garden of Life" along with the Freemasons, Camella's Cupboard, Deerfield Farm, Helping Hands for Heroes and members of the community. This unbelievable team of volunteers managed to plant hundreds of onions, 150 tomatoes, and various other veggies thanks to our amazing Master Gardener Carla Changas who grew everything from seed! We are so blessed and honored to be able to work with such an amazing group of organizations and various community members to provide food for families in need. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, donate plants/supplies, or contribute financially please reach out. There are many ways you can help.



The information contained in each issue of The Connecticut Granger is for informational 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 herein.

There are people and grants for that



Faith Quinlan
Membership Dir.
Winchester Grange #74
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“Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity where an individual or group freely gives time to benefit another person, group or organization. Volunteering is also renowned for skill development and is often intended to promote goodness or to improve human quality of life. Volunteering may have positive benefits for the volunteer as well as for the person or community served.” – *Defined by Wikipedia.*

There has been a huge movement to return to community volunteerism. It makes us feel good to serve others and can benefit the volunteer both academically and personally. Studies have shown that for the person serving it improves their quality of life plus it increases the longevity of the person and improves their health. Research has found that older adults will benefit the most from volunteering. Physical and mental ailments plaguing older adults can be healed through the simple act of helping others. There are barriers that can prevent older adults from participating in volunteer work, however, these barriers can be overcome so that if one would like to be involved in volunteer work they can do so. Simply put, volunteering improves not only the communities in which one serves, but also the life of the individual who is providing help to the community. Volunteering is known to be related to and increase happiness. It was found that giving help was a more important benefit of better reported mental health than receiving help and



has also shown that it can cause a decrease in loneliness for those volunteering as well as those for whom people volunteer.

The month of June is usually incredibly active with events and celebrations. Like many of you I am very sad at how much things have changed since the virus has reached our state. Our Grange leaders will keep us informed on policy and procedures as it relates to the organization.

At a time when we are cautiously returning to public spaces we should consider how best to continue to safely serve our friends, neighbors and community. Many of us know there are children, seniors and families in need. People have been isolated for a long time and many things have been neglected. Our front-line heroes are tiring of their constant stress and vigilance and they need our support. People are out of work and have trouble feeding their families. In ways we are able I want to ask for your help in getting Connecticut (safely) back on its feet.

I am developing relationships with other non-profits and social service organizations to find ways

to work with their clients and volunteers so we all can work together. I will also recruit our own volunteers. Through support of volunteers we can get exposure to new people that can join us and help us spread our message and complete our mission in our communities.

So, what might I be able to help you with? Does your Grange need help with a project? Let's discuss what we might be able to do while considering the restrictions. Try me out – You may be surprised at what we can come up with to get that project done. We can do many things while observing our safety precautions.

Information travels very quickly and we want to maintain our relevance and be a contributor to the betterment of CT. Tell me what you are doing and working on because we should be a little less humble. Let us share our good deeds as a Grange so people who are like us will know they are welcome. We need to talk about our good deeds so those who need us will reach out to us and ask for our help. Please share the information with me or to

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Membership

Continued from prev. page...

Terri Fassio and we can get your successes and hard work out to the masses.

On Monday, May 18, 2020, Susan Masino, President of the CT State Grange Foundation, and I hosted an online workshop about Grant Program Information and a discussion on Membership, Grants that are available to Granges and also how membership (volunteer) programs can help with the application of these grants. On the Zoom call we had 15 participants from across the state and Board members were there for support.

There are funds to get wifi at your Grange, grants for new community based projects or capital improvements.

Are you working with food banks? The historical society? Have you opened your St Pauli Shed to help local people? Did you make masks? What things are you doing already that could use more support. Call me, email me and let's get you help and public exposure.

I would love to have enough projects to post on websites like Volunteer Match or Idealist. You may know the smaller nonprofits in your area may not have formal virtual volunteer projects, but that doesn't mean they can't use the help.

If you feel shy – get in touch with me and I will call directly to the organization you are interested in and ask about volunteer opportunities. If you and your members have a special skill, let them know. Many organizations are happy to have the help and will gladly work with you to find a project that fits your interests and skills.

I am available to help you. Be sure to reach out and take advantage of the skills I have and together we can take some steps to get life at the Grange back to normal.



GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

July 2: Meeting 7:30 p.m. "Pilgrim's Pride" (we have 3 descendants) Ref: pot luck desserts

Aug. 6: Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Short business meeting followed by our annual picnic

We are still observing the Coronavirus shut-down. The Grange has been in touch with our membership. Checking in to see how everyone is doing.

Hopefully we will be able to meet by August for our annual picnic.

As I am writing this it is a beautiful morning with the sun shining, but it is cold. I had to cover my new plantings as there was frost around. I had 36 deg. so things did not freeze.

Glastonbury Grange wishes all a nice summer and also a SAFE summer. Remember to wear your mask. Hope to see you all in at least July or August.

SENEXT GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane & Paul Miller

Not much to report. We have a new sign in front of our hall... STAY SAFE THANK YOU. Our hall is located on a busy road in town and Lela Miller and I decided to show our support with this message. We also want to congratulate two of our members who recently graduated from UConn. Lela Miller with degree in Pre-med and Danielle Duquette

with a major in nursing. We also want to thank the state Grange for their generous contribution to all Granges. With very little ability to hold fund raising events we certainly appreciate the funds. Hopefully things will return to a new normal and we can get together again.

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Bonnie Trecarten

As we await the time when we can all get together again, our Grange members are working behind the scenes. We are pleased to announce our yearly Bacon Academy scholarship award recipients: Erin Mathieu will attend University of Vermont and study Environmental Toxicology, and Hayden Dubiel will attend Union College in Maine and study Environmental Law. We wish them both success in their educational endeavors.

Thank you to all our Grangers showing their spirit of giving by making masks for those that need them. Grangers in action always helping our communities. Hope all our talented crafters are taking advantage of their at home time and creating entries for upcoming Grange contests. Let's all stay safe and hope the fasteners on our clothes don't have to practice social distancing with all the cooking and eating we're doing!

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Jaimie Cameron

We held another successful Zoom meeting May 4th. Each time we are getting a few more members to join and it's so nice to see everyone during this time. We are still doing our Flashback Fridays and everyone seems to enjoy looking back on history. We have been keeping up with helping families who need food as much as we can. We also had an article

Continued next page

Eastern CT #14

Continued from prev. page...

written on our food program in the "Good Day" magazine. It was a wonderful article. It was voted at our last meeting to have a sign put on our lawn at our hall thanking all the front-line workers during this time. We hope this finds you well and can't wait to see you all again in-person.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

July 2: Hot Time in the Town

Aug. 6: Cool in the Lake – Picnic, 6:30 P.M.

We've canceled our Hamburg Fair. It would have been the 119th one. It was established in 1887 and the only other time it was canceled was in the 40's during the war. We are waging another war called COVID-19. We are also experiencing shortages just like the 1940s. Then we were issued ration stamps and still could not get the necessities. It was in my teen years and I can remember them well.

The things you do when you are stuck at home ... because fabric is my thing, I have been producing masks and giving them to anyone who would like them. So far I have made 174 and still counting.

It sure will be nice if and when things get back to normal. I miss all my friends, be it quilt ones, Grange ones and neighbors. I'm sure everyone else is in the same boat. Keep the faith and "stay well."

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

June 12: Memorial

June 26: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

July 10: Picnic

July 24: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Hillstown Grange Plant Sale

Hillstown Grange #87 (East Hartford) "had a great day and lots of people all with masks and keeping social distancing in mind" on Saturday, May 14.





MT. LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

I wish there was more for us to report this month as Pomona has not been able to meet in-person or virtually. Our Secretary, Carol Jean Swanson, does a great job of sending out notes to members whenever there is something new to be known. If you aren't on her mailing list, please send her a note at cjswanson59@gmail.com and I'm sure she would be happy to keep you "in the loop", especially when things return to some level of normalcy and we are able to resume in-person meetings.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

The person who first said "no news is good news" never anticipated the situation we all find ourselves in right now! Through an email discussion among our members in April, it was decided Winchester Grange would cancel the Strawberry Festival which was scheduled for Father's Day and the Grange Fair and Flea Market scheduled for August. The social distancing requirements and the sanitation needs to hold these events would have been difficult and the risk to the health of our members and guests would have been much too great. The annual Winchester Center Day is still scheduled for

September. Decisions regarding this event will likely be made by the four organizations (including the Grange) that sponsor as the summer goes on and we know more about how the virus will be impacting us in September.

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Over 30 cars paraded in front of Barbara Bartram's house in honor of her 91st birthday. She hasn't smiled like that for a long time!

Taghhannuck Grange canceled its April meeting and just had a Zoom get-together for catching up with our members.

We did meet virtually on May 14th via Zoom for our regular

monthly meeting and included some of the ritual. We voted on an application for membership and now have a new member who does a lot of community service and fits right into our Grange.

On Saturday, June 6th beginning at 9:00 A.M. we are holding our annual Plant Sale at our Grange Hall on Dunbar Road in Sharon. This year both vegetable and flower plants will be \$2 and it is self serve with a donation box to drop in cash or checks. No change will be made so remember to bring small bills. Masks are required along with the 6' physical distancing. Sadly we will not be able to do the Rummage Sale at the same time inside our hall.

WINCHESTER GRANGE No. 74
Winchester Center, Connecticut

OUR UPCOMING GRANGE EVENTS ARE CANCELED

See you in 2021!

Due to the effects of the COVID-19 and the State of Connecticut Stay Safe Guidelines, Winchester Grange has decided to **CANCEL** our 2020 Strawberry Festival (June) and our Annual Fair and Flea Market (August).

We look forward to coming back in 2021!

Visit our Website and Facebook Page to keep up with the latest Winchester Grange news!
www.WinchesterGrange.org
www.Facebook.com/WinchesterGrange

Updates from the State Office



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

It's been a while since I've written a column as most of my communications lately have been in the form of letters sent to the individual Granges. Hopefully this issue finds all of you well and enjoying the warmer weather. My family and I were able to finally enjoy a meal at a restaurant (on the restaurant's patio). While not exactly what we're used to, it's a far cry from where we've been for the last few months.

The State Grange Executive Committee has been meeting regularly and our Grange work continues on. Here's some updates and reminders:

QUARTERLY REPORTS

At the beginning of the pandemic crisis (at least in our neck of the woods), we extended the deadline for filing quarterly reports for the first quarter of 2020 without penalty from April 30 to May 31. As of this writing, there were still many Granges outstanding. Please file your quarterly reports as soon as possible. The State Grange is still required to file its report with National Grange on time and your reports are critical.

STIMULUS PAYMENTS

The State Grange Board of Directors approved stimulus payments to be sent out to all Granges to help them through this period when most fundraising activities have been halted for an undetermined period of time. Only one check was returned to us (and forwarded back to the Grange) so we assume all of our Granges have

received them. Granges with halls received \$1,000 and Granges that do not own halls received \$500. These payments should help with ongoing bills, including payment of quarterly reports (hint, hint!).

COVID-19

The State Master and Executive Committee have been monitoring the COVID-19 situation and evaluating the State Grange's response. There are a few articles in this issue that address Grange Fairs, festivals and activities. Please read these articles and discuss with your Grange.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS

In reviewing the number of Granges that have met virtually, I was disappointed to see how few have taken advantage of this opportunity. We have made every effort to make resources available to Granges. Fear of the technology is understandable but our Membership Director will make every effort to make sure you are able to hold a successful meeting. Even if you don't have a member who is able to host, we are more than happy to have one of the State Grange officers or the Membership Director host the meeting for you. All you have to do is contact her to learn more. Please call Faith at 518-698-2785.

The Governor and the State of Connecticut have indicated that it could be several months before in-person meetings the size of an average Grange meeting could be held safely (with social distancing practices still in place). Even if it's not a "business meeting", get your feet wet with an informal online get-together to catch up with one another and see how easy it is!

STATE SESSION

I wish I could tell you everything will be back to normal by October and State Session will be held in the same format as always. Unfortunately, we can't say that with any certainty. We truly hope the worst of this virus is behind us and the impact on State Session will be minimal.

Just like everything else we'll have to "wait it out" and see where we stand as Session comes closer. In the meantime, the State Grange is working on contingency plans that will help us to hold a form of State Session no matter what restrictions are in place come October (hopefully none at all!). There should be more information on our plans in the coming weeks. We'll keep you posted.

LAPSED MEMBERSHIPS

More on this subject is included in a separate Connecticut Granger article but it's important to include some of it in this column. Postcards were sent out to members on the Connecticut Granger mailing list who have continued to be listed as members of Granges that have closed. There have been quite a few cases where Granges have closed and the Golden Sheaf members have had no contact with their "new" Granges and wonder if they are, in fact, still members. I am making every effort to reconnect these members to the various Granges.

It is my hope that Granges will occasionally contact members who are no longer able to attend Grange meetings. Some may be Golden Sheaf members who live in convalescent homes or others who are not able to leave the house at night. Each of the members I've spoken with dearly love the Grange and miss their connection to it.

Until next time... try to get outside and enjoy the spring weather (6 feet apart, of course!).



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

It's not very often that I can say I get lost for words but trying to write an article for the Connecticut Granger I can say I am now. It is hard to plan my own schedule, but trying to keep everyone up with what's happening in Nutmeg Pomona is even harder.

I can only say when we can schedule something we will let you know. So read the Granger, look for letters, answer the phone and read your emails.

Until we are able to meet together again, stay healthy.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Nothing has changed here at Cheshire Grange since our last article, other than we have made a very tough decision to cancel our fair. It would have been the 136th consecutive Cheshire Grange Fair. We also had to cancel our Community Citizen award program, one of our highlight programs of the year. It will be rescheduled at some point. I have been keeping our members up to date via letters on the information we have been receiving from the State Grange and what may lie ahead. We have not met in any fashion since March 4th. Trusting this finds you all continuing to be well and safe.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Still can't report our schedule for the next month. Meetings, our Anniversary meeting, open mic, the bake sale at Walmart and our participation in Naugatuck Days were all canceled.

In June we were supposed to have a program on strawberries with strawberry shortcake for dessert, but I would imagine that meeting will have to be cancelled, so buy yourself some strawberries and enjoy some at home. Sounds good to me.

I have tried to keep in contact with our active members and so far have found them all well. That's good news! Well that's a lie. Just called to check on Chaplain Carole Mancini and found she had been in the hospital. Hoping by the time this Granger is delivered she is feeling much better.

Stay home and keep well- this will pass.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

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Grange ones and neighbors. I'm sure everyone else is in the same boat. Keep the faith and "stay well."

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Bil Mikulewicz

The Cannon Grange Executive Board has decided to approach the Covid/Fair problem by searching for a possible, perhaps 21st Century, methodology for dealing with a situation that may last many years. Our realization that herd immunity is not personal immunity and the average time from start to distribution of a vaccine is 28 years, means last year's Fair is truly a thing of the past. We are now in the process of exploring how to design a virtual fair.

Some of the questions we are exploring are how to divide categories into must be physically present and those that can be submitted in jpeg or video form. Timelines for entry. Protocols for physical entries. Social distancing precludes for all intents and purposes vendors at the event. How do we change contest entry procedures?

Then there's how do we present the Fair to the public? Facebook, Zoom, website? Should we include Tent Talks and music? How long should the presentation be and how shall contest winners be awarded their prizes. Many more questions will be sure to arise and hopefully be answered in this evolutionary next step of the 88th Cannon Grange Agricultural Fair and Exposition.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

June 12: Memorial

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Grange projects to work on while quarantined



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

Greetings – By the time you read this we will all know more about how opening up our State is going. Hopefully people will wear masks and keep their distance away from others. Unfortunately this means we probably won't be having regular meetings for a while. To those of you who are having meetings via Zoom or other social media, that's great. I enjoy reading about these meetings when the reports come in.

If you are like me, you miss going out and visiting with Friends. I haven't been to a Grange function in over two months. I can't remember another time like that. To all who have called or emailed me – Thank you. I really enjoy

hearing from you.

As I am sure you have heard Let's Celebrate has been cancelled. Because of this I am going to review our contests and projects. Please keep in mind that this is tentative and a lot of it depends on what happens with COVID-19.

The Photo Contest will be held at State Session. The Best in Show entry will still go on to National for judging.

The Talent and "A Number" Contests will not be held this year.

Complete Programs will still be judged but you will no longer have to put it on at your meeting. It can be saved and used next year. The deadline is still October 1st.

Our Should Auld Acquaintance Project will continue but you do not have to visit six times. Any Grange that has visited a home should fill out the report and be recognized. This project seems especially

important at this time and I hope that we can all get back to visiting Convalescent Homes as soon as it is safe for them and for us.

A Word From Home is as important as ever. Why not take some of the extra time we all have now and write to members of our military in harms' way. If you are doing this on your computer you could print a letter several times and send them to different bases. Remember if you don't have addresses, just get them to me and I will mail them for you.

The Essay Contest is still on. In 150 words or less just write an essay on "My Grange". This is another way to spend the nights when you would normally be at a Grange meeting.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Take care of yourself. Our way of life will be restored soon.

General Assembly quietly adjourns session



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

The 2020 Connecticut Legislative session wrapped up in early May with a sparsely attended final session on the last day. A few legislators went to the Capitol to officially adjourn the session and to say their goodbyes to some of the legislators who have announced that they will not be running for their position again. Among these are the Speaker of the House Joe Aresimowicz, House Minority Leader Themis Klarides, and Senate Minority Leader Len Fasano who have all announced that they will not be seeking reelection.

As we are all aware, this has been an unusual year with the



sudden shutdown of the State resulting in minimal legislative action occurring during the session. There is hope that the legislature will be able to meet in special session sometime this summer to address the budget and a couple of other important issues.

Congress has been working on addressing the medical and economic impacts that are occurring as a result of the shutdown due to the pandemic. The financial aid stimulus

packages they have passed have included direct payments to individuals, loans and grant programs for businesses, and funds for needed medical supplies for medical personnel and first responders. It also included commodity purchases for farmers, spending \$100 million per month for crops and products as well as committing funding for livestock and specialty crops.

As this pandemic continues, we will see more relief packages presented to try and maintain our economic and social stability. In the coming months, both the National and State governments will be redefining the rules and procedures for our nation as we adjust to dramatic changes that this pandemic has caused. We will all be adjusting to our new normal.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Keeping Up Member Morale

Terri Fassio, PR Co-Director

Due to the COVID-19 virus, Granges here looking very different than normal. Many Granges are taking advantage of the virtual meetings and events, while others have just cancelled their meetings and events altogether. Some members may lose their motivation for their Grange, others see it as out of sight, out of mind, while some may welcome the break and find it to be refreshing. Despite this new normal, there are plenty of ways to keep morale up and ensure that your Grange members don't feel isolated during these times.

Here's a few tips to keep your members engaged and keep your Grange in the forefront.

-- Learn something new. Stay social, albeit virtually. Through ZOOM-based Grange meetings and events to enjoying your Facebook timeline, there are many outlets for members to interact with others and keep in touch. It could be as simple as a virtual coffee break or even ZOOM exercise time on Saturday mornings. Think outside the box.

-- Keep your Grange social media up to date. It's hard to know what to post when your Grange is not meeting or having events, but there are plenty of ways to keep your Grange on the timelines. Post favorite recipes, flashback historical photos and news clippings, and share photos of your garden or craft projects.

-- Get inspired! Positivity is important. Be optimistic about what your Grange will be doing looking ahead. Call members who are not online and let them

know they are remembered. Push yourself to try new things.

-- Find meaning and purpose. This is the perfect time for Granges to take on community service

projects. Start a community garden, donate to local food kitchens and animal shelters, or clean up trash on the side of the road. This is the perfect time for Granges to make a difference.

If you or your Grange has questions or needs assistance, please contact the Public Relations Committee. We're here to help! E-mail: publicrelations@ctstategrange.org or information@ctstategrange.org.

Family Activities Committee Update

By Cindy Legg, State Family Activities Director

Hope all are doing well.

As you must already know, "Let's Celebrate" has been canceled this year. The CWA had decided to hold the judging for the needlework, baking and craft contests Saturday, August 22 at Beacon Valley Grange (1354 New Haven Road/Route 63, Naugatuck). We will be accepting entries at 11:00 A.M. and start the judging about 1:00 P.M. If you have any questions please call me at (203) 632-5532, or email me at cmrl_1983@yahoo.com. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

On behalf of my committee I would like to welcome Marianne Nielsen from Redding Grange as the newest member of our committee. I know Marianne will be a big asset to our committee.

Hope everyone stays safe and healthy.

CSG Past Deputies Association

Still no schedule for our 50th Anniversary Party but I guarantee that we will have one when we get the all clear. Sorry to say we will not have the Gift Card Raffle this year. With everything so iffy it could be difficult distributing them and to get around selling them.

Hope everyone is staying healthy and staying home when possible. For us oldies but goodies that's a must.



Bartram Celebrates 91st BDay

Taghannuck Grange member Barbara Bartram was honored with over 30 cars parading in front of her house helping her to celebrate her 91st birthday. We are told she hasn't smiled like that for a long time!

Fair Cancellations

The following fairs have officially canceled their 2020 seasons (at the time of publication). Additional Fairs may have announced their intentions after our publication date.

LOCAL/GRANGE FAIRS

Cheshire Grange Fair
 Winchester Grange Fair
 Wallingford Grange Fair
 Meriden Grange Fair
 Whigville Grange Fair

MAJOR FAIRS

Hamburg Fair (Lyme Grange)
 Ledyard Fair
 Bridgewater Country Fair
 Brooklyn Fair
 North Stonington Fair
 Berlin Lions Agricultural Fair
 Guilford Fair
 Durham Fair
 Chester Fair
 Brooklyn Fair
 Woodstock Fair
 Lebanon Country Fair
 Four Town Fair
 Goshen Fair
 Hartford County 4-H Fair
 Terryville Lions Country Fair
 Haddam Neck Fair
 Bethlehem Fair

Thank You

Thank you to all those Grangers and Granges that sent cards, e-mails, messages or prayers after I smashed my left kneecap after Grange March 2nd. As of this writing I remain in a full velcro cast but am now at 75% bending. Long road ahead; slow and steady progress. Thanks also for those who remembered our family in sympathy for the loss of my brother, Gene Emmons. A career in the Air Force, traveled the world, student of the Bible and for those of you who remember, Past Master of Little River Grange No. 36 in Hampton. Gene is survived by his wife of 52 years, Roberta (Taylor) Emmons; two children and four grandchildren. They all live in Texas. Blessings, Sue Gray



Fried Rice

Meal planning while staying home can get creative based on the foods found in your pantry and in your fridge. It's easy to fall back on pasta. But what about rice? GimmeSomeOven.com has a great Fried Rice recipe. It's quick and easy to make, and reheats well when there are leftovers.

INGREDIENTS:

3 tablespoons butter, divided
 2 eggs, whisked
 2 medium carrots, peeled and diced
 1 small white onion, diced
 1/2 cup frozen peas
 3 cloves garlic, minced
 salt and black pepper
 4 cups cooked and chilled rice (I prefer short-grain white rice)
 3 green onions, thinly sliced
 3-4 tablespoons soy sauce, or more to taste
 2 teaspoons oyster sauce (optional)
 1/2 teaspoons toasted sesame oil

INSTRUCTIONS:

Heat 1/2 tablespoon of butter in a large sauté pan* over medium-high heat until melted. Add egg, and cook until scrambled, stirring occasionally. Remove egg, and transfer to a separate plate.

Add an additional 1 tablespoon butter to the pan and heat until melted. Add carrots, onion, peas and garlic, and season with a generous pinch of salt and pepper. Sauté for about 5 minutes or until the onion and carrots are soft. Increase heat to high, add in the remaining 1 1/2 tablespoons of butter, and stir until melted. Immediately add the rice, green onions, soy sauce and oyster sauce (if using), and stir until combined. Continue stirring for an additional 3 minutes to fry the rice. Then add in the eggs and stir to combine. Remove from heat, and stir in the sesame oil until combined. Taste and season with extra soy sauce, if needed.

Serve immediately, or refrigerate in a sealed container for up to 3 days.

TIPS:

1) Use cold rice: You've gotta plan ahead and use thoroughly-chilled cooked rice. A fresh batch of warm (or even lukewarm) rice will not fry well when it hits the hot pan, and will result in soggy and sticky clumps — no good. So leftover refrigerated rice is ideal!

2) Use butter: Yes, butter. It just tastes so much better, and also makes everything brown up perfectly.

3) Use veggies: In addition to adding some nice spots of color, veggies go a long way in adding some flavor and freshness to fried rice.

SOURCE: www.gimmesomeoven.com/fried-rice-recipe

WINDOW TO THE PAST

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

This Month

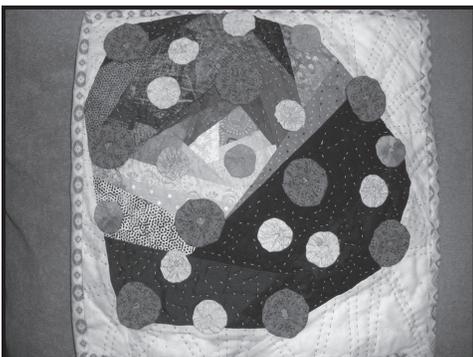


Last Month



Macdonald Corona Quilt

The Chaplain of Greenfield Hill Grange #133, Karen Macdonald, is an avid quilter. She uses her quilts (that she designs and stitches by hand) as a journal of life events. Here is her latest, “Corona Virus” quilt. Adorned with Yo-Yo’s as cells and headlines that “Spark Panic”, this quilt represents a stitch in time that is like no other. But it is the last headline on the quilt backing that brings hope for a brighter future: “Stronger than Ever.” – submitted by Lori Golias, A.S. Greenfield Hill Grange.



Postal Service Endangered

By Burton Eller, National Grange Legislative Dir.

Grange members are concerned about the future of the United States Post Office mail delivery, especially to rural routes. The Postal Service has been running on a deficit budget supported by government loans in recent years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, USPS now projects a 50% drop in business and revenues. While the National Grange has long supported a self-sufficient Postal Service, no business can survive such a loss without emergency funding.

The Postal Service is

fundamental in this time of emergency. It delivers prescriptions, household and business staples, groceries, meals to rural school children, personal protective equipment, greeting cards and personal correspondence to bridge social distancing.

The House of Representatives passed another stimulus package (HEROES Act) on May 15 that added \$25 billion to make up for lost USPS revenue. This legislation now goes to the Senate for its consideration in June. Grange members are urged to voice their support for emergency

Postal Service funding directly to their U.S. Senators by June 1.

How to weigh in with your Senators:

• Go to www.nationalgrange.org/contact-your-representatives/ House of Representatives will appear

- Scroll down to U.S. Senators
- Choose a state
- Choose one of your two senators
- Click contact the Senator
- Click share/message
- Click your personal information
- Click your personal message
- Leave your personal message about the Post Office
- Repeat this process with your second senator

Fairs & Festivals: What You Need to Know

Todd A. Gelineau, State Secretary

The Association of Connecticut Fairs held a statewide virtual meeting of Fair Presidents on Monday, May 4 to discuss the upcoming season and the challenges COVID-19 presents. Nearly 100 participants filled the GoToMeeting page set up for the event. Representing the State of Connecticut were Kayleigh Royston, Legislative Liaison from the CT Department of Agriculture and Tommy Hyde, Director of Government Affairs at the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development.

Many decisions have yet to be made by the Governor regarding the reopening of large gatherings of people in the state. May 20 has been the date the Governor has indicated some decisions will be made regarding re-opening the state but there are also rumors that the date may be extended to June 1.

Governor Lamont has indicated that the State will reopen in four stages. For businesses and events

that involve gatherings of people, Stage 1 will allow for 25% of normal average attendance. Stage two would be 50%, Stage 3 would be 75% and finally stage 4 would be 100%. There likely will be at least 30 days between entering a particular stage and then moving up to the next. A gradual reopening would, hopefully, avoid or at least minimize a rapid spread of the virus that would almost certainly happen if the State were to reopen without any regulation.

Three major fairs, including the North Stonington Agricultural Fair (organized in part by North Stonington Grange) have already canceled their events for this year. The remaining fairs are carefully considering their own options for this season.

If the Governor allows fairs to open this season, there are several key factors that have to be considered:

1) Does your insurance policy cover viruses? Some fairs have indicated their policies have exclusions for viruses. Speaking with your insurance agent about the

insurance issues related to operating a fair during this pandemic is extremely important.

2) Does your fair have the resources to handle the sanitation required to hold a public event? Even if your restrooms are not open to the public, they should be sanitized after each use. Surfaces touched by the public should also be sanitized throughout the event.

3) Can you control the flow of people through your Fair/Grange Hall? Fairs will have to adhere to whatever percentage of capacity allowed by the State of Connecticut. This means someone will have to count everyone entering and exiting the Fair to ensure you are below the maximum allowed attendance. Many of our Grange/local fairs do not charge attendance and do not need to have traditional gates for attendees to pass through. Under these regulations, Fairs may have to set up barriers to restrict access to the Fair when necessary.

4) Social distancing requirements will likely remain

Continued next page

in place for the foreseeable future. Are you able to provide enough space to comply with these requirements?

5) Can you afford the sanitizer, personal protective equipment and other supplies necessary to hold an event under these circumstances? Sanitizer and PPE is available and becoming more and more available each day, but it still remains very expensive.

As you know, many of our members are in the higher risk category and many of these members are the ones we call on to help make our events successful. Their safety and the safety of all Grange members working at the event should be strongly considered.

Many of our Granges enjoy a property tax exemption because we hold an agricultural fair each year. As part of this, we are required to file an annual report with the Department Agriculture listing the premiums paid to exhibitors. In the opinion of some at the meeting, Granges should be able to cancel this year without penalty because we have held fairs each year only to be interrupted this year by COVID-19. This, of course, is not the official word. Each Grange/Fair should contact their municipality/assessor's office to discuss the ramifications (if any) for not holding a fair in 2020 due to COVID-19. The annual report to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture should also be filed as usual, indicating the Fair was not held due to COVID-19.

The decision to hold a Fair or to cancel for this year is an individual decision each Grange/Fair will have to work through as Granges do. Our Membership Director, Faith Quinlan, stands ready to help you set up Zoom meetings for your members as they are

needed. She can be reached at membership@ctstategrange.org or by telephone at 518-698-2785.

The Association of Connecticut Fairs has decided to suspend the Baking, Quilt and Photography Contests at the state level. This decision does not preclude local, district and major fairs from having their own contests but the winners will not go on to state judging.

Conditions and regulations are constantly evolving from day to day. Stay informed following the recommendations and requirements of the local, state and Federal governments and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The State Grange will make you aware of any and all new information as it becomes available.



Hello Grange friends!

The State is slowly starting to open up, but with strict gathering rules. Sadly, many Fairs across the State, from the large fairs to the small Grange Fairs, are cancelling events this summer. Grange meetings are still closed for the time being. Hopefully we'll be having Grange meetings again at some point this summer. Has your Grange tried having a Virtual Grange Meeting? Contact Membership Director Faith Quinlan for all the details at membership@ctstategrange.org.

Want to keep up with the latest news? Just follow the link to my Facebook page, and then click the "Like" button once you are on the page to see our updates in your FB timeline. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>



Senexet Grange #40 (Woodstock) placed a sign in front of their Grange hall saying "Stay Safe - Thank You"

From the Editor...

Todd A. Gelineau, President Editor

At long last the billing for the Connecticut Granger mailing list went out to Granges in early May. Response has been excellent and it has been nice to see many new names added to the list offsetting the names removed.

Post cards were also sent out to Grangers on our list who are still recorded under Granges that have closed. I have asked them to contact me to let us know where they have taken their Grange membership so they can be counted with the correct Grange. It has been wonderful to hear from the many Golden Sheaf members who have been unable to come to Grange meetings for quite some time. Quite a few were just happy to have contact with the Grange again. Others are no longer Grange members but enjoy reading about our activities in the Granger. We have even been able to re-activate former members who have lapsed over the years.

If you are reading this and received a card, please contact me and let me know where you stand with your Grange membership. If you are unsure where your membership stands, please contact me and I'll reconnect you.

*Todd A. Gelineau
100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3
Winchester Center, CT 06094
Tel: 860-307-1522*

Email: Granger@CTStateGrange.org

To our Secretaries: Please return your list to me as soon as you possibly can marking any changes, corrections or deletions required. Also keep an eye out for names that may be missing from the list. We receive notices from the postal service indicating "no such address" for people who have lived in the same place for many years. Unfortunately, these notices are quite expensive and we have no choice but to remove those names to avoid additional charges.

Subscriptions to the Connecticut Granger are FREE so please include a list of all of the new members that have come into your Grange during the past year. The arrival of the Connecticut Granger in each Grange home has never been more important in this time of COVID-19.

I know many of you are frustrated with the delivery of your copies of the Granger. The completed issues have been delivered to the Winsted post officer earlier than ever before. The April issue arrived in most Grange homes 1-2 days after it was mailed. The May issue was delivered to the post office at the same time of the next month and delivery was well.... Much different. I do my best to mail each issue as early in the month as possible. Unfortunately, we are at the mercy of the post office.

Conference Cancellations

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all regional conferences have been canceled for the health and safety of our members.

National Grange Youth and Junior Grange Directors have established a contingency plan for members to still be able to participate in regional public speaking and Sign-A-Song contests which are required in order to take part in the national competitions. Contestants must sign up by June 15, 2020 in order to participate in the July contests. Contests will be held via Zoom on July 18-19. All Grangers of any age are welcome to participate. Only Junior and Youth/Young Adult participants will qualify for Best of Show.

Sign up to take part in public speaking and sign-a-song competitions in place of regional conference in-person competitions.

Upcoming National Grange Virtual Events

The following events are available to view live at the starting time listed or anytime thereafter on either channel: facebook.com/NationalGrange or youtube.com/NationalGrange. Sponsored by the Grange Foundation (grangefoundation.org).

Monday, June 1 6:00 P.M. EDT

2020 Convention Update w/National Master Huber

Tuesday, June 2 6:30 P.M., EDT

Live Virtual Tour of Jordan Dairy Farm

Wednesday, June 3

4:00 P.M., EDT Legislative Update w/Burton Eller

7:00 P.M., EDT Bingo, Hosted by PA State Grange

Thursday, June 4 8:00 P.M., EDT

How the Youth Leadership Fund Changes Lives w/Mandy Bostwick and several familiar faces!

Friday, June 5

6:30 P.M., EDT ASL/Deaf Culture: Lesson 9

9:00 P.M., EDT Trivia Night w/the Grange #3

Saturday, June 6 8:30 P.M., EDT

Date Night in 10.0

All livestreams are available at any time after the close of the event at facebook.com/nationalgrange/live or on our YouTube channel. If you have suggestions or questions, contact Amanda at communications@nationalgrange.org.

Serving God by Serving Man



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?”

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his

angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink. I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.”

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?”

“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.”

This month there is going to be a lot more Bible quotation than comment. As you probably know by now, there will be no Connecticut Grange Sunday this year, as a by-product of the COVID-19 pandemic. The above quoted text from Matthew’s Gospel was going to be the basis of my sermon for Grange Sunday. Instead, I am using it for the major part of a short homily. We are asked to love and serve the Lord. But how do we show our love for God and how can we serve him? The best way is to love and serve that which he has created. Therefore, love and serve the Lord by loving and serving our fellow man.

In Memoriam

Sidney Cushman
Vernon #52

Stella Kulagowski
Hillstown #87

Avis M. Barr
Ekonk Community #89

Joyce Zavistoski
Ekonk Community #89

Francis Gomez
(75 yr. member)
Taghannuck #100

David Knapp
Beacon Valley #103

John LoPresti
Preston City #110

Patrick R. McGowan
Preston City #110

William Honegger
Bethlehem #121

Mary Eppler
N. Stonington Comm. #138

Audrey Robertson
N. Stonington Comm. #138

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”