



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

October 2020

Join us at State Session



George Russell
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169
president@ctstategrange.org

Brothers and Sisters, I can't believe it's October already and we are just days away from our State Session. Who would have ever thought we would be holding our 136th Annual Session virtually? The Connecticut State Grange's one-day session on October 17th will be new to all of us. So bear with us and we will get through it one way or another. On September 13th we held our second virtual meeting for officers and delegates. We had 32 delegates attend the virtual meeting in which we discussed the voting process and other issues. We had an eight minute video put together by Stephanie Wilkins from National Grange on how to use the Zoom features. I thought it was very useful and I hope that you did as well. Terri Fassio will be recording the State Session and will edit and play it back at a later date so our Grange members can enjoy it. Terri is also setting up State Grange Social Hours every Thursday night from 7-8 P.M. between now and State Session.

By the time you read this article, I hope that you all have voted for the slate of officers that

has been sent out at the beginning of September. If you have not voted, please send them in as soon as possible in the self-addressed/stamped envelope given to you.

As the colder weather is approaching us and many Granges have not been able to put on their fundraisers this year, it is time to think about maybe winterizing your Grange Halls. Turning off the furnace for the colder months. If you're only meeting once a month; it might be cost-effective just to close it up for 4 months. You should find an alternative meeting place or consider a virtual meeting for these cool months. Especially with this COVID-19 still active in our State, you might want to consider virtual meetings

Make your vote count

Alma Graham, Legislative Director

Voting is one of the most important things that we, as citizens, can do. Voting gives us the people the power to control our government and shape policies for our nation as well as our state. Doing so expresses your opinion on who you feel would be the best person as President to run this country and guide it in the direction you feel is best. There are some who feel: why should they brother? The state

through the winter months.

As I was putting together this month's article, I sadly was informed of the passing of our Pomona Deputy Cynthia Charbonneau, the wife of Robert Charbonneau. Cindy was a member of Meriden Grange #29 in which she has held many offices over the years and has been a Connecticut State Grange Pomona Deputy for the past two years. She will certainly be missed.

As I end this month's report, this year's State Session is altogether different than we have ever done in the past, so please have patience with us and we will do the best we can to get through these trying times. So... stay safe and healthy and we will get through this like good and faithful Grangers.

is a safe state for a certain party or candidate and my vote will be a waste. WELL, IT WILL NOT BE A WASTE!! We have had very close elections in the past for many offices. The last election for president was very close in some swing states. A few more votes could have tipped the final tally to a different candidate.

We must remember that even though this is a Presidential election year we are also voting on
...Continued on page 2



ELECTION

At right are the names suggested for offices in the Connecticut State Grange Election of Officers. Official ballots were mailed out to Delegates at the beginning of September. Completed ballots are being mailed to the chairperson of the Election Committee who will tabulate the votes with her committee and report on the election during State Session on October 17. This list is provided for information only.

MASTER

George Russell

OVERSEER

Robert Buck
Ted Powell
J. Allen Cameron

LECTURER

Marge Bernhardt

STEWARD

Ted Powell
Robert Buck
Jaimie Cameron

ASSISTANT STEWARD

Jaimie Cameron
David Sanford
Ted Powell
Roy Harrington
Ted Beebe

LADY ASSISTANT STEWARD

Betty Jane Harrington
Eloise Osuch
Anne Marie Knochenhauer

CHAPLAIN

Charles Dimmick

TREASURER

Jody Cameron

SECRETARY

Todd Gelineau

GATEKEEPER

Jaimie Cameron
Robert Charbonneau
J. Allen Cameron

CERES

Cindy Finch
Dawn Percoski

POMONA

Jodi Ann Cameron
Carol Hnath

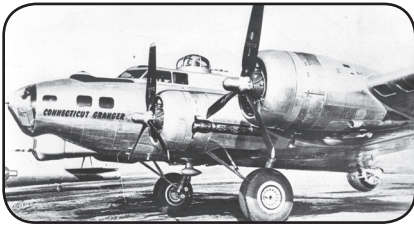
FLORA

Michelle DeDominicis

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(For the Constitutional term of 3 yrs)
Jeffrey Barnes
Noel Miller

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

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It's a new Grange year



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

It's a new Grange year. It's time for everyone to get a fresh start. We all need to think positive. I know that most Granges are struggling both financially and membership wise. Some members are not comfortable coming to an in person meeting and others are not comfortable with ZOOM. But with the cooler days and nights we should have some renewed vigor and enthusiasm. Let's use this to help our Granges get back to normal.

New information on contest and programs will be coming out right after State Session and Election of Officers. Do you have any suggestions for what you would like to see? Please share them so they can be consolidated into the 2021 guide-

lines.

I would like to see both the Auld Acquaintance and the Word From Home projects continue. These two contests put the name of the Grange out in public and your Grange can easily meet the requirements. Do you have members who can't get out to meetings? Or, are you a Granger who would love to come and help but are unable to get out any longer? Both of these contests are ideal for you. You can write letters to soldiers and if you are talented in either knitting or crocheting, you could make lap robes or coverlets for a local convalescent home in the name of the Grange. In the Grange there is work for all....

Right after State Session, Certificates and prize money that is usually handed out there will be in the mail to your Grange Master so they can present them in your Grange.

Remember, BE POSITIVE. We will make it through this.

The 136th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange



Tentative Schedule

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 10:00 A.M.
Opening in the Fourth Degree
Welcome by State Master George Russell
Video welcome from National Master Betsy Huber
Roll Call of Officers, Deputies & Committees
Roll Call of Granges
Report of Credential Committee
- 10:20 A.M.
Introduction of Business to be referred without debate
Set Time Certain for Consideration of Budget (2:00 P.M.)
- 10:40 A.M.
Address of State Master George Russell
Response of State Overseer
- 11:00 A.M.
Reports:
Overseer Noel Miller
Treasurer Jody Cameron
Secretary Todd A. Gelineau
Executive Committee/Board of Directors,
Jeff Barnes, Chairperson

5 minute break

Reports continue...
Lecturer Marge Bernhardt
Membership Director Faith Quinlan

- 12:00 P.M.
Report on Election by Election Committee
Chair Maureen Prelli
- 12:30 P.M. LUNCH
- 1:00 P.M.
Memorial Service by State Chaplain
Charles Dimmick
- 1:20 P.M. Resolution Work Begins
- 2:00 P.M. Time Certain for Budget Consideration

5 minute break
- 2:15 P.M. Resolution Work Continues
Installation/Obligation of Officers
Announcements
Closing

<p>VIRTUAL</p> <p>SOcial hour</p> <p>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM</p>	<p>CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE</p> <p> zoom</p>
<p>Join us for a fun and casual social gathering to explore the features and functions of Zoom. Stop by and say Hello!</p>	
<p>You're Invited to Connect!</p> <p>Send an e-mail to information@ctstategrange.org or membership@ctstategrange.org for the Zoom Meeting Access Information</p>	<p>MARK YOUR CALENDARS</p> <p>THURSDAY October 1st 7:00 PM</p> <p>THURSDAY October 8th 7:00 PM</p> <p>THURSDAY October 15th 7:00 PM</p>
	<p>EVERY THURSDAY THROUGH STATE SESSION</p>

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.

Resolutions for consideration at State Session

The following are the final four resolutions received by the deadline of September 4. Resolutions #1-4 were printed in the last issue. All will be included in the Session Book to be sent out to the Delegates shortly.

5) RE: DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

RESOLVED the development rights to all farm and forest lands covered by Connecticut Public Act 490, be eligible for purchase by the State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

SOURCE: Stafford Grange No. 1

6) RE: QUARTERLY DUES

WHEREAS Article XIII Section 1, Division 2 of the revised October 2013 Constitution and By-Laws reads "Subordinate Granges and Community Granges shall report promptly to the Secretary of the State Grange at the beginning of each quarter using blank forms furnished by the Secretary of the State Grange and remit dues to the State Grange as follows: \$5.75 (now \$6.25) for each member that has been a member for the full preceding quarter", and

WHEREAS prior to 2003 Subordinate Granges were exempt from paying this assessment on Golden Sheaf (50 year members). And paying this has been a burden on Subordinate Granges, and

WHEREAS this section further states "In the event the dues to the National Grange by vote of the delegate body, Subordinate dues to the State Grange shall increase the same amount automatically", and

WHEREAS many Granges are having financial difficulties, and

WHEREAS the advanced age of the membership and state regulations make it harder to raise funds.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this section be revised to read "Subordinate Granges and Community Granges shall report promptly to the Secretary of the State Grange at the beginning of each quarter using blank forms furnished by the Secretary of the State Grange and remit dues to the State Grange as

follows: \$6.25 for each member minus golden sheaf members that have been members for the full preceding quarter", and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this section be further revised to read "In the event the dues to the National Grange by vote of the delegate body, the State Grange shall absorb the increase. These changes to take effect immediately.

SOURCE: Beacon Valley Grange #103

7) RE: SUPPORT LOCAL FARMS

WHEREAS Connecticut needs local supply chains for community resilience, and

WHEREAS public money supports public health care and CT Grown, and

WHEREAS supporting farms is aligned with the mission and history of the National Grange, and

WHEREAS small farms offer local jobs and equity, can support long term soil health, offer a relatively greater variety of food and waste less than average farms, and

WHEREAS eating more whole foods and fewer processed foods improves health and reduces

transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the current \$2 for \$1 SNAP benefit program offered at farmers' markets be extended year-round for CT Grown products as a voluntary participation program for any vendor.

SOURCE: Simsbury Grange #197

8) RE: OLD AND OLD GROWTH FORESTS


WHEREAS old-growth forest is rare (less than 0.02% of the State), carbon-dense, biodiverse, and precious, and

WHEREAS disturbing it disrupts the soil and numerous species and their connections still to be discovered, and

WHEREAS Connecticut's older forests are carbon-dense and start to transition to old growth at 150 years.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that old growth forests and remnants on public land be strongly protected and provide a buffer, and older forests be protected to maximize their ability to store carbon and protect biodiversity and become old growth forests in the future.

SOURCE: Simsbury Grange #197



PRO TIP

Grange logo has registered trademark symbol

Grange is a registered trademark, as is our logo. In all instances, the Grange logo should appear with the registered trademark symbol: ® Several versions of the logo are available, including the symbol in white or blue to be used based on the background of the image you choose. Millions of dollars have been spent to uphold our trademark, and your efforts matter a great deal in our ability to continue our claim on the name and image. Correct logos are available at <http://bit.ly/3aynYv7> (link is case sensitive).

Updates from the State Grange Office



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary

Winchester Grange #74
Secretary@ctstategrange.org

State Session is just about here. While it will be very different from what we have come to expect from our Convention, we have done our very best to ensure that we accomplish the most essential work with minimal “glitches.”

By now the election ballots should have mostly been returned to the Election Chairperson, Maureen Prelli. I was only made aware of one case of delayed delivery of a ballot to a delegate. So far so good!

The State Public Relations Co-Director has been holding “Social Hours” on Zoom every Thursday night at 7:00 P.M. with a wonderful variety of experienced and novice Zoom users taking advantage of the time to get used to the technology. These events will continue every Thursday until State Session. A special Halloween Zoom Party has also been planned. See the publicity for it elsewhere in this issue!

With all of the planning and work involved with State Session being moved up into August and September, the annual printing of the Dues Receipts got lost in the shuffle. They are in process and I hope to have them to all Granges very soon.

The Public Relations Committee is also taking orders for new State Grange t-shirts that sport a very attractive design. Orders will be accepted starting October 1st. There is an ad for the shirts elsewhere in this issue and it will also be included in the Session Books due out to all delegates and State Officers soon. The ad says

they have to be purchased online, however I will accept shirt orders through the mail by sending your order accompanied by a check made payable to the “Connecticut State Grange” with the amount required for the shirt purchase along with the shipping charges. The shirts will be navy blue with white lettering. We are using a new process to print these shirts which will be much more durable than previous shirts. A small profit on the sale will go towards fundraising necessary to balance the State Grange’s annual budget.

Thank you to the officers and committees that have forwarded their Journal of Proceedings reports well in advance of State Session. Please keep them coming.

Granges should be meeting again, either in-person or on Zoom, so it should be possible now to fill out your Officer and Committee Information Sheets required for the annual State Directory printing. If your Grange has not submitted its form yet, please do so as soon as possible. It has been two years since the last Directory and I’m sure many of you would love to have updated contact information for our Granges and Grange members.

As I have mentioned in the September column, the third quarter closed as of September 30. This means Granges have 30 days from that date to file their quarterly reports without incurring the \$25 late fee.

It would be wonderful to have all of our Granges in before the deadline. Actually, September 30 is the deadline. The thirty days that follow are the grace period. Any Granges still outstanding after the grace period ends will receive a bill for the late fee. I’m sure your Grange’s treasury can use every dollar, so please get those reports in!

Following State Session (and the Election of Officers), all committees and officers that contribute information for the Blue Book should be working on that information. It would be greatly appreciated if the new information for the Blue Book could be in to me by the end of November. It has been two years since the last Blue Book so I’m sure our Granges and Grangers are looking forward to seeing what the program for 2021 will be.

I apologize for the long list of “asks” in this report. Until next time... stay well!

It's a Moment in Time!



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Grange Store™ by Monroe Classic

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The 136th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange

• NON-DELEGATE VIEWING ROOM •

Saturday, October 17, 2020

Room Opens at 9:00 AM • Session Begins at 10:00 AM

Send an e-mail to secretary@ctstategrange.org
or membership@ctstategrange.org
for an invitation to the Viewing Room.



GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Glastonbury Grange is still unable to meet at the Masonic Hall. We are hopeful that perhaps we will be able to meet by December. But that certainly is not written in stone.

Plans have just begun with the idea of meeting on Zoom. Plans for this have just begun but it is not a certainty. Time will tell if it is a “go”. Most of the membership do not have the means to do this, myself included.

Dues notices have gone out and a few have already mailed them in. October 1st our second “Bakeless/Foodless Sale will begin for 2020. This fundraiser will be most helpful as we have not been able to hold our Monte-Carlo Whist card parties all year. These two events are the only income for 2020 and we are certainly still paying rent to the Masonic Lodge. We pray that 2021 will find us all back to our “normal” way of life. We wish all a pleasant Fall Season.

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Oct. 21: Meeting with installation of officers.

Another month has passed in the life of our Grange. We did meet in person very carefully and made some plans for the near future. We held a very successful yard sale outside the building. We have some great plans to have a pumpkin decorating contest in October. We will also be having a program to honor our long term members. We

have decided our programs for the year. We will continue to meet monthly on the third Wednesday at 6PM. This seems to work for our members. Since the state session will be virtual we hope to be able to gather a few members to watch together. Our hall is available to members to use as a small meeting place. Hopefully the weather stays nice so we do not have to use too much oil. Looking forward to some fall fund raisers. Thank you to all members who are coming forward to support our cause.

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Oct. 9: Legislative Program

Oct. 30: Halloween Party (7:30)

Masks and social distancing are the order of the day; but we are all

happy to be meeting at our hall again. In August we honored long-time members and were treated to Sue’s entry in the State Lecturer’s contest.

With the election hard upon us we are looking forward to Nick’s Legislative Program on Oct. 9. Our Halloween Party will take place on the fifth Friday as it brings us closer to the actual day. All Ghosts and Goblins are invited to share games, fun, and our annual cup social. Bring the kids and grandkids and come in costume. There is no meeting that night and the fun begins at 7:30 P.M. And if those little cucumbers on the vines climbing up the deck will just get a little bigger they will find themselves turned into pickles before they get much older.

20th Anniversary of Celebrate Ag



From WINY Radio: The Celebrating Agriculture 20th Anniversary Kick-Off Event was held at Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm in Sterling on Tuesday morning, September 1, jump-starting a month long celebration, which will go through the end of September.

Rick and Katie Hermonot of Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm hosted the event, which was attended by Governor Ned Lamont, Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Department of Agriculture Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt, and many local elected officials. Governor Lamont, who officially proclaimed September 1st as Celebrating Agriculture Day, spoke with WINY, and shared why he believes celebrating, promoting, and embracing agriculture is so critical to the state of Connecticut.

“This is what Connecticut was all about 300 plus years ago,” said Lamont. “This is what Connecticut still is. This is our history, this is our heritage. And by the way, Connecticut fresh delivered right to the consumer, right to your restaurant, right to the farm-stand, makes us unique. It is really special. Support your farmer.”

With the traditional Celebrating Agriculture Day at the Woodstock Fairgrounds canceled due to the ongoing pandemic, the event has been modified to a virtual format. This year, participants are invited to submit agriculture related videos, including farms tours, appreciation, and recipes. Videos and other information will be shared throughout the month on the Celebrating Agriculture Facebook and YouTube pages.

Note: The Hermonots are members of Ekonk Comm. Grange #89



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Oct. 10: Next Meeting, 7:00 P.M. on Zoom.

Mountain Laurel Pomona will meet for the first time since the “madness” began in March on Saturday, October 10 beginning at 4:00 P.M. on Zoom. Please watch for the meeting information to arrive in your email box. If you haven’t received it by the week of the meeting, please contact me at the phone or email listed in the Winchester report below and I’ll make sure you get the information to attend. The meeting is open to all 5th Degree members inside and outside of Mountain Laurel Pomona. We’d love to see all of you there!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Oct. 27: Next Meeting, 7:00 P.M. on Zoom. Email *Granger@CTStateGrange.org* to receive the links to attend the meeting. You can also call (860)307-1522 to receive the information to attend via telephone.

Winchester Grange is back to meeting on a monthly basis using Zoom. Our Master polled the membership via email during the month of August and the majority of our members want to avoid meeting in-person for the short term. At least until the beginning of the

new year, we will be meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. If you are interested in attending our meetings, please send a note to *granger@ctstategrange.org* and I’ll make sure you get the meeting information so you can log onto Zoom. This invitation is open to Winchester and Grangers outside of Winchester Grange as well.

Our first meeting (acutally second, as we held a meeting on Zoom in July) was held on Tuesday, Sept. 22 with a great number of members taking part. It was nice to see so many familiar faces on the screen.

Master Peter Keefe presided over the meeting from the Grange Hall as we caught up with the happenings of one another and got down to Grange business.

Secretary Sue Addison reported over \$2,000 was raised through a “Bakeless Bake Sale” that went out to members during the summer. This amount effectively erased the loss of income from the Strawberry Festival and Grange Fair for this year.

In lieu of a Grange Fair, a virtual Fair was held with entrants receiving cash prizes for their winning entries. It’s not the same as going to the Fair, enjoying the entries, food and fellowship of our fellow members, but it will have to do for this year.

Winchester’s Election of Officers is now in progress. Suggestions for all offices were taken during the Zoom meeting. Afterwards a ballot was drafted and sent out (via “snail” mail) to members for voting. If you did not receive a ballot, and wish to vote, please contact me at the email or phone listed earlier in this column.

The results of the balloting will be announced during the October Zoom meeting with an abbreviated installation ceremony to be held during the same meeting.

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Taghhannuck Grange members know we all are a Grange family and your amazing response to our Grange Hall damage confirms that belief. Thank You to all of the Pomonas, Granges and individual members for your donations, cards and letters. The money is being put into a separate fund and will be very helpful towards repair of the Hall. We also want to thank the Connecticut State Grange for their grant to us that will go towards the restoration of our Hall. Right now we are waiting for the insurance adjuster to submit his appraisal as we want to be sure everything is included and it is going to be post and beam construction as it is now and also waiting on the estimate from our contractor.

At our September 10th meeting, held on Zoom, we had a good discussion on the Resolutions going to State Grange Session. We always ask for input from our members so their opinions are represented. As members get more comfortable using Zoom our meetings are growing.

Usually I would be reporting on our participation in the Cornwall Agricultural Fair and all of the places we set up our tent to try to get new members but all of the events were cancelled because of Covid.

October 8: Installation of Officers. This will be a Zoom meeting and our meetings change over to 7:30PM for our winter hours. The installation will be for the four members who will be holding new offices for the next two years. Diane Palmer-Overseer; Bill Palmer- Assistant Steward; Sharon Kroeger- Gatekeeper and Harvey Hayden- Executive Committee.

In addition to this we will be discussing our Dictionary Project for this year and deciding what would take the place of our awards dinner.



NUTMEG POMONA NO 16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Master Donald Lanoue scheduled a meeting for Sunday September 20th at Cheshire Grange for the officers.. Too early to tell you what happened but we will keep you informed.

Cheshire Grange had a meeting on September 16th with good attendance. Check Ruel's Cheshire Grange news for further details. Beacon Valley Grange has a meeting scheduled for Friday October 9th. Will report in the next Granger.

Any other Granges in Nutmeg Pomona meeting, please let me know.

Our sympathies are extended to Brother Robert Charbonneau of Meriden Grange on the passing of his wife Cindy.

Both are extremely active in State, Pomona and Meriden Granges. Her passing will leave a space hard too fill.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

As I write this, we are two days away from our first meeting since early March. While we have several members who prefer not to attend, there will be enough of us for the meeting. We will adhere to the protocols set forth by State Master George Russell.

Our Granges need to meet either in person if possible, or virtually. We need to get back on track and to move forward as safely as possi-

ble during this Covid-19 pandemic. Granges have lost fund raisers that they depended upon New fund raising ideas are needed to replenish our treasurers. Here in Cheshire, we will be exploring these fund raising possibilities.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Hi! Ho! Hi! Ho! its off to Grange we go. We finally have a meeting scheduled for October 9th.. We will be following all social requirements. Everyone attending is asked to wear a mask and we have a couple of volunteers who will have the hall sanitized. We will be meeting in the upper hall. There will be no refreshments. That's a bummer. If you think of anything else, we should be doing please call the Master. Also, if you cannot not attend please call Master Joanne or Secretary Cindy.

We are still collecting for our tag and rummage sale which we plan to have as soon as things open up.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

Nov. 5: Meeting

Dec. 3: Meeting

Jan. 7: Meeting

Well, let's see, are people having virtual meetings? Meetings 6 feet apart? Such unusual times. Connecticut should be proud of themselves, mandatory mask wearing in stores and businesses and having one way aisles. Our death toll is low and people who have contracted the virus are low. It sure pays to wear a mask no matter what anyone thinks.

Our hall is extremely hot in summer and we are hoping for a cool October so we can have a mask-wearing, 6 feet apart meeting, and not suffer.

Keep up the good work and maybe we shall all meet again someday.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Oct. 9: Harvest Moon

Oct. 23: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Nov. 13: In Thanksgiving

Nov. 27: Omitted for Thanksgiving

Coffee and refreshments may be served following the meetings.

Lobster Night at Greenfield Hill



Members of Greenfield Hill Grange having fun during their Lobster Night Dinner held on Sept. 12.

Taghannuck Broadband Initiative

by Jill Drew, Taghannuck Grange Member

It's a widely known fact that rural areas of our country like Sharon, Ct are woefully underserved when it comes to reliable broadband internet service and cell phone connectivity. Advocates such as the Grange and political leaders have been working for more than a decade to change this fact, but it's understandably difficult to attract big technology companies to spend tens of millions of dollars to build cutting-edge infrastructure in sparsely populated regions knowing that the return on their investment would be a fraction of what they could achieve in a city.

Still, as more of our lives move online, especially during the pandemic when work-at-home for parents and distance learning for students became necessities to protect our health, the idea is growing that wiring everyone for broadband is akin to what wiring homes for electricity was a couple of generations ago: a must-have for a functioning economy.

Three Taghannuck Grange members are part of a small task force called Sharon Connect that is gathering data to help the town understand the needs of its residents for better connectivity and to become the basis for next steps to meet that need. Before Covid-19 struck, the task force held its meeting at the Grange Hall.

The task force has created a connectivity survey that 140 Sharon residents have taken online and which will now go out in the mail to all other residents who have not yet completed it. The survey asks about the speed of their internet connections, their level of satisfaction with the service and price they pay, the barriers they face to getting better service, and the quality of their cell phone connections. That information will be used to create a picture of current service in Sharon and will help its Selectmen decide about next steps to support



better connectivity for residents. There is already support to add a broadband infrastructure project to the town's five-year capital spending plan.

In the short term, task force members are working with town officials and local school administrators to get wifi hotspots and cell phone boosters for families with students who need better connectivity. In the long term, it is exploring options for grants to raise funds for an engineering/feasibility study and business plan that would produce hard numbers to answer the question: what would it cost to wire all homes and businesses in Sharon with fiber-optic cable or to use the existing cable internet structure and build out to locations that currently have to rely on DSL or satellite connections? That infrastructure upgrade could transform the town's economy, making it easy to work from home, take online courses, participate in telehealth appointments with medical specialists, manage farms more efficiently, and enable sophisticated home security features, among other benefits.

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PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4) Instructions page 4 | PSN 7530-01-000-9031 | PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

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15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: Information for Members of CT State Grange

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	2,050	2,050
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	1,547	1,547
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	1,600	1,600
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))	450	450
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15c (1), (2), (3), and (4))	450	450
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	2,050	2,050
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	0	0
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	2,050	2,050
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16. If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 2 of 4)

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16. Electronic Copy Circulation

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c. Total Paid Distribution (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	1,707	1,707
d. Percent Paid (Both Paid Print & Electronic Copies) (15c divided by 15c + 16a × 100)	100	100

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18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Todd A. Gelineau, President & Editor, 9/23/20

19. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

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Hello Grange friends!

Zoom Grange meetings seem to be on the rise. That's great that many Granges are taking advantage of the platform to hold regular meetings and get back to a new version of normal. I am prepping for the CT State Grange Annual Session, that will also be on Zoom this year. I can't wait to see you all!

For updates on all my latest adventures, please visit my Facebook page, and click the "Like" button while you are there too. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>

Coconut Double Chocolate Pumpkin Bread



The weather is getting chillier and frost is on the pumpkin so they say in October. But the flavors of fall include pumpkin in all different tasty varieties from pumpkin pie to pumpkin spice everything. This recipe for Coconut Double Chocolate Pumpkin Bread from Ambitious Kitchen brings a different mix to the fall palate.

INGREDIENTS:

Wet ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups pumpkin puree
- 1/2 cup maple syrup (or sub coconut palm syrup)
- 3 tablespoons coconut oil, melted and cooled
- 1 egg, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Dry ingredients:

- 1 cup whole wheat pastry flour (or white whole wheat flour)
- 1/2 cup good-quality unsweetened cocoa powder (or cacao)
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice (or 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon, 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg, 1/8 teaspoon ginger, 1/8 teaspoon allspice or cloves)

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/2 cup unsweetened shredded coconut

1/2 cup dark chocolate chips

For topping:

2 tablespoons unsweetened shredded coconut

2 tablespoons dark chocolate chips

INSTRUCTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line an 8x4 inch loaf pan with parchment paper or spray with nonstick cooking spray. In a large bowl, mix together pumpkin, maple syrup, coconut oil, egg and vanilla.

In a separate large bowl, whisk together the dry ingredients: whole wheat pastry flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, pumpkin pie spice and salt. Add dry ingredients to wet ingredients and mix until just combined. Fold in chocolate chips and shredded coconut.

Pour batter into loaf pan and spread out evenly. Top with coconut and chocolate chips. Bake for 55-65 minutes or until tester comes out clean or with just a few crumbs attached. Enjoy!

Tip: To make vegan: Use a flax egg (1 tablespoon flaxseed meal + 3 tablespoons water)

SOURCE: <https://www.ambitiouskitchen.com/coconut-double-chocolate-pumpkin-bread/>



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.



Last Month



This Month

We heard from a few folks this month: Doris Desjardins, a member of Ekonk Community Grange (formerly Plainfield Grange) called with an answer to the August photo. She believes that the person presenting the award is Mervin Whipple. She doesn't know the other people in the photo, although she says they do look familiar.

We also heard from Richard Campbell, Past Master of Pachaug Grange, who confirmed that the man presenting the award is Mervin Whipple. But he doesn't know the other people either.

We then heard from Kay Ruff via email: "I am not certain about my suggestions on the August picture, but these are my "guesses". On the left he reminds me of Roy Linden who was a member of Franklin Grange. The woman in the middle reminds me of Rita Schaefer from Hillstown Grange and I am sure that the man on the right is Mervin Whipple and he was Lecturer of the Ct. State Grange. He lived in Ballouville and I believe he belonged to Killingly Grange. This Month's picture I have no idea. - Kay Ruff



Cheshire Makes Reindeer

As part of their year-round program making crafts for shut-ins during the holidays, Cheshire Grange members have been working on these reindeer. They will be distributed at Christmas to area nursing homes.

Make your vote count

Continued from page one...

offices at different governmental levels in Connecticut. We will be voting on all five Congressional districts for our National Representatives. We do not have our National Senators up for election this season as they have 6-year terms which rotate so both are never up for reelection at the same time. We will also be electing all of our State Senators and Representatives. A few towns will also be electing some local officials.

Voting in the 2020 general elections will be tricky this year with the implementation of social distancing rules due to the COVID pandemic along with an anticipate higher turnout of voters in general. States are anticipating a higher turnout of voters requesting absentee ballots. The

Connecticut Legislature approved COVID-19 as an acceptable reason for requesting absentee ballots. Connecticut has already sent out absentee ballot request forms to all registered voters in the state. If you did not get one and wish to vote by absentee ballot, you can request one online by going to Vote.org or to the State of Connecticut website. On the Connecticut website, there is a link for Elections and Voting. Under Voting Information, you will find a link for the Absentee Ballot request. You can also contact your local town clerk's office for an application.

If you decide to use an absentee ballot this election, it is suggested that you send in your ballot request form as soon as you can. Towns are supposed to have drop boxes at their town halls that you

can deposit your completed forms in in leu of mailing them. The actual ballots should be sent to you in early October. Again, it is suggested that you return your ballots early and again you can use the drop boxes at your local town halls. Make sure that your information is accurate or your ballot may be discarded.

Due to this expected upswing in the use of mail in absentee voting, we must remember that the results of the election will obviously take longer to tally. The ballot box results will be known quickly but then they will have to count the mail in absentee ballots and add their results. All we can do is hope that the process runs smoothly and the winner is determined accurately in a reasonable timeframe.



CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE T-SHIRT



Navy Blue Unisex Gildan Shirt
White Imprint

Small / Medium / Large / X-Large - \$20⁰⁰

2-XL / 3-XL - \$25⁰⁰

(plus \$5.50 shipping per shirt)



For more info e-mail:
secretary@ctstategrange.org or
information@ctstategrange.org

Visit our Website and Facebook Page starting October 1st for the purchase link.

**AVAILABLE FOR
PRE-SALE ORDERS
OCTOBER 1st
(Shipping in late November)**



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Add some fun to Zoom



"Fern," a sloth from The Phoenix Zoo

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Dir.

Now that Zoom has become one of the main ways to host our Grange meetings and keep in touch, now is the time to be thinking about how you can add some fun experiences to the platform. Here's a few ideas:

-- Host a Group Trivia Night - make up your own quizzes, or use one that was prepared for you (<https://www.sporcle.com/games/tags/group>)

-- Have an animal drop into your Zoom meeting, such as a sloth or

rhino (<https://www.phoenixzoo.org/zoom-animals/>) or Goat (<https://www.sweetfarm.org/goat-2-meeting>)

-- Spend an evening painting together - Paint nights are such a blast when you can meet up with friends, and channel your inner-Monet. Why not give it a try on Zoom? There are a number of resources available such as <http://www.artlabindy.com/parties/zoom-parties/>, <https://paintthetown.us> and <https://paintingparties.com>

-- Start a virtual Grange Book Club - The main goal of a book club/group is to have a meaningful discussion. Pick a book that easily accessible to everyone, pick a date and time, and talk about the book. (<https://www.bookbub.com/blog/how-to-host-virtual-book-club>)

-- Grange members love to bake things, so why not host a cooking party? Pick a recipe, and everyone on the Zoom meeting makes the same dish, then show off your final dishes!

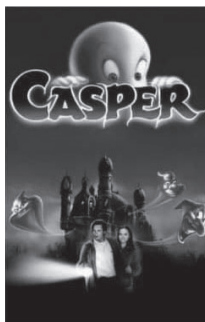
-- Use Zoom's whiteboard feature to play Pictionary or Hangman. Pictionary is the classic game where you split into teams and draw pictures of words or phrases that your teammates need to guess. Hangman is similar, except people guess one letter at a time.

There are so many ways you can incorporate fun things to do on Zoom to accent your Grange meetings. Get creative and start thinking outside the box! Membership engagement is important and vital to our Granges.

If you have any questions, or need a hand in working with Zoom, please send an email to information@ctstategrange.org.

Greenfield Hill Grange
1873 Hillside Road, Fairfield
DRIVE IN MOVIE NIGHT
OCTOBER 25, 2020
SUNDAY

**RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED**
Parking
Limited



6:30 pm arrival, 7:00 show
Concession: Candy, Snacks, Water
Soda, Italian Ice available
Admission Donation recommended
<https://www.facebook.com/Greenfield.Hill.Grangel>



Youth Director Dawn Anstett models her new Grange mask. Info on ordering is provided on page 5.

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

VIRTUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY

Sat. October 31

• COSTUMES ENCOURAGED • 7:00 pm
BRING YOUR FAVORITE CANDY

Send an e-mail to information@ctstategrange.org or membership@ctstategrange.org for the Zoom Meeting Access Information

zoom



Faith Quinlan
Membership Dir.
Winchester Grange #74
membership@ctstategrange.org

The largest organization based on membership in the US is AARP. American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). According to AARP.Org the number one reason it is the most joined organization is because of its tremendously long list of member benefits. A summary of the list is:

Insurance:

Healthcare: Long-term care, Dental, Vision and short-term care
Medicare Eligible: Supplemental plans and Prescription plans
Pet: Petplan Pet Insurance
Auto/Vehicle, Life and Home Gas & Auto Services: Buying, driver courses, roadside assistance, oil changes, etc.

Work & Jobs: Job board, resume advisor, entrepreneurial help

Health & Wellness: Hearing, online tools for mental clarity, BMI, glasses, pharmacy, lifeline, cuisine, Weight Watchers

Finances: CD Management, Tax-Aide, Fraud Watch, Resource center, credit cards, banking, real estate benefits, savings help, identity theft help, loans, retirement calculator and resources

Shopping & Groceries: Outlets, Gifts of flowers, cookies, fruit, popcorn, chocolates plus grocery coupons and Schwans, BistroMD, Walgreens, etc.

Travel: Expedia, Avis, Budget, Payless and Zipcar rentals, Rail and Cruise vacations, British Airways flights and European travel. Top name hotel discounts plus access to specialized vacations

Restaurant discounts, Technology & Wireless, Home & Real Estate, Family Caregiving, Entertainment, Community, Advocacy, Magazines & Resources. The areas they offer benefits are extensive and quite relevant to a modern or traditional household plus you can get AARP

As the health crisis continues

benefits younger than age 50.

I share this extensive break down to show that membership benefits are a huge part of what makes people join. I believe in our mission and community-based work but there is a reality to attracting new members and it is more than just being good people doing great things. When you are speaking to

a friend of the Grange, potential new member, remember to share our tangible perks and well as our big-hearted projects.

Please note that there will be another membership virtual meeting by National Membership Director, Joe Stephoni on October 7, 2020. See many of you at State Session!

Grange with your feet up

STURGIS, SD | JULY 20-25, 2021

GRANGEREVIVAL.COM

WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY

Be a resource



Suicide rates are higher in rural America than in urban America. The gap in suicide rates between rural and urban areas grew steadily from 1999 to 2015. Since 2007, the gap began widening more quickly.

CDC



Get information on how to help: <https://bit.ly/cdc-stp>

Who is my neighbor?



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, You shall love your neighbor as yourself – Leviticus 19:18

The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself – Leviticus 19:34

But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” – Luke 10:29

It is sometimes difficult to translate from Hebrew or Aramaic into English. Often there is no exact translation possible. There are five different Hebrew words which, depending on context, may be translated as “neighbor”. For instance, if one wished to refer to the “next-door neighbor”, the Hebrew word used would probably be “qarob”. But when we look at the passage from Leviticus the word used is “reya”, which has a wide variety of meanings, including associate, brother, companion, fellow, friend, husband, lover, or neighbor. In short, it may include anyone with whom you have



any sort of relationship or dealings. To close any loopholes the Law in Leviticus goes on to say, “you shall love the alien as yourself”.

In the passage from Luke the lawyer questioning Jesus decides, as lawyers often do, to nitpick and to ask, “who is my neighbor?” In other words, given the wide number of meanings possible for “reya”, how do I decide who is covered by this law? Jesus replies by telling the parable of the “Good Samaritan” and then asks the lawyer “Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Note that in this episode there is a role reversal. Rather than showing to whom we should be a neighbor it shows someone being a neighbor to us. The person being “neighborly” is a stranger, an alien, a Samaritan [Jews of that time avoided having any dealings with Samaritans]. Then we are told to “go and do likewise”.

In practice this means we should treat everyone with whom we come in contact as our neighbor and show them as much love as we would our family or our “next-door” neighbors. Further, this love should be as much as we love ourselves. The goal is established; now we need to strive to achieve it.

In Memoriam

Charles Tryon
Glastonbury Grange #26

Cynthia K. Charbonneau
Meriden Grange #29

Marion R. Emmons, G.S.
Ekonk Comm. Grange #89

Carolyn Gilber, G.S.
Walter W. Olson, Jr., G.S.
Hemlock Grange #182

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”