



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

January 2021

Have a safe and healthy new year



George Russell
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169
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Happy New Year to all the officers and members of the Connecticut State Grange! Let's all hope that 2021 will be a better year for our Granges here in Connecticut and across the country. I am hopeful we can get back to meeting in person and carrying on with our fundraisers and going forth into this new year.

Over the last six months we had two Granges turn in their charters, two more that have merged with neighboring Granges and a fifth one that is in the process of turning in their charter. This is far too many Granges that we have lost in six months. With this pandemic still with us, let's hope that the vaccination process will put an end to this terrible disease. I am hoping the remaining Granges can hold fast and ride out the storm. It's going to be very hard with no income coming in and you have to keep these halls up through the winter. Take a good look at your hall and see if there's any way you can save energy for these next three or four months.

This is the time of year that all of the Granges should be working on their Executive Committee reports, if they haven't already been completed. You can send your Executive Committee Report to the State Master or General Deputy.

It is also a good time to check your paperwork at the banks to make sure you have to co-signers on your checking accounts, savings accounts, CD's etc. This is very important if something happens to the Treasurer, you still have a member that can get to these accounts. We really need to be diligent and keep this paperwork up-to-date.

As I am writing this article; the vaccine has become available here in Connecticut and they have started to vaccinate emergency personnel. Let's hope by spring the vaccine will be available to the general public and the vaccination will be successful in bring this terrible disease to an end.

So, in closing, let's continue to



wear our masks, be mindful of social distancing and stay healthy and safe until we can once again meet in person. I wish that all of you have a happy and healthy 2021! I hope to see you soon.

Resolve to start composting

By Irene Percoski, State Ag Committee

The encyclopedia describes crop failure (also known as harvest failure) as an absent or greatly diminished crop yield relative to expectation, caused by the plants being damaged, killed, or destroyed, or affected in some way that they fail to form edible fruit, seeds or leaves in their expected abundance.

Crop failures can be caused by catastrophic events such as plant disease outbreaks, heavy rainfall,

volcanic eruptions, storms, floods, or drought, or by slow, cumulative effects of soil degradation, too-high soil salinity, over fertilization, or overexploitation. The proliferation of industrial businesses with their reduction in crop diversity and dependence on heavy use of artificial fertilizers and pesticides, has led to overexploited soils that are nearly incapable of regeneration.

Management of soil fertility has

...Continued on page 3



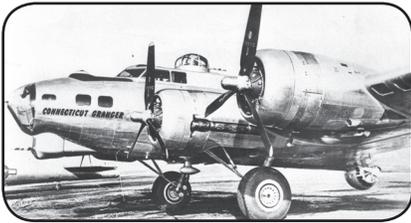


Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary
Winchester Grange #74
Secretary@ctstategrange.org

Happy 2021 to everyone! 2020 is behind us and we can look forward to the vaccine taking hold and hopefully pushing COVID-19 out of our daily lives.

In December, I mailed out the annual Bonding notices to all Granges. Please complete the small form and return with your payment

the Connecticut Granger
Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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- Treasurer Jody Cameron
- Secretary Noel Miller

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

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

as soon as possible. Per the Digest, all Granges are required to carry a bond. You are not required to purchase the bond provided by the National Grange program if you have your own bonding coverage. Proof of coverage must be provided to the State Grange however.

Thank you to all of the Granges that returned their State Directory forms. There are still a few outstanding. The printing of the Directory cannot be held off any longer and the book will be produced with or without the missing Granges using the information we have on file. It's unfortunate in this day and age that it's so difficult to get information from Granges when the postal service is only one of several ways to contact me.

There are still many reports outstanding for the 2020 Journal of Proceedings. All directors, committee chairs, and Deputies are required to submit written reports to be printed in the Journal of Proceedings regardless of whether or not they had been read at State Session in October. Reminders will be sent out soon, but please don't wait if you know you're one of the missing. It will be greatly appreciated.

The third volume in the works is the Blue Book. We haven't had a

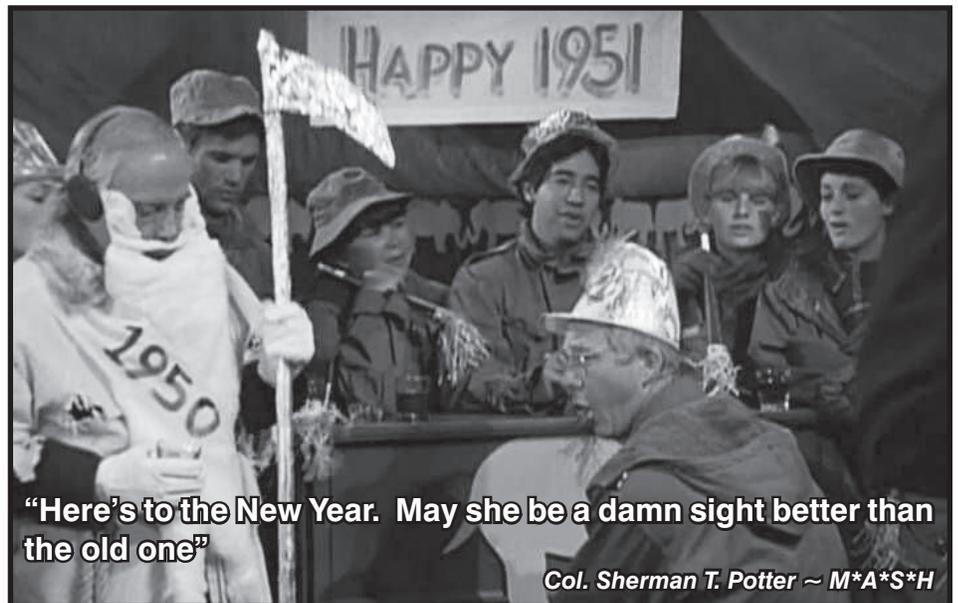
blue book in two years and I'm sure Granges are anxious to see what the departments have in store for them in 2021. If your material is outstanding, please get it to me via mail, email, etc. as soon as possible.

The Legislative Policy Manuals have been printed and will soon be in the hands of the Legislature through the efforts of the State Legislative Committee. Copies of the book will also be distributed to all Granges soon when the Directory is ready to go out to all Granges.

The annual word will also be sent out to all Grange Secretaries and Masters once we have received the quarterly report that became due on December 31.

Grange supplies and Grange Store items continue to be available through the State Grange office. Did you forget to order one of the new State Grange t-shirts? We have a small supply of them (in all sizes) available for purchase. Just contact me and we'll fill your order!

2020 reminds me of an episode of the classic TV show M*A*S*H where Col. Potter toasts the incoming year while they continue to be at war. Well... similarly we are all at war with COVID hoping it will be over in 2021! May 2021 be a damn sight better than 2020! Best new year wishes to all of you.



"Here's to the New Year. May she be a damn sight better than the old one"

Col. Sherman T. Potter ~ M*A*S*H

Resolve to start composting



Continued from page one...

been the preoccupation of farmers for thousands of years. Early Germans are recorded as using minerals or manure to enhance the productivity of their farms. The modern science of plant nutrition started in the 19th century with German chemist Justus von Liebig, who among others began to experiment on the effects of various manures on

plants growing in pots in 1837. A year or two later the experiments were extended to crops in the field. One immediate consequence was that in 1842 he patented manure formed by treating phosphates with sulfuric acid, and thus was the first to create the artificial manure industry. In the following decades more experimentation added nitrates, ammonium, formaldehyde

and others so-called enhancers thus providing us with the synthetic fertilizers we use today.

As an agricultural-based fraternal organization we urge you to take into consideration the effects that artificial over-fertilization can have on your own property, whether it is your lawn, flowers or vegetable gardens. We urge you to try natural means such as home-made mulch. Make a simple compost bin using nothing more than an old trash barrel or plastic bin with a lid. Drill holes on all sides and place in a convenient place in your yard. Add some crumbled leaves, and a small covering of dirt and you're in business. Throw all your vegetable and fruit peels, egg shells, coffee grounds and stir the mixture... if too dry, add a small amount of water. In a few months you will have made the best garden additive to your garden. This could be a simple spring project for you or your children.

Compost bin for small-scale production of organic fertilizer.

Connecticut State Grange Foundation Annual Report

by Susan Masino, President, CSG Foundation, Inc.

Greetings Grangers!

I wish I could deliver this Annual Report in person. I was looking forward to sharing the work of the Connecticut State Grange Foundation (CSGF) with all of you. But I commend and congratulate the Connecticut State Grange for pivoting to a successful virtual session this year, and I thank you in advance for reading!

The CSGF started off the year with high hopes for new initiatives to help our granges and to serve the larger mission of the Grange. Some of these focused on CSGF "walking the walk." One of our first goals was to show an example of a community-based fundraiser that could be practical and fun for any subordinate grange. We all know there is no free lunch, but every little bit, every little step, helps. Some kind of income is critical for

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE FOUNDATION



any organization, no matter how thrifty. We felt that getting some positive momentum via CSGF could help local granges and the Grange in general. Every little step helps all of us to connect to the mission and importance of the Grange in supporting our communities in many visible and invisible ways.

So to start on this path, and with a skip in our step, we laid the groundwork and filled out the paperwork for a fundraiser at the 99Restaurant in Norwich for the

Thursday night of the 2020 State Session in October. The 99Restaurant has (had?) a program where a portion of the sales are given to an organization based on flyers turned in during a designated fundraising evening. We were seeking special permission for a Thursday and everything was looking good. And because successful events and efforts require a lot of pre-planning we started well in advance - in early March!

In my mind I could see all of us at the restaurant, enjoying a nice dinner (I had a nice dinner there last year so it was easy for me to imagine). I also imagined that the next day at State Session we would celebrate how fun and simple it was and could also report how much we

Continued next page...

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.

CSG Foundation

Continued from page three...

earned from the fundraiser. This was also easy for me to imagine (the fun part) and I was hoping for at least a few hundred dollars (but had no idea. I was secretly hoping for much more if we provided the flyer to other open-minded diners). Every bit counts, and even if it was very little money we would still have had a nice dinner. Win-win.

Obviously these plans were pretty well-developed (especially, as you can see, in my mind) but they had to be cancelled - as did many, many others. But, Grangers do not get deterred, and neither does CGSF! To keep things moving forward the Connecticut State Grange Foundation participated in a virtual event in May for all Grangers focused on simple grant programs. The loss of other events can create space for making lemonade out of lemons - new initiatives and an opportunity to move forward, take care of projects that have become critical or simply have been "on the list." During the virtual event we offered ideas for grants that are relatively easy to apply for, such as: 1) the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) grant through the State of CT; 2) open-ended opportunities for matching grants through SustainableCT (they are interested in working with granges); 3) Home Depot grants (if your grange serves veterans in any way).

Note that NONE of these grants above require 501c3 status, which is discussed in more detail below. And these grants can be used for a wide range of upgrades and programming. They all have useful information on the web so you can determine if one is right for your grange, and you may be eligible for others. We have examples of successful grants in some of these categories and we are happy to share.

To further regroup and serve granges very directly during the pandemic, the CSGF accepted

a \$12,000 donation from the Connecticut State Grange. The fund is dedicated exclusively to Grange Improvement Grants of up to \$1,000 each. These grants are to help granges fulfill their mission - i.e. not for events or programs. If your grange needs an improvement grant we are happy to help - we just need an email with the justification for a request of up to \$1000. Five grants have been awarded so far and we continue to accept requests on a rolling basis. We approve requests at our next regular meeting unless it is noted as an urgent request. These improvement grants have helped with projects ranging from a furnace, building or kitchen repairs, and a PA system. Contact us!

During the past year the Foundation also established policies for donations and grants so we can best serve the granges. The CSGF is a 501c3, and as such donations to the foundation are tax-deductible. In many cases this does not matter, and tax laws have changed (and probably will change again) but some companies and individuals want or need a tax deduction, and some organizations require that an eligible 501c3 receives the grant money at least as a pass-through.

This 501c3 status is an important role that CSGF plays for the Connecticut State Grange and for all of our granges so we can access the full range of opportunities and funding. The 501c3 status provides a way for anyone to donate or bequest money to the CSGF directly or ultimately to a subordinate grange. Thus far we have received several donations and grants for subordinate granges and then distributed that money accordingly. If any donation, bequest, or grant to CSGF is intended to support a subordinate grange we then award the funds based upon a simple grant request for the appropriate amount.

To support maintaining our 501c3 status and the administrative work associated with this role the CSGF has established a nominal

fee structure. We are keeping this as low as we can and recognize that some grants may be special cases; we are here to help. We do request than unless it is a grant that requires 501c3 status, any donation or grant below \$500 that is intended to support a subordinate grange should simply be donated directly to that grange.

Finally, we are thrilled to announce a new initiative. It could not be easier and it will help us help you. Because we are a 501c3 the CSGF qualify for donations through Amazon Smile. Briefly, if you order from Amazon (and, for the record, I am not recommending Amazon over supporting local businesses, but on-line shopping is sometimes necessary) you can order from Amazon Smile. You simply use smile.amazon.com instead of www.amazon.com - same exact shopping experience. You designate a 501c3 as a recipient. So, here is the great news: with no effort on your part, if you select CGSF as the recipient of your amazon smile allocation, a portion of each purchase will come to the Foundation. If you have currently donate to Amazon Smile, and want to support CSGF instead, here are the instructions:

1. Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser.

2. From your desktop, go to Your Account and select the option to Change your Charity. Or, from your mobile browser, select Change your Charity from the options at the bottom of the page.

3. Select a new charitable organization to support - i.e. Connecticut State Grange Foundation.

Note: You can also hover over the Supporting notice in the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the Change link next to the name of the charity you're currently supporting.

Bottom line: this could not be easier. Every little bit helps!

Continued next page...

CSG Foundation

Continued from page three...

For more information about the AmazonSmile program, go to <http://smile.amazon.com/about>.

Thank you for taking this easy step!

The opportunities presented here are a combined effort of the CSGF board, and I thank all of them for their contributions. Going forward the CSGF will continue to look for ways we can support our Granges and we are open to any and all ideas. We need yours! The pandemic has helped (or perhaps forced) all of us to refocus on bedrock values and pull together on what unites us. Local communities – urban, suburban, and rural - are what we need to survive and to support each other no matter what turns life might take. This is the only real way we can ensure that everyone has a decent quality of life, with systems that are simple, equitable and sufficient. The Grange is a role model for all of these values, and from my perspective our work has never been more urgent.

In closing, I hope to see you again soon, and on behalf of the Connecticut

State Grange Foundation I thank you for your ongoing support and thank you in advance for sharing your ideas.





With COVID, many of us are shopping more and more online and Amazon is one of the most popular sites for purchasing all kinds of things like food, clothing, electronics and much more. Did you know you can support the Connecticut State Grange Foundation just by shopping on Amazon? By following the steps below, a donation will be made to the Connecticut State Grange each time you shop.

1. Sign-in to smile.amazon.com on your computer or mobile phone browser. If you do not already have an account, follow their easy directions/prompts for creating a new account.
2. After logged in, go to Your Account and select the option to change your charity. Select "Change your charity" from the options at the bottom of the page.
3. Select a new charitable organization to support, i.e. Connecticut State Grange Foundation.
4. Each time you shop on Amazon, you must go to Smile. Amazon for the Foundation to receive a donation as a result of your purchase(s).

Congress and General Assembly convene



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

Happy New Year everyone. Here's to hoping that this coming year will bring more normality back to our lives.

We are entering this year with many changes in both the state and national governments. We will have a new President later in January. Along with the new President most of the Federal politically appointed secretaries of the different agencies will be changing. We can also expect see many of the agencies priorities and directives change. So far, Biden

has already nominated Tom Vilsack as the new Secretary of Agriculture. Vilsack is a former Secretary of Agriculture where he worked under Obama. The National Grange has already expressed support for the appointment of Vilsack and looks forward to working with him. Vilsack along with the other Biden nominees will still have to be confirmed by the Senate.

The Connecticut General Assembly convened early January with the swearing in of all the Representatives and Senators. With this session three of the four Legislative leadership positions have changed. We have new leadership in both Houses and the Republican side of the Senate. Martin Looney, Senate President Pro Tempore is

the only one who remained. The new Senate Republican Leader is Kevin Kelly of Stratford. The new House leaders are; Speaker of the House, Matt Ritter of Hartford and Minority Leader, Vincent Candelora of North Branford. This election cycle increased the Democratic numbers in both the House and Senate, increasing their majority in both chambers.

We still need to see what will be the priorities of the 2021 Legislative Session. We still don't know how the General Assembly sessions will proceed. I suspect there will be many ZOOM sessions. The Legislative Committee will follow bills as they are proposed and send in testimony as needed.

Rep. Courtney responds to CT State Grange concerns

Editor's Note: At the encouragement of the Connecticut State Grange Executive Committee, Alma Graham, Legislative Director, contacted members of Congress regarding support for COVID relief for agricultural fairs. Below is the text of a letter received from Representative Joe Courtney of Connecticut's second Congressional District:



Joe Courtney

Congress of the United States
2nd District, Connecticut

Dear Ms. Graham,

Thank you for contacting me regarding support for agricultural fairs during COVID-19. I appreciate your comments and having the benefit of your views on this important topic.

I share your concerns about how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted a number of different sectors - especially in agriculture and tourism. In Connecticut, the impacts of the pandemic have been far-reaching on local businesses and fairs, and as you mention in your correspondence, many agricultural fairs are in urgent need of financial assistance at this time due to closures to protect public health. Connecticut is not alone in these shortfalls: the International Association of Fairs & Expositions estimates that fair organizations have lost more than \$3.7 billion this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To this end, I have signed on as a cosponsor to the Agricultural Fairs Rescue Act, introduced by my colleagues Representatives Panetta and Long. This bill would provide \$500 million in grant funding to support state and county agricultural fairs. The bill would provide these funds in the form of Agricultural Fair Rescue Grants

to be administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Grants would be provided to states or state departments of agriculture based on the loss of attendance fairs have experienced in 2020 compared to in 2019. Eligible fairs would be those that help farmers promote products or expand agricultural markets through conservation programs, educational programs, or other events that encourage agriculture, horticulture, and the domestic arts.

As a cosponsor and strong supporter of this bill, I remain hopeful that the House of Representatives will take up additional COVID-19 relief legislation in short order which includes these provisions. As Speaker Pelosi continues to negotiate with Treasury Secretary

Mnuchin on an additional COVID-19 relief package, please know that I will continue to support the inclusion of these funds to support agricultural fairs.

Again, thank you for sharing your views on this issue with me. Should you have any additional comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me in the future. For more information on my work in Congress, please visit my website at courtney.house.gov and sign up for my e-newsletter at courtney.house.gov/forms/emailsignup. You can also connect with me at [facebook.com/joecourtney](https://www.facebook.com/joecourtney) or receive updates from twitter.com/repjoecourtney.

Sincerely,

Joe Courtney

Member of Congress

Another Essay Contest Winner



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

Cheshire Grange #23
Lecturer@ctstategrange.org

MY GRANGE

By Susan Masino

Simsbury Grange #197

I love the Simsbury Grange because we are all ages, many different walks of life, and all open-minded and dedicated to helping the community. I love how it is nonpartisan and nondenominational and offers leadership opportunities and scholarships for young people. I love how 14-year-olds are adults.

Our Grange today benefits from the good reputation and strong community presence build by those that came before us in Simsbury Grange. I love how we are partnering with other incredible community groups and both groups benefit. Among our members we have thoughtful discussions and everyone is respectful and supportive because we all know

we have similar goals and we trust each other to do the right thing and do the best we can. Our Grange is something we can all be proud of and a resource for everyone on the community.

~~~~~

Above is the second place winner in the 2020 Essay Contest. We should all be proud of our Grange and the things that they do.

Winter is here and if the reports I hear are right COVID-19 is still going strong. I hope everyone will be able to hold meetings, either on ZOOM or in person. Either way it is important to keep the name of your Grange in a favorable light in front of your townspeople. While members are shut in why not encourage them to write letters to our military personnel serving in harms' way. If you get a Thank You note you might want to post it on Facebook and let others know what you are doing. The picture of a box of snacks you are sending would also make a good impression on others.

Take Care! Stay Safe!



**SENEXET GRANGE #40**

*Corr: Diane Miller*

We had an exciting fall. We held our meetings with social distancing. We had a very successful Thanksgiving pie sale with apple, pumpkin and pork pies. We sold over 100 pies in memory of Joan Perry who passed away last year. She always was so involved in this fundraiser. We were unable to have our Kids Paint Night because of bad weather. Before Christmas we had a very successful Dinner with Santa as a outside event with trees, lights and Santa with his elf. We sold over 50 dinners of Shepherds pie and Mac and Cheese. Photo of our event is attached. We want to thank all those who made these events so successful. The hall is being used by the local Boy Scout troop each Thursday. Plenty of room for the boys. They love being in our hall. We are looking for other groups to use the hall.

**N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138**

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*

**Jan. 8:** Take Time to Unwind

**Jan. 22:** Snow Date

Due to COVID (What else?) we were not able to hold our meeting in November. We did not, however, neglect our Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts to the needy. Although a little different this year (what isn't?), we did donate a 50 pound bag of potatoes and a big box of winter squash for the local food bank and our usual gift cards to make the holidays a little brighter

for those in need.

We are hoping the pending vaccine will alleviate our strange lifestyle soon and we will be able to meet with our family again. The program listed above, should we be allowed to hold it, will be in the charge of the Agriculture and Conservation Committee. This meeting is always lots of fun. Jason comes up with great games for us to play on an agricultural theme. And if all those oak leaves covering the lawn will just blow themselves into the woods, next time we will tell you all

about delicious December.

**VERNON GRANGE #52**

*Corr: Irene Percoski*

**Jan 7:** The Weather Outside is Still Frightful.

**Feb. 5:** Love, Love, Love

We hope you all had a safe and Happy New Year. Vernon Grange will still continue to meet virtually via Zoom. Cherie always has an interesting program and visitors are always welcome. If you would like to call in, please contact Nancy Strong for the Zoom information.



# Santa visits Senexet Grange

Santa and his helper greeted guests at Senexet Grange's outdoor Shepherd's Pie and Mac & Cheese dinner in Dec. with over 50 dinners sold.



EVERYONE CAN ENTER OUR

# NATIONAL GRANGE 2021 VIRTUAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



Get all details at [bit.ly/ng21fotocon](https://bit.ly/ng21fotocon)  
Submit entries at [bit.ly/grange21photo](https://bit.ly/grange21photo)



**MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15**

*Corr: Todd A. Gelineau*

Happy New Year from Mountain Laurel Pomona #15. I'm sure we are all hoping that as more and more people are vaccinated COVID will begin to subside and we'll be able to resume some semblance of our pre-March 2020 life!

Mountain Laurel met virtually in December and had a very nice meeting. It's wonderful to see so many members, especially those who proclaim to be computer illiterate, participating and enjoying the meetings. Mountain Laurel and its predecessor Mountain County have a checkered past when it comes to meeting in December due to weather cancelations so Zoom makes that worry go away.

Until next time... stay warm and have a happier 2021!

**WINCHESTER GRANGE #74**

*Corr: Todd A. Gelineau*

**Jan. 26:** Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Greetings from WINDchester! One of our Past Chaplains always affectionately and jokingly referred to Winchester as WINDchester and it is fairly accurate! The new generator is now intalled, connected and ready for whatever Mother Nature brings WINDchester's way. A brief article on the generator is printed elsewhere on this page. The final installation and wiring was completed just one day before the Christmas wind storm. Fortunately power outages in the area were brief... this time!

Winchester held its Christmas meeting virtually in December with a good turnout of members. The meeting was conducted by our new Master Craig Leifert using the "TV studio" set up in the Grange hall for State Master George Russell when he conducted State Session from our hall. It has come in quite handy for Winchester and Mountain Lau-

rel meetings.

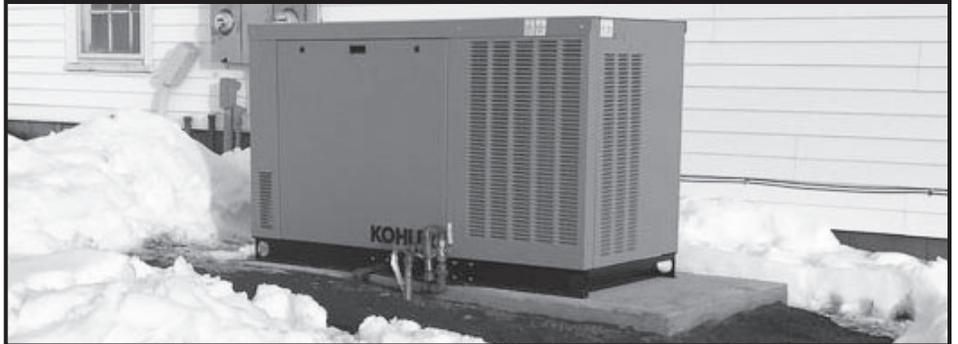
Our next meeting will be on January 26. Want to join us? Email Secretary Sue Addison at [saddison0210@charter.net](mailto:saddison0210@charter.net) and she'll send you the information needed to log on to the meeting. We would love to see you there! All meetings begin at 7:00 P.M.



**Riverton Grange collects food for residents in need**

Riverton Grange worked to help feed residents in Pleasant Valley by collecting non-perishable food donations at the Grange Hall in the Riverton section of town. Pictured is a sampling of the donations left on the Grange porch to date. There is great need everywhere in our state so make a donation to YOUR local food bank today!

**Winchester generator installed**



**WINCHESTER CENTER** (from the *Winsted Phoenix*) - The Winchester Fire Department, located on 100 Newfield Road, has completed the installation of an automatic generator. The project was partially funded by the Auxiliary for Community Health, which operates its Thrift Shop at 120 Willow Street in Winsted.

According to a press release, the balance of the costs for the generator were paid for through fundraising donations from residents. The new generator system will provide emergency power to the firehouse, the Winchester Center Grange #74, and the Winchester Post Office. All three buildings part of the same complex. The property is owned by Winchester Grange with the Post Office and the State Grange leasing parts of the Grange Hall while the Fire Department owns its building connected to the back of the Grange Hall. The generator will allow the buildings to be used for emergency shelter for residents if needed.

For more information about the Auxiliary for Community Health's Thrift Shop go to [www.facebook.com/Thrift-Shop-of-Auxiliary-for-Community-Health-488109297993894](http://www.facebook.com/Thrift-Shop-of-Auxiliary-for-Community-Health-488109297993894). For more information about the Winchester Fire Department go to [www.winchesterfire.org](http://www.winchesterfire.org)



**NUTMEG POMONA #16**

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

Nutmeg Pomona held its first zoom meeting on December 6th. The attendance wasn't the greatest but for our first one it was not bad. We were pleased to have State Master George Russell and National Grange Overseer Phil Prelli join us.

As no activities are planned for the present because of covid 19, there is not much to report. We have scheduled our next meeting for March 21, 2021 for 2 o'clock at Beacon Valley Grange.

Wear your masks and stay safe.

**BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103**

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

Once, again we have lost another link in our Grange chain as we report the passing of our faithful Chaplain Carole Mancini. Carole joins her husband William who passed away 15 days earlier. Both from Covid 19 virus complications. Carole will be remembered for never missing send a card and for her March refreshment – her Irish Soda Bread. Being an Irish lass, I can attest that it was the best.

Since our March meeting, we have lost five members, four of them officers.

On pleasant note, we were proud to be asked by the members of Prospect Grange if they could merge with us. We look forward to welcoming them when the world gets back in order.

I attended the zoom meetings of

Nutmeg Pomona, State CWA and Publicity Committee. All very interesting. We look forward to working on some of the new CWA projects and contests.

From the Officers and Members of Beacon Valley Grange, we hope you all had a Very Merry Christmas and that 2021 will be happier and healthier.

**LYME GRANGE #147**

*Corr: Lois Evankow*

**Jan. 7:** Meeting

**Feb. 4:** Meeting

Greetings from Lyme.

Happy New Year! That's what you are supposed to say at the beginning of a new year. However, with all the deaths and the raging virus, we can hope it will be a better year than 2020.

Our Grange has not met. We are doing a lot of community service and our Treasurer is making sure our bills are paid.

Thanksgiving was lonely with small gatherings and I'm sure Christmas will be the same. It's best to be careful and follow the instructions of the professional health people.

Indian summer has lasted into November. How lucky can you get?

With the COVID out of control and dangerous once again, Granges are meeting virtually. It certainly has been different. Guess we stay home and hope for the best. As usual, wear masks, social distance, wash hands and try to stay well.

**GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133**

*Corr: Jim and Lori Golias*

2020 Year in Review

January 2020 - The New year started with a fresh new look. The upstairs was painted, cleaned up, complete with clean windows and new curtains. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped.

February 2020 - We held our Valentine's Dinner, chicken franchise, rice pilaf and all the Fixin's.

March 2020 - Our St. Patrick's Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

had to be cancelled due to Covid-19.

April 2020 - Our Pathways to Corridors Pollinator Luncheon had to be Cancelled.

May, June, July, 2020 ...We had our first meeting in July since our last one in February. Surprisingly, we had a good turnout. We picked a date for our 2021 agricultural fair. It will be August 28, 2021 from 10 to 3. We also chose our delegates for the 2020 annual Connecticut state grange session. Geno and Karen.

August 2020 - Our Agricultural fair had to be cancelled due to COVID-19- 19

September 2020 (a busy month!) We were happy to host a Summers - end Lobster Bake. We arranged socially distanced tables. Lobster and BBQ Chicken and all the fixin's were enjoyed by all. It was great to reunite even if at a distance. Thank you to all the volunteers.

We would like to welcome our newest member, Brenda Kupchick. She is our First Selectwoman and decided to join after attending the Lobster Bake Dinner.

We held our Fall Fundraiser, Bulbs, Pumpkins, Baked goods and Mums. It was a huge success! Thank you to the volunteers who bought, set up, baked, packed, sold and helped bring the flowers and pumpkins to the cars. This event was a lot of fun and we hope to make it a repeat event!

Drive in Movie nights premiered at the Grange. A couple of the nights were sold out. The movies were such a hit, watch for more to come this spring. Thank you to ALL the volunteers who made these nights a success!

We held a meeting in September and October, but November was cancelled.

October 2020 - Halloween Dinner had to be cancelled

November 2020 - Our Super Supper had to be cancelled due to CT State COVID-19 regulations.

December 2020 - 2021 Dues are due. An invoice is included. Prompt

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payment is appreciated. Thank you. Most of our hall rentals for 2020 were refunded due to Covid-19 cancellations. Obviously, revenue from these rentals was not collected.

For the next few months, we will decide whether we will hold meetings according to state mandates.

Pray for the END of this pandemic! Pray for the sick, their families, healthcare workers and all who are on the frontlines during this crucial time. #StayHomeStaySafe!

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, A Happy Holiday Season and HEALTHY and safe NEW YEAR. Hope we can all get together again soon.

#### **HEMLOCK GRANGE #182**

*Corr: Maureen Sanborn*

**Jan. 8:** Winter Bliss

**Jan. 22:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled.

**Feb. 12:** Hearts a Flutter

**Feb. 26:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

#### **OXFORD GRANGE #194**

*Corr: Robert Buck*

Although Oxford Grange would normally meet on the 6th and 20th of the month, limitations on meeting sizes and the unwillingness of a majority of members to meet in person have made it necessary to call off in-person meetings until further notice. The secretary will work to set up capability to meet by the Zoom app in the interim. The meeting times will remain as before: first and third Wednesday nights at 7:30 PM. This way we can stay in touch and cover necessary business. The secretary and treasurer have been in contact to keep all bills current. Before the COVID-19 situation made fund-raising events unfeasible, we held two events in the fall which will provide some financial security for the winter months and care of the hall. One of these was a musical program back

in October incorrectly attributed in the previous Granger to GOMAD while in fact it was put together by Dan and Kathy Goliass and their musician friends. Some of the GOMAD group were in attendance. We thank the Goliasses and all their

friends for a wonderful afternoon of musical entertainment that raised over \$800 for the Grange. We will look forward to again being able to meet in person in the hall safely, and hopefully by spring.



## **3 Brand New Contests for 2021**

*by Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director*

The Public Relations committee is offering three brand new contests for 2021, all with a deadline of October 1, 2021. It's easy to participate. Let's take a peek at each one.

### **1.) Create a Zoom Program**

Plan a program for your Grange Meeting on Zoom to keep your members interested and involved. Record the meeting that your program is presented in. Submit this recording for judging.

### **2.) Celebrate your Grange's Birthday**

Whether you're celebrating seven years or 140+ years of your Grange's existence, each birthday is a milestone that should be acknowledged publicly. Whether your Grange has in-person, virtual, or hybrid celebrations, it means thinking outside of the box to show the impact your Grange has made over the years.

This is a great opportunity to highlight your Grange's achievements, raise awareness of your Grange's mission, thank your members and community, and reveal exciting updates about your plans for the future.

Submit a detailed written plan on how you intend to celebrate and promote your Grange's birthday, or write a synopsis of a past celebration (must be held within the last year). Submissions must include a social media component.

Submissions should be detailed and not just an abbreviated list, and there is no length restriction. Photos, clippings, and screenshots are encouraged.

### **3.) Grange Spotlight Contest**

Write a press release spotlighting one project or program that your Grange is involved in or sponsors. This should include the following:

- Introduction describing the project or program
- Information on all groups/organizations involved
- The goal or outcome of the project/program
- Date achieved, or of anticipated achievement
- Paragraph explaining your Grange to non-members
- Information on how to join the Grange

Final press release should be no longer than 500 words. Submission may include one photo.

All of the details, rules, and information for the contests can be found on the Connecticut State Grange website at [www.CTStateGrange.org](http://www.CTStateGrange.org), and will also be available in the Blue Book. Entries should be mailed to Robert Charbonneau, 102 Spring Street, Meriden CT 06451, or sent via e-mail to [publicrelations@ctstategrange.org](mailto:publicrelations@ctstategrange.org). Questions can be emailed to [information@ctstategrange.org](mailto:information@ctstategrange.org).

# Slow Cooker White Chicken Chili



Along with the month of January comes cold and often snowy weather. A nice warm bowl of Chili can help you warm up while it tastes good too! Prepare it in a Crock Pot, and it's a super easy dinner solution. This recipe from the Spruce Eats offers a new twist - for White Chicken Chili!

## INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pound chicken (cut up into small chunks)
- 1 cup onion (chopped)
- 1 1/2 cups chicken broth (low sodium)
- 2 cloves of garlic (chopped finely)
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin or 2 teaspoons cumin seeds
- 1/2 teaspoon dried leaf oregano
- 3 cans (15 ounces each) white beans (drained and rinsed)
- 1 or 2 chopped bell peppers (a combination of colors)
- 1 to 2 tablespoons minced jalapeno chile pepper
- Dash salt and freshly ground black pepper (to taste)
- Optional: Monterey jack cheese (shredded)
- Optional: tortilla chips (broken)



## INSTRUCTIONS:

In a 4 to 6-quart slow cooker combine the chicken, onions, chicken broth, garlic, cumin, and oregano. Cook on low for about 3 to 4 hours. Add drained beans and cook for 2 to 3 hours longer.

About 1 to 1 1/2 hours before the chili is done, add the chopped bell peppers and jalapeno peppers, if using. Taste and add salt and freshly ground black pepper, as needed.

Top each serving with shredded Monterey jack cheese and or broken tortilla chips if desired.

**TIPS:** Use pinto beans or great northern beans in the recipe.

**SOURCE:** <https://www.thespruceeats.com/slow-cooker-white-chicken-chili-3054769>

# WINDOW TO THE PAST

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



*This Month*

No responses were received for last month's photo. Even if you have a slight idea, let us know. We'd love to hear from you!



*Last Month*



In December Cannon Grange #152, in Wilton, collected coats, scarves and hats for local social services. As you can see, it was a great success.



Taghhannuck Grange members made over 770 Taghhannuck cookies that will go to people less fortunate. Thank you also Miriam Jones who delivered 24 gift bags.



Greenfield Hill Grange was decked out for Christmas.



# JOIN US

AND LEARN HOW TO HELP OTHERS DO THE SAME

**EVERY THIRD TUESDAY  
AT 8:30 EASTERN  
ON THE GRANGE  
MEMBERSHIP  
TELECONFERENCES**

Go to [tiny.cc/1867zoom](https://tiny.cc/1867zoom) or call 669-900-6833.  
Use meeting ID 525-965-930 to log in.



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

# Sing a joyful song that 2020 is done!

I am prepared to sing a joyful song at 12:01am January 1, 2021, to celebrate the end of a brutally difficult year for our country and our world. Of course, you may have realized this optimist is not able to wallow in the misery so I decided to compile some of the positive takeaways that made us and our world better. Yes, I do realize we did not completely elect these changes but they have made positive improvements. I am listing my favorites but I am sure you can think of many more that happened in your life.

Drive-in movie theaters made a comeback while drive-in concerts became a thing. Restaurants shared their secret recipes so we could make them at home. Wearing sweatpants and tees became acceptable fashion choices all day, every day. A day at work on a video call means only changing your shirt.

We rediscovered our love for baking and gardening. American animal shelters were emptied for the first time because people rushed to adopt and foster pets in need. Puzzles and board games became cool again.

Distilleries, both small and large, around the country used their resources to produce badly needed hand sanitizer. Major companies such as 3M and Apple pooled resources or shifted production to make millions of masks to help keep people safe. Ford, GM, Tesla and other automakers were able to make ventilators and other medical devices to help with the pandemic.

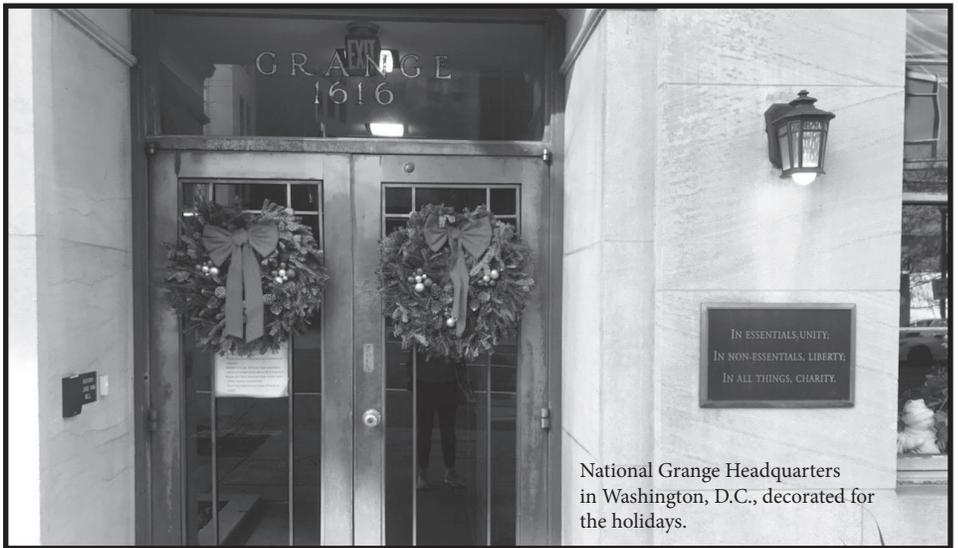
We learned that homeschooling is hard and finally recognized teachers for the heroes that they are. We gave health care workers and essential workers their due and recognize them for the heroic work

they do keeping our country moving forward. We came up with creative ways to celebrate big milestones like drive-by birthdays and Zoom parties.

And my Favorites: Grangers of ALL ages joined Zoom meetings. Many worked through their discomfort with technology and big changes, to see friends and share stories and operate as a part of the Grange family and do Grange work. Thousands of masks were made just by Grangers in Connecticut for people who needed them most. Terri Fassio hosted many opportunities

for people to get comfortable online and play games. Lots of laughs and smiles as we all learned more about each other, the Grange, our traditions and were able to cross the state virtually and see friends we rarely are able to see. As the Membership Committee and I get rolling this new year I hope to report many more profound Grange changes and a relief that life is getting back to usual. Wishing you all a happy start to your new year. May you be blessed and your prayer answered in this coming year.

## Cheshire collects food donations



National Grange Headquarters in Washington, D.C., decorated for the holidays.

**Cash back shopping is here!**

- More than 1,400 online stores
- Save up-front with coupons and promotions
- Up to 30% cash back
- Get paid via Check or PayPal
- Access member discount offers

[www.cashbackconnections.com/grange](http://www.cashbackconnections.com/grange)

Cash back rebate amounts vary by store and product purchased.

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE  
FAMILY ACTIVITIES / CWA COMMITTEE

# Winter Gift Basket Raffle Drawing



We will be raffling off this beautiful gift basket.  
You can get your tickets from your  
CWA Chairman - 2 for \$1.00.  
You have until February 14th to buy your tickets.

We will hold our last special  
CWA/Family Activities Zoom meeting on  
Sunday, February 28, 2021 at 1:00 pm and at that  
meeting we will have the drawing for  
the gift basket and announce the winner.



Send an e-mail to [cwa@ctstategrange.org](mailto:cwa@ctstategrange.org)  
for the February 28th  
Zoom Meeting Access Information  
and for more information.



CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

# Beat the Winter Blues

Virtual zoom

# Social Hour

Thursday, January 28th • 7:00 PM

Make your favorite hot beverage and join us for a fun and casual  
winter social gathering. Stop by and say Hello!



Send an e-mail to [information@ctstategrange.org](mailto:information@ctstategrange.org)  
or [membership@ctstategrange.org](mailto:membership@ctstategrange.org)  
for the Zoom Meeting Access Information

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE  
WEBINAR



## New Facebook Strategies: A Guide To Managing Your Grange Page

Learn all the tips and tricks for using the new  
"Facebook for Business"  
to manage your Grange Facebook Page,  
then learn how positive Facebook strategies can  
help you maintain and grow your Grange membership.

**Saturday, February 27**  
 zoom **4:00 - 6:00 PM**

A Public Relations Committee & Membership Committee Joint Event



Send an e-mail to [information@ctstategrange.org](mailto:information@ctstategrange.org)  
or [membership@ctstategrange.org](mailto:membership@ctstategrange.org)  
for the Zoom Meeting Access Information

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE



# Wearing of the Green

Virtual

# Social Hour



Celebrating  
St. Patrick's Day



Thursday, March 18th • 7:00 PM

Wear your favorite green shirt and join us for a fun and casual  
social gathering. Stop by and say Hello!

Send an e-mail to [information@ctstategrange.org](mailto:information@ctstategrange.org) or [membership@ctstategrange.org](mailto:membership@ctstategrange.org)  
for the Zoom Meeting Access Information

## What is it worth?



**Charles W. Dimmick**  
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23  
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

**Psalm 12:8** The wicked prowls on every side, \* and that which is worthless is highly prized by everyone.

**Mark 8:36** What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?

**Matthew 6:19-21** "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

I am beginning to understand and appreciate Jesus' admonition in the sixth chapter of Matthew,

### In Memoriam

**Carole & William  
Mancini**  
Beacon Valley Grange

"Well done, good and faithful servants."

quoted above. And then again, in the 12th chapter of Luke, Jesus tells us: **"Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."**

Worldly goods and wealth can and will become a burden to true happiness, especially because they tend to chain one to them. And the more you have the stronger the chain becomes. Remember Jacob Marley in Dicken's "Christmas Carol"? Marley's ghost appears to Scrooge and the following dialogue takes place:

"You are fettered," said Scrooge, trembling. "Tell me why?"

"I wear the chain I forged in life," replied the Ghost. "I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on of my own free-will, and of my own free-will I wore it."

Different people may often put

different values on the same thing. This is sometimes expressed as "One man's junk is another man's treasure". When I was younger I used to prize various of my possessions which I now realize in old age were not worth nearly as much as other things, many of which I overlooked or took for granted. Material possessions, for example, are not worth nearly as much to me now as good health, good friends, and fond memories.

Finally, in the long run, not even good health and good friends are worth as much as that peace of mind which comes from acceptance of things as they are, no longer worrying about your possessions or things that you cannot control. This is all summed up in that familiar "Serenity Prayer": God give me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange friends! It's been a busy December attending the Grange Social Hours and Various Grange Meetings on Zoom. It's always so nice to see all of my friends,

particularly around the holidays. Here's hoping that 2021 will be a new chapter in our Grange lives and that we will all be back to normal before 2022!

Please visit my Facebook page, and click the "Like" button while you are there too - to follow all of my adventures. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>