



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

Vol. 61, No. 8

The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

May 2021

Time to plan our summer events



George Russell
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169
president@ctstategrange.org

As we approach the month of May and the weather is warming up, we should begin to plan our Spring and Summer events. I know a lot of our Granges are having plant sales and tag sales scheduled for May and June. Let us all hope the events are a great success! This is also the time to start planning our Agricultural Grange fairs. As we are planning these events; we must remember to follow the COVID-19 guidelines to make it safe for our members and our customers. If your Grange is planning to serve food at these events you must check with your Health District. I understand that some Health Districts do not allow food to be served unless you are a restaurant.

The Connecticut State Grange Membership Committee has been working hard to come up with a program for the Granges to increase their membership. They have been meeting every month to come up with ideas to help our Subordinate Granges. The committee has also sent out letters to each Grange Membership Chair and would like to set up a date to meet with you either in the form of an in-person meeting or on Zoom to go over ideas. Please let Faith Quinlan, our Membership

Director, know when there is a good date to meet with your Grange.

In March, I sent out a questionnaire concerning what it costs to run your Grange this last year. By mid-April the date that I am writing this article; I have about 2/3 of the survey's return. If your Grange has not filled it out and returned this questionnaire; please do so as soon as possible. You can even email me the survey. We will be setting up a Zoom meeting sometime near the end of May/early June to go over these surveys with the Masters or Representative from your Grange.

Unfortunately in March we had

Please help us help you



Faith Quinlan
Membership Dir.

Winchester Grange #74
membership@ctstategrange.org

What we often forget is our lack of response still has consequences.

The Membership Committee and I sent out a letter with our contact information and asked each Grange and Pomona to reach out to one of us to set a time when we could join your meeting on Zoom or in person. Our plan is to not only bring ideas, a concerned ear and a pad of paper to report what the issues your Grange is facing may be but also to bring a promise we will work to give as much help as we can to get

two Granges that have turned in their Charters. They are Meriden Grange #29 and Redding Grange #15. We have lost six Granges in this last year, which is way too many. We have to work with the Membership Committee to make our Granges stronger so we do not continue to lose these Granges in our community.

As I am writing this month's article, your State Grange is planning on having an in-person Annual Meeting in October! So save the dates of October 21-23. I am encouraging all Grange members to get vaccinated for COVID-19 for your safety. Stay healthy and well and hope to see you soon.

your membership active and back on track after a very long lockdown.

Out of the 40 letters that were sent asking for some time at your meeting, less than 12 Granges have actually contacted one of us to set up a conversation. Some did contact us just to acknowledge the letter and to say they may not be ready yet, but when they are we will hear from someone.

The gravity of my job, maintaining and growing membership for the Connecticut State Grange weighs heavier and heavier when I am not able to support our communities. My personal desire to help is genuine. I have an amazing and committed committee that also genuinely wants to support our Granges in whatever

...Continued on page 2

Please help us help you

Continued from page one...
way possible.

We have all heard or seen our decline in numbers is high and growing. Without a conversation in some way, without your communication, the Membership Committee is powerless to help. Maybe our focus should be on getting things up and running again. Maybe you begin by trying out your Granges first safe and socially distanced meeting or a community



event. No rules on where we may or may not be able to help. Wherever your beginning is we do still want to support the current membership. Like the analogy they use about flying in an airplane, "Attach your own mask before you try to help anyone else." We cannot expect new members if we are not active and thriving ourselves.

Please choose to invest time into people, our Membership Committee Members, who are asking to help you get back in some safe and

enjoyable form of Grange. There is no quick fix to this situation, and no one size fits all fix either. Analyzing where we are and developing a long-range strategy needs a starting point that begins this Spring/Summer. This 4-person committee spread across the state can only do so much without feedback, so please reach out soon.

We have a few Granges that have been thriving through this past year. They should be very proud of the hard work and creative ideas they used to keep generating income, growing their membership and helping their communities. We would like to hear from those Granges also. We want to hear about your strategies, successes and plans plus no doubt we can support your work also.

Looking forward to hearing from all of you. 2021 is going to move slow but let's take our first steps today!

the Connecticut Granger
Published Monthly

WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS
News is due on the **15th Day** of each month and should be sent to:
Connecticut State Grange
100 Newfield Road
P.O. Box 3
Winchester Center, CT 06094
or Todd Gelineau, Editor
P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069
Granger@CTStateGrange.org
(USPS 563-220)

the Connecticut Granger
is published monthly for \$10.00/yr. by:

Connecticut Granger, Inc..
100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 4
Winchester Center, CT 06094

Periodicals postage paid
at Winsted, CT 06098

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to:
Connecticut Granger,
100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3
Winchester Center, CT 06094

Getting a **COVID-19 vaccine adds one more layer of protection.**

Protect From COVID-19.

I GOT MY COVID-19 VACCINE!



A safe and effective vaccine to protect against COVID-19 is now available. Learn more: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines)

Planning for “new normal”



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

Hopefully as you are reading this you have received your second dose of the vaccine and feeling some relief from the added layer of protection from the virus. The vaccines do not provide 100% protection but they do spare us from the most severe effects of the disease. With more and more of us getting vaccinated the possibility of re-opening our Grange halls and meeting places begins to appear on the horizon. Quite a few of our Granges are already meeting in-person while others continue to meet on Zoom. Still others have not had a meeting since this whole thing started last year. I hope all of our Granges are working towards re-opening safely.

The Connecticut State Grange has been planning for its own reopening as well. Contracts for our annual convention are always in place well in advance of October and this year is no exception. We are now under contract with the Holiday Inn Norwich for October 21, 22 and 23, 2021. As always, we are monitoring COVID conditions state and nationwide and always have alternative plans should an in-person meeting become difficult.

I can tell you the room rate with the Holiday Inn will remain at \$105 (plus taxes and fees). I am also working with the hotel staff on plans for holding our meeting as safely as possible. This may mean altering the way in which we have meal functions. If there are buffets, they may be served rather than self serve or meals may need to be plated or boxed. The safety and well-being of our members will always be in mind as we finalize plans for the convention. It seems each year in this job brings a whole world of new



challenges to overcome. Let’s all hope we get to our “new normal” soon!

It’s been slow going but the annual 990N ePostcard filings are progressing and Granges should be receiving their receipts of filing in

Start one of our projects



Dawn Percoski
Family Activities Dir.
Vernon Grange No. 52
CWA@ctstategrange.org

It’s nice to hear the birds chirping and the days are getting longer. As you are getting the garden in order, don’t forget there is still plenty of time to start one of our projects. You can do the Sunflower theme, decorate a brick or the new build a birdhouse. The materials are totally up to you and I can’t wait to see what you have come up with! We also have the National Quilt Block Contest. There is a beautiful Pinwheel Quilt Block pattern which can be found on the State website. It’s also a great time to try out the recipe for our baking contest. The recipe is Sunflower Oatmeal cookies and it’s a small batch. Hopefully you will like it enough to keep it for your own family favorites!

Just a note for the Family



Activities Chairman. If you have not received any of the packets, newsletters or emails I have been sending out, now is the time to let me know who you are and what the best way to contact you is. I have had some returned mail and have tried my best to contact those for updates with no luck. I appreciate your patience while we are getting acquainted with one another and updating our listings. With this pandemic we have all needed to make some adjustments, especially with technology and I acknowledge that not everyone has the capabilities to do so. But old fashioned snail mail always works, so you can send me a letter or pick up the telephone and give me a call with your updates. Until next time, happy crafting!

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.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

The Origins of Public Relations

By Terri Fassio, CT State Public Relations Co-Director

In this month's article, we will take a deep dive and discuss PR theory by exploring the models in which the practice of Public Relations is based.

In 1984, two college professors, James E. Grunig and Todd Hunt co-authored the book "Management of Public Relations" which became the model and theory in which all public relations practices have followed since. They evaluated years worth of information dissemination to categorize and formulate concepts based on the role that public relations played/plays in media and culture.

The book teaches the reader about not only technical public relations skills, but social responsibility and professional ethics as well. In it, Grunig and Hunt define the 4 models of Public Relations: 1) press agent/publicity model, 2) public information model, 3) two-way asymmetrical model, 4) two-way symmetrical model. These models serve as the Bible to creating organizational programs, plans and strategies. Let's take a look at each of these models, and then how they can be utilized in a Grange environment.

1) Press Agent/Publicity Model (Management) -- This model uses one way communication and the art of persuasion to influence audiences. Ultimately, it's goal is to seek media coverage. This is when your Grange promotes or publicizes an event, activity, project, or meeting; when your Grange conveys to the public the information they need ahead of the event or activity, in the hopes of persuading that audience to interact, attend, and support. For example, "Grange X to hold Benefit Dinner for Local Homeless Vets.

Tickets Available."

2.) Public Information Model (Communication) -- This model also uses one way communication, but in this case, uses the basic communication techniques to distribute stories and information. Similar to the first model as information is publicly released, but the difference is that here your Grange is just conveying information, without trying to gain a response. This would incorporate news stories, social media posts and press releases. For example, "Grange X honors Joe Smith as Community Citizen of the Year".

3.) Two-Way Asymmetrical Model (Organization) -- This model is similar to Model #1, where communication is used to persuade and influence the audience, (in this case two-way communication), but the difference is that instead of just conveying the facts, a "scientific response" is employed to gather feedback and evaluate behaviors. For example, Grange X would conduct research to understand the needs of their service area and how the Grange can better serve its community, and then plan an event or activity according to the results of the research.

4.) Two-Way Symmetrical Model (Publics) -- This model uses communication to negotiate, resolve conflicts and promote mutual understanding. A liaison between the organization and the public, rather than a persuader, is key. Back-and-forth communication is used to ensure that all parties involved benefit from the outcome or conclusion, not just one side. This is where ethics come into play. Here, Granges would listen to what the public or members are saying to them, and then develop a resolution that mutually benefits all parties

involved. For example, members are complaining that they are having a hard time making meetings because the start time is 7:30 PM. The Grange then polls members to find a solution, and then as a resolution, changes meeting time to 7:00 PM.

As the borders of traditional publicity standards and advertising standards have disappeared and the theories have morphed together, these models were introduced to define a purpose and framework for Public Relations to operate, thus giving guidelines for organizations of all types to follow to create programs, strategies and tactics for their benefit. These models have enormous influence on the ways that Granges imagine and present themselves to the public and their own membership.

Need help getting the word out about your Grange and its activities? Send a note to information@ctstategrange.org or publicrelations@ctstategrange.org.

Source: James E. Grunig and Todd Hunt, *Managing Public Relations* (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing, 1984).

1986

2021

CONNECTICUT GROWN

CTGrown.gov

CONNECTICUT GROWN

A Way of Life

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture recently unveiled it's new "Connecticut Grown" logo. This is the first re-design since the program was introduced in 1986.

Simsbury pushes preservation of MLK land

By Don Stacom, *Hartford Courant*, 4/16/21

After more than two decades of debate, abandoned plans and false starts, Simsbury is on the verge of deciding whether 288 acres of former tobacco fields will be set aside as open space and athletic fields.

More than 1,000 residents signed petitions to force a May 4 referendum in a brief, hastily organized campaign.

If voters approve in May, Simsbury will put about \$2.2 million toward a \$6 million purchase of the land, part of a farm where Martin Luther King, Jr. worked in his youth.

Griffin Industrial Realty, the owner, had fought for years for permission to create a massive subdivision with an affordable housing component, but never went ahead with the project. Instead, Griffin changed course and last year negotiated to sell to the Trust for Public Land in a complex \$6 million deal that includes a patchwork of state agriculture, historic and open space preservation grants along with the town money.

Simsbury leaders this month got into an uncommonly harsh dispute over whether to go forward, ending with a fast-paced petition drive last weekend to meet a Monday deadline. With backing from the Simsbury Land Trust, the Simsbury Grange and the board of selectmen, volunteers fanned out to popular stores and restaurants to get signatures.

"We needed at least 953 signatures and we received more than 1,800!" First Selectman Eric Wellman proclaimed afterward on Facebook. "Reasonable people can disagree on whether the town should acquire this parcel, but I am so pleased that our residents will have the opportunity to vote."

Earlier in the month, the finance board took up the idea in its annual budget review and decided not to include it. Some finance board members warned there are already too many public works and education projects in the pipeline now, and funding Meadowood would postpone them.



Martin Luther King Jr. when he was a student at Morehouse College in Atlanta. King spent two of his college summers working with fellow students in the tobacco fields around Simsbury, Conn. The time spent in the area gave him his first taste of life without segregation. During his time here, King sang in the choir of the First Church of Christ. He was elected to be the religious leader of his group. He would later write that it (his time in Connecticut) was a time when he felt he received the call for the ministry. (Student photo from the *New York Times*)

When selectmen convened the next night, some were furious. The finance board's move implied voters are "too stupid" to make the decision," Selectman Sean Askham said.

"I don't recall a time when the board of finance not only refused to send on a signature project from the Board of Selectmen, but refused to even go on the record. That move is usually a cowardice move because folks are looking to avoid being accountable for a decision," Askham said.

If the referendum passes and the sale goes through, the Trust for Public Land, a California-based non-profit, would get title to the property- with restrictions. The state would get an easement for recreational access for 138 acres, including connectivity to the McLean Game Refuge and new walking trails. Another 117 acres, including the former tobacco sheds on Hoskins Road, would be reserved as farmland, and 24 would be set aside for future town athletic fields.

A little more than 4 acres, including the three historic barns that face Firetown Road, would be used for historic preservation and a Martin Luther King, Jr. interpretive display, according to the Trust for Public Land.

The Trust for Public Land has raised more than \$400,000 toward

surveys, research and other expenses connected with the transfer.

It's unclear how Griffin would proceed if the deal falls through. The company went to court more than a decade ago to get zoning approval for 296 homes on the site, including 88 intended for affordable housing. But the land required extensive environmental remediation because of fertilizer chemicals, and Griffin never moved forward with the housing project after it was approved.

Simsbury Grange member Susan Masino said preserving the land is the goal.

"I 100% support affordable housing, and there are many ways that can be done. But a critical network of open space is also essential. This land is not the right place for multiple reasons," she said.

She noted that the 88 proposed affordable housing units were expected to run \$280,000 each.

"That is more money than 33% of the housing in Simsbury, so that is not helping people who really need housing," she said. "Most important, there is no guarantee what will be built. Multiple experts have said affordable housing is highly unlikely in the end because it is not the most profitable option."

Legislative Virtual Fly-In was a success



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

On April 7, 2021 the National Grange held a virtual Legislative Fly-In. This event has traditionally been held at the National Grange office in Washington D.C. Those attending would participate in a day seminar featuring various speakers concerning Legislative topics. Then the second day the participants would travel to the "hill" and visit with their states National Representatives and Senators.

This year National Grange sponsored a virtual event inviting speakers covering a full schedule of topics. I understand that there were over 100 participants who registered for the event. I did see about 60 that were in attendance during the event. There were 4 from Connecticut that attended.

Speakers include representatives from the House and Senate Agricultural Committees as well as the White House Agricultural representative. They covered a variety of topics concerning rural and urban communities. Infrastructure was one of the top priorities. Beyond roads, bridges, railroads and waterway the need for Broadband was brought up as a major concern. This last year has brought this need to the forefront. There are many in rural areas who do not have adequate internet access for school and work needs. This year we also recognized shortages in broadband in urban settings. National Grange has been working on the need to expand broadband across the nation for many years.

Climate solutions was also presented as a top priority for the Biden administration. The Climate Solutions Act is seeking a carbon net-zero goal for the agricultural

community. The intent is to include stakeholders in developing and implementing climate control initiatives to achieve this goal. They did not want to just set regulations. They are looking for voluntary participation from the agricultural community in developing these programs.

Health care was also presented as a priority. They plan on restoring the Affordable Cares Act and rolling back the restrictions on Medicaid. They admit it was not perfect and their goals is to make adjustments to clean up the program

and fix some of the issues that were found. Prescription Drug costs was discussed as an area that they plan to address as well.

The need for Career and Technical Education was brought up during the session. The American Rescue Plan includes funding for developing this program. They recognized the growing need for trade laborers. Some of the consideration include reviving apprenticeships and developing similar programs to educate our needed laborers. Many of these trade programs do not need a full college education.

75 & 80 Year Members



Arline Tolette (left) receives a 75 year membership certificate and Edward Borrelli (right) receives his 80 year membership letter from Cheshire Grange Master A. Ruel Miller.



CRAFT FAIR
June 6, 11:00am-4:00pm

Local vendors outside along the Norwalk River

Bake Sale inside the historic Grange Hall

89th Agricultural Fair information table inside



Free guided Tai-Chi lessons out on the lawn @ 11:30 & 3:00

Ribbon-cutting ceremony for New Little Library along NRVT route @1:00

Info Session on renting the historic Grange Hall @ 3:30

Free Entry ☀️ Rain or Shine
25 CANNON ROAD, WILTON, CT 06897



EASTERN CT POMONA #14

Corr: Noel Miller

May 8: Fifth Degree Meeting is Canceled

June 12: Scheduled to be held at Vernon Grange at 7:00 P.M., In-Person, unless the State of Connecticut changes meeting restrictions.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

May 5: CWA Program-Sunflowers

We held our April 7th meeting on zoom with 14 Cheshire members and 4 guests present. We draped our charter in loving memory of Klara Olmes. We discussed the possibility of having some form of a one day type fair in our hall on August 21st. We would want to have some exhibits with prize money and our regular gift basket auction. There would be no sales of baked items and we will not have our roast beef dinner.

A program followed on the month of April. With many of our members being vaccinated, we are looking to have our May 5th meeting in our hall. We will monitor this as a possibility.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

May 1: Bakeless/Foodless Sale

May 6: "Celebrate Mom" also Election of Officers & Memorial Service

June 3: Celebrate Dad & Summer - Visit from State Grange Membership Director

Unfortunately we are still in



Hillstown Grange #87 (East Hartford) partnered with several groups to get more people gardening. The suggested donation of \$5 per bucket benefited the E. Hartford Friendship Center Soup Kitchen run by the E. Hartford Interfaith Ministries and the local food bank run by the First Cong. Church.

the midst of the "Pandemic". Still observing wearing a mask, observing 6 feet and washing our hands and sanitizing.

May 6th meeting will still be on ZOOM at 6:30 p.m.. Hopefully we will be meeting June 3rd at the Masonic Hall at 7:00 p.m.. We are presently thinking of holding the meeting outside, weather permitting.. All have been asked to bring their lawn chair. Should it be raining we will meet in the hall.. We are looking forward to hearing what Sister Faith Quinlan has to say to us. And remember we still can not serve refreshments.

We wish all a pleasant summer. The Covid is still with us so observe all the rules and wear your mask and observe 6 ft. and wash and sanitize.

SENEXT GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

May 19: Lyme Disease Awareness and Prevention

We held regular meetings and had Anika LeBoef from the Woodstock

Academy speak to us about her interest in art work. She painted a large rock in town as a flag. Breakfast with the Easter Bunny was very successful. We cooked pancakes, bacon, sausage and home fries. We also had a Shepherds Pie dinner and are planning a Chicken Pot Pie take out on April 24 and 25. We hold open houses each Thursday afternoon. Groups have been formed to socialize while knitting and crocheting on two sessions evenings and days twice a month. Community members who have an interest in quilting also will be meeting. These are open to all levels of skills and ages. We are asking that they bring their project to share. Another exciting event will be a Composting For Beginners to be held on Sunday April 18 at 3PM. We have a very active facebook page to promote our programs to the community. Our hall is used by other groups on a safe basis. So exciting to see the community in our hall.

...Continued on page 8

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Irene Percoski

May 7: In Bloom

June 4: Getting to Know Our Neighbors

At our regular meeting in April we learned some of the meanings behind the traditional colors of Easter and how they influence us. We maintain a good attendance at our virtual meetings and would always love to have visitors. Our Lecturer has asked us to collect any Christmas themed cups and mugs for a future project and we continue to collect canceled stamps for an ongoing community service project.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

Coventry Grange congratulates Sister Pat Maines for 50 years of Grange service. We will be holding a tag sale to relieve the pressure of space in the Grange hall.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Frank Forrest

May 13: Garden Market, 1 to 4 P.M.

The Hillstown Grange is holding an open air, plant sale and hanging flower basket market in the parking lot at the Grange Hall on Thursday, May 13th from 1 to 4 pm.. Plants will be from local farms and the baskets from Maple Crest Farm. On street parking only and masks must be worn along with social distancing. We will have helpers to carry items to your car. The hall will not be open at this event.

There will also be someone taking orders for New England Seed with pick-up on May 20th just before The Garden Talk/Zoom Meeting. Please Note; that again this year people are returning to backyard gardening in droves, so you will have to accept some substitution as many varieties, especially with beans and corn that have already sold out.

New this year will be a garden tag sale, all items will be garden related and the public is invited to bring items they no longer need to help us raise funds for upcoming community

outreach programs. Also if you have extra plants, please consider adding to our orphaned plant table at the tag sale, rest assured we will find them good homes.

There will be CT Certified Master Gardeners on hand for any questions you may have about plants and how to get your gardens started. Grange Gardeners will also be on hand to assist. There will also be a Master Composter on hand if you were thinking about trying composting this spring and have some questions. This is a good opportunity to safely visit with other gardeners but remember "social distancing". Ask about The Hillstown Grange Garden Talk/Zoom Meeting for new, intermediate and experienced gardeners and be sure to sign-up and get on the email list.

The Hillstown Grange is located at 617 Hills Street, East Hartford, CT. Located in the Hillstown corner of East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester since 1888. The Grange is the oldest Agricultural group in the United States.

For more information call Frank at 860-690-2845 or email: hillstowngrange@aol.com regarding the Fair as of yet... we will keep you posted.

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

May 14: Smile for No Reason

May 28: "Memorial Program"

Walking into a hall devoid of all regalia was a strange feeling on March 12. Our Steward, Jeff Barnes, never fails to have all in place for the meeting. The light dawned when we were directed by our Lecturer, Sue Pianka, to draw slips of paper from a container. Each slip contained the name of an office. We were told to find and put in place everything needed for that office. A scramble to the Regalia closet produced sashes, cloths, staves and all the rest of the equipment needed for our meeting, amidst much giggling and a reminder or two. It was lots of fun and a new way to learn about ritual.

At our March 26 meeting we draped our Charter in loving memory of Golden Sheaf member Roz Lewis who joined the Great Grange above in March. We were also treated to the Lecturer's State Contest entry and learned a great deal about the "Roaring Twenties." Looks like another winner! And if these strong winds don't blow all the birds away, next time we'll tell you all about awesome April.

Ekonk Little Free Library



Ekonk Community Grange's Little Free Library is now full and open.



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd Gelineau

June 5: (Saturday), Meeting- Location TBD

Mark your calendars for June 5 when Mountain Laurel Pomona is scheduled to hold its next meeting. Unfortunately we cannot tell you at this time whether it will be in-person or online. Pomona Master Peter Keefe is working with the Masters of the various Subordinate Granges in the Pomona to determine if there are enough members willing to participate in an in-person meeting in June. Watch your emails and the Granger for more information on this meeting when it becomes available.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

May 25: Meeting

Winchester Grange held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 27 with a good number of members attending the Zoom meeting chaired by Master Craig Leifert. We were pleased to accept the applications of three new members who are added to a group of new members accepted earlier this year. We are looking forward to being able to meet again in-person and confer the four degrees on these new members. With all that has happened during the last year it is heartening to see Winchester Grange continues to show new life and growth in the organization.

As reported in previous issues, the Strawberry Festival held on Father's

Day has been canceled for this year. After that the date for our annual Grange Fair and Flea Market will be coming up quickly. No decisions have been made regarding the Fair as of yet... we will keep you posted.

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

At our April 8th meeting we were happy to have State Assistant Steward Roy Harrington, Nutmeg Pomona Lady Assistant Steward Betty Jean Harrington and, State Overseer and also Mountain County Pomona Overseer Bob Buck join us and contribute greatly to our meeting. This is one of the advantages of meeting on Zoom.

We Draped the Charter for Paul Johnson who was a member for 73 years as he joined at 14. He was a past Master of Taghhannuck Grange 1953-1954.

May 13th is our regular scheduled meeting with the program being "Spring Activities". At this writing I am not sure if it will be in-person or on Zoom as we are now reaching out to all our members to see if they have been vaccinated and whether they would feel comfortable attending a meeting in our Grange Hall. So please look at our Facebook page or call me at 860-364-5373 if you would like to join us for updated information.

June 5th we will again be having our Plant Sale at the Grange Hall. People are already calling to see if we will have it this year. The vegetables and flowers are specially grown for us and are strong, healthy and ready for planting. We thank the donor for doing this each year as it is our only fund raiser. We are keeping the \$2.00 price along with the free advice on how to plant and tend the plants. As usual we will also have literature on the Grange available (with applications and pens at the ready) and be talking about what Taghhannuck Grange does in our continuing effort to get new members.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

Bethlehem Grange met in person at Memorial Hall on Sunday, April 11 at 2 P.M.

We received a grant from the Bethlehem American Legion along with the Jr. Women's Club. Eloise and this writer went to receive the award. Many thanks to them.

We will honor the Bethlehem Fire Co. and Ambulance Assoc. at our Citizen of the Year at a later date.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, May 16 at 2:00 P.M. at the hall. After that, the next meeting will be June 13.

Bethlehem receives Legion grant

American Legion Post 146 held a ceremony on March 6 on Main St. in Bethlehem to present grants to local organizations, the Bethlehem Junior Women's Club and Bethlehem Grange No. 121.

In his remarks Ray Butkus, Post 146 finance officer and event chairman, noted that the Junior Women's Club has distinguished itself in its efforts to beautify the town with its Adopt-A-Road program, resulting in 25 streets being adopted by local families and organizations. The Bethlehem Grange is the town's oldest civic organization, having been founded in 1892 and in continuous operation for 130 years.

Since the inception of the organization, recognition and support of community service has been central to the mission of the American Legion. "Supporting local organizations that promote citizenship and Patriotism is a key aspect of our organization", according to Butkus. The award checks were presented by the Post Commander Jamie Brandt and Post Sergeant-At-Arms Rodney Albert.



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

We had a Zoom meeting on March 21st. Good meeting complete with program and refreshment. Everyone enjoyed their own after the meeting. This meeting could have been great if the attendance was better and we had representatives from more of Nutmeg's Granges.

We were please to have in attendance State Master George Russell, Overseer Robert Buck, Family Activities Director Dawn Percoski and Irene Percoski, a member of the Agriculture Committee. We thank them for attending.

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 13 at Cheshire Grange at 2:00. Mark your calendar NOW.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

In the last Granger I said we were shooting for May 14th to resume in-house meetings. As I write this it is too early to tell you how good our aim was but we are thinking positive. It's been too long.

In the meantime, we are collecting used clothes for a clothing drive and items for a tag sale.

Members are reminded that dues are payable and should be sent to Secretary Cindy Legg. Don't wait for a bill.

HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: Richard A. Prescott

The April meeting of Higganum

Grange met in form with ten members and two guests in attendance. Our guests were Betty Jane and Roy Harrington who are visiting local Granges in preparation for writing a history of the the Grange in Connecticut.

Discussions included State legislation including a beneficial clean air bill which might raise the gas tax, and an increase to ten cents for a new bottle bill. For our gardeners the reminder was made that it was "Time to plant those peas" Our financial status is still very much on the plus side. Almost all dues have been collected. Required reports to State have been made. Community service time continues to be very good with six members reporting 89 community service hours. Lastly there was a brief reminder to continue to practice positive Covid preventative behavior, although all our members have received their vaccinations. We have received a survey form from the State Grange requesting information to determine whether or not we will require financial assistance for operating expenses

There was a very interesting discussion with the Harringtons regarding the history of our Grange with stories being shared and memories rekindled. We learned that our Ceres', Lindamae Peck's great, great, grandfather was Higganum Grange's first master, and she still has his gavel. This was a very enjoyable time to share stories with our guests.

The Grange Holding Company report ,which is received on a periodic basis, involved discussion of the town's reevaluation survey, building maintenance including roof repair, painting, gutter repair and improvements needed for water drainage issues. All matters are being addressed with professional advise and guidance

The meeting adjourned with best wishes to Brother Manning who is on the mend after successfully dealing

with a health issue. We looking forward to an early spring. The next scheduled meeting will be May 7th at 7:30PM in the Grange Hall. All welcomed!

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Jim & Lori Golias

May 1: Flea Market & Tag Sale

May 17: Monthly Meeting

May 22: Chicken Parm Dinner

June 21: Monthly Meeting

Aug. 28: Agricultural Fair

TBA: Drive-In Movie Nights

Hopefully all are well and hoping this COVID-19 is soon behind us.

2020 has been a trying year, and we are going to try to get "back on the road again." We planned a Good Friday Fish Fry on April 2 from 5 to 7, eat-in or take-out.

On May 1 we will host a Flea Market and Tag Sale from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. Vendor spaces available. Please call Steve to reserve. 203-367-4373 (Leave a message).

Spring Easter Flowers are for sale. Daffodils and tulips are available in a variety of pot sizes.

On May 22, Saturday, we will be holding a Chicken Parmesan Dinner at 6 P.M. Doors open at 5:30 P.M. \$20 per person with a water and soda bar. Socially distant seating. Please make reservations. Call Jim at 203.259.8023.

Our annual Grange Agricultural Fair will be held on Saturday, Aug. 28, 2021 from 10 to 3. Judging will be at 9:00 A.M. Bring your harvest: vegetables, plants, flowers, eggs, etc. Have them judged and possibly win a ribbon. Also bring crafts, collections, quilting, and photography. Baking contests. Please come out and support our annual event.

Thank you's- On April 10 Boy Scout Troop 90 and some parents came to clean up our grounds. We provided them with a lunch. Thank you!

A big thanks to Dave Purcell for snow plowing the driveway and path

...Continued on page 11

for our oil deliveries this winter. Thanks Dave!

Health and Welfare: Several of our members had surgeries, procedures and other illnesses, we with them all speedy recoveries and good health.

Have a friend or relative that might be interested in joining our Grange? Bring them to a meeting so they can check us out! We need members!

Be on the lookout—Drive in Movie Night will be returning as soon as the weather warms up. Last season was a great success and a lot of fun.

Dennis Rich, a Grange member for 37 years- since 1984- was awarded a certificate and enrolled in the permanent records of the Connecticut State Grange. Congratulations, Dennis!

The state committee and women's and family activity has chosen for the next two years "Meals on Wheels" in Connecticut as their special project. There's an organization called CRT, the Community Renewal Team which services veterans and seniors. One of the services they provide is "Meals on Wheels." Donations can be made to them directly if you do so desire. At our last meeting, I reported that our donation of mini jigsaw puzzles to the VA hospital in West Haven was much appreciated. Bill and I drove them up in late November. Books will follow once Covid is behind us. (please start to collect them) In speaking to the Director activities there, I was told that they could use snack items: cookies, crackers, chips, candy etc. They must be individually wrapped. They can also use crossword and search word puzzle books, playing cards and small items for their bingo games.

Since Fairfield's senior center provides meals on wheels, we felt we would like to work with the VA. There are many contests for 2020 to 2022.

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Karen Kanaga

May 11: June Pop-Up-Sale Planning

June 8: Fair Planning Meeting & EOO

July 13: Red, White & Blue - 4th of July Celebration

February, March and April we met in-person outdoors around the firepit and enjoyed delicious warm meals prepared by Member Ewa Ojarovska. Every month we collect non-perishable food items, toiletries and cleaning products for our neighbors in need through the Weston Food Pantry. In April during Weston School's Spring Break we hosted Weston Arts Acrylic Paint Workshops taught by Weston Artist Agata Tria. Pictured: Norfield Grange's Pod": (L to R - Back: Alyssa Marini, Members - Catharine Kimberly, Maria Attra, Nick Nosel, Christina Seeber and Front: President, Weston Arts - Patricia Perez-Goodrich with Member Lyn Kimberly). In June we'll host our annual one day Pop-Up Sale on the 5th (Raindate: 6th) featuring artisans selling handmade/homemade & new items plus vendors selling tag & estate sale items too. Proceeds from this sale and other events throughout the year go towards our Weston High School Scholarships. We award \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors for their future educational and professional endeavors. Each month going forward we'll be planning our Fair - Sunday, Sept. 12th in the afternoon including contests, food provided by Tony Pizza Napolitano Truck, vendors will sell handmade/homemade items, a raffle with many themed items/baskets and a "Mystery Raffle" with "wrapped" to conceal the contents aimed at kids, teens/families and adults. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm. All Are Welcome.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

June 3: Meeting

July 1: Meeting

Aug. 5: Meeting

Nothing new from Lyme Grange. We're keeping our fingers crossed that since everyone has had their shots we will be able to have a meeting in June.

Our Hamburg Fair has been canceled. With no meetings of the Fair Association by now our vendors and ride people would all have been signed up and contracts made.

At least the weather is improving and is more tolerable with each day. Until then- stay well.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Michele Clark

Cannon Grange members jumped into Spring with a long-overdue cleaning of our Grange Hall kitchen on April 10. Cabinets were reorganized, linens washed and unused items were donated to our local Good Will. A big thank you to John Kriz, Michelle McDonald, Dearta Fusaro, Michele Clark and Doug Shepherd for pitching in!

We are in the process of planning a June 6th Craft Fair on our grounds. As of mid April we have 10 vendors signed up with room for many more! Not only will we have some amazing vendors, but Grange member Bil Mikulewicz will give a guided Tai-Chi lesson. In addition there will be an unveiling of a new Little Library built by member Justin Fusaro.

Our Agricultural Fair committee has begun meeting and we all are looking forward to having our Agricultural Fair this year on August 29th.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

May 14: May Flowers

May 28: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

June 11: Memorial

June 25: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

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.

From Kay Ruff -- "Just picked up my mail before noon and I was looking thru the granger and began looking at "This Months" picture from years ago. I believe this is a picture from Norwich Grange #172. From left to right the 3rd gentleman is Richard Chapman, 4th gentleman Edward Babbitt, then all the way to the right, the last gentleman looks like the brother that always did skits with Nancy Weissmuller and I can't remember his name at the moment. But he belonged to North Stonington, so maybe it is a picture from New London County Pomona."

From Cheree Miner -- L to R- Richard Herrmann - Lisbon Grange; Louis Koniacko - Preston; Richard Chapman - Norwich; Eddie Babbitt - Norwich; Paul Pritchett - Norwich
Gene Speck - North Stonington; Next 3 unknown; Last is Gene Bromley North Stonington

From Sue Gray -- "Back row... Third from left Richard Chapman. Back row third from right Gene Speck. Front row right center Ed Babbitt. Far right front Gene Bromley. All strong Grangers who now reside in the Grange above. Not certain about any of the others."

From Richard Campbell, Past Master of Pachaug Grange -- "The man on the far right is Gene Bromley from North Stonington Grange."

From Sue Schmidt -- "The man in the front center position wearing the Sec sash is Edward Babbitt from Norwich Grange. Just behind him to the left (3rd from the left in back) is Richard Chapman (Kathy Tefft's brother) also from Norwich Grange. The man positioned 5th from the right, angled sideways, looks like Eugene Speck from North Stonington Grange - not absolutely sure on the last one. Others I cannot remember. I am guessing this picture is from 1965-1975 time period."



Ekonk Junior Grange No. 101

Rebecca Gervais, Leader

We had a busy March. We held our nut and candy sale and made a profit of \$1269.00. We appreciate everyone who supported us and to Grangers Verna Cole, Betsy Molodich, Katie Sweet, and Janet Hawkins who weighed and packaged everything!

At our homes, we made cards for the residents at Villa Maria, a local nursing home. 72 Easter and 'Happy Spring' cards were made and delivered.

We held pet food drives for local animal shelters at Agway in Plainfield and at Tractor Supply in Pawcatuck. We also had a tub at Putnam Farmers Co-Op. We collected an amazing amount of food, treats, and toys for the cats and dogs at the shelters. We also collected over \$800.00 in cash to donate to the shelters! People were extremely generous!! Brianna Gervais and Krista Kettle took leadership roles in these community service events; greatly supported by the rest of the families in our Junior Grange.

We took an almost-full moon hike on the 27th of March. The full moon was officially on a Sunday, and we need to be mindful of bedtimes, so we went a night early. 28 people joined in on the hike. It was a moderate hike, but we all had fun! And, as we were outside, maintaining a safe distance was not an issue.

We look forward to warmer weather and more outside activities.



Ekonk Junior Grange held Pet Food Drives at the local Tractor Supply and Agway stores. A tremendous amount of food and supplies was collected and \$380 in cash donations were doanted to Kitty Harbor and the rest was donated to All Paws on Deck, a shelter for pregnant dogs.



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange friends!

I celebrated my 8th Birthday on April 15th. Time sure flies. I can't wait to see all my Grange friends - it will be coming

soon as things start to open up and Granges begin to meet in person and hold events and activities again. We had a nice family Easter - and I even received an awesome Easter basket. Holidays are so much fun.

Please visit my Facebook page, and then click the "Like" button to follow all of my adventures. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro> - and don't forget to let George know when your Grange is meeting - in person or on Zoom - and we might just stop by and see you!



CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

Virtual
Social Hour

*"Where Everlasting Spring Abides,
and Never Fading Flowers"*

Thursday, May 20th • 7:00 PM

Join us for a fun and casual
social gathering. Stop by and say Hello!

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

BAGS WITH PAT

LEARN HOW TO MAKE REUSABLE BAGS FROM SEED AND ANIMAL FOOD BAGS TO SELL AT OUR FUTURE EVENTS!
BRING SEWING MACHINE IF YOU HAVE ONE

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021

4:00 PM, DINNER TO FOLLOW

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Simsbury & Green Monster Grange E-Cycling

Monster-Size Recycling Event

Saturday, May 8 • 9 AM - 12 Noon

Old Well Tavern Parking Lot
20 Tariffville Rd, Simsbury, CT 06070

We encourage early arrival as there is limited space on the truck.

ACCEPTING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Televisions
- Computer Monitors/Screens
- Toner and Ink-jet Cartridges
- Modems/Routers, Switches or Hubs
- Main-frames and Server Racks
- DVD and CD Players
- ALL Storage Media
- Computers and Laptops
- Printers and Fax Machines
- Telephones or PBX systems
- All Types of Cables and Wiring
- Stereos and Radios
- iPods, Walkmans and P.D.A.s
- and more

More information on the items accepted can be found on Green Monster E-Cycling at <http://www.GreenMonsterE-cycling.com> or contact them at 860-231-1426

Information on Simsbury Grange can be found at <http://www.SimsburyGrange.org> or <http://www.Facebook.com/SimsburyGrange>

NOT accepting ANY of the following:

- Air-Conditioners
- Washers/Dryers
- Refrigerators
- De-humidifiers
- Water-coolers
- Light-bulbs
- Vacuums
- Microwaves
- Household batteries

A \$10.00 donation is suggested.

Bridgewater Lunch to Go

In April, Bridgewater Grange held a Lunch to Go event at their meeting place (St. Mark's Church).

CT State Grange History Book Project: We Need Your Help!

There are a number of people who have been important to the Grange in Connecticut over the years, and we would like to spotlight them with a couple of paragraphs about their life and their Grange experiences in the Connecticut History Book Project. But we are having a hard time finding folks who can write these spotlights for us. Following is a list of people we need help with:

Edward & Irene Babbitt
Mary Leah Benson
Sally Bernier
Marian & George Bradley
Lewis & Muriel Brundrett
Tom & Edna Clabby
Elwood & Shirley Davy
Peter & Catherine Doffek
Horton & Dorothy Duff

Nancy Ebbs
Louis & Pearl Godin
Ina Goldspink
John Goodale
Richard & Celia Jones
Ed & Lorraine Hooghkirk
Dorothy Kasperait
Walter & Mary Krawiec
Carrie Meyer

Mildred Monahan
Alice Morgan
Agnes Moquin
Gene & Margaret Nierowicz
Evelyn & Charles Normand
James & Beverly O'Gara
Sarah Peyre
Gertrude Platt
Fred & Marian Plumb

Martha & Fred Richards
Charles Risley
David Seelye
Guy & Olga Shaw
Vivian & Lyall Shaw
Melvin & Janet Stoddard
Ellsworth Weeks
Ard Welton
Albert Woodworth

If you can help us, or know someone who can lend a hand, please send a note to Terri at information@ctstategrange.org or Roy at aststeward@ctstategrange.org. Thank you!!

Shaved Cucumber Salad with Pickled Blackberries



With May being the unofficial start to picnics, potlucks, barbecue and grilling season, especially now that things are beginning to open up, this light and refreshing side dish from Southern Living is something that's a little different to share.

By the Numbers: Active Prep. Time: 25 mins; Chill: 2 days; Total: 2 days; Yield: Serves 6

Pickled Blackberries and Blackberry Vinegar

1 cup granulated sugar
1 cup Champagne vinegar
1 cup water
3 tarragon sprigs
1 tablespoon black peppercorns
2 cups fresh blackberries

Shaved Cucumber Salad

2 large English cucumbers
1 small Vidalia or other sweet onion
2 tablespoons torn fresh mint leaves
Pickled Blackberries
1/4 cup high-quality extra-virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons Blackberry Vinegar
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
1/8 teaspoon black pepper

INSTRUCTIONS:

Step 1: Prepare the Pickled Blackberries and Blackberry Vinegar: Combine sugar, Champagne vinegar, water, tarragon sprigs, and peppercorns in a medium saucepan; bring to a boil over medium-high, stirring occasionally to dissolve sugar. Remove from heat, and let stand 15 minutes. Place blackberries in a large bowl. Pour vinegar mixture through a fine wire-mesh strainer over blackberries; discard tarragon and peppercorns. Cover blackberry mixture, and cool completely, about 30 minutes. Refrigerate blackberry mixture at least 2 days and up to 1 week. Transfer Pickled Blackberries to a separate container. Reserve Blackberry Vinegar.

Step 2: Prepare the Shaved Cucumber Salad: Thinly slice cucumbers and onion using a mandoline. Place cucumber and onion slices, mint, and Pickled Blackberries in a medium bowl. Whisk together oil, Blackberry Vinegar, salt, and pepper; pour over cucumber mixture, and toss gently.

Note: Reserve remaining Blackberry Vinegar for another use. Refrigerate in an airtight container up to 1 month.

SOURCE: <https://www.southernliving.com/recipes/shaved-cucumber-salad-pickled-blackberries-recipe>

PHOTO CREDIT: Helen Norman; Prop Styling: Buffy Hargett Miller; Food Styling: Marian Cooper Cairns

God is Everywhere



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

“Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God afar off? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord” (Jer. 23:23–24).

It is very difficult for us mere humans to have an adequate concept of God. In fact, I suspect most of us fail in trying to visualize the Almighty. The two most common problems or misconceptions, are to make God too small or to place him too far off. As we read in the quote from Jeremiah, God fills heaven and earth. In other words, God is everywhere, without exception. He not only surrounds us, but he is also within us. St. Paul says: “For in him we live and move and have our being”. How can we tell that God dwells within us? John tells us that “We know that we live in him and he in us because he has given us his holy spirit.”

Many visualize God as an old man with a white beard, sitting on a throne, high in the heavens, who, when he wants to communicate with human beings, can only do so by sending messengers to us. And we in turn must strive mightily to communicate with him, pleading with him to come down to earth

to see our problems and deal with them. And yet Moses tells us that the word of God is very near us, it is in our mouth and in our heart. The concept of God being aloof and far off is a pagan belief, inherited from those early religions that surrounded Israel and later the early Christians. But when we come to realize the vastness of God and that there is nowhere in the universe that is apart from God, then this pagan concept should fade from our thoughts.

Why then does God sometimes feel far off? Is it not because we are only human, with human feelings, and that sometimes these feelings can deceive us? In both the Old and New Testaments we are assured to be of good courage, and fear not, “for the Lord God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:19).



In Memoriam

Barry Beecher
Winchester #74

Joan Campi, G.S.
Winchester #74

Dorothy Mrowka
Colchester #78

Rosalinda Lewis, G.S.
N. Stonington Comm. #138

Robert Hall, G.S.
Hemlock #182

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”

The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing. (Zephaniah 3:17)

Riverton Recognition

Riverton Grange No. 169 honored Danamarie Towers and Adam Towers for their tremendous support to the military, the local community and to area non-profits during this pandemic. Both are so unassuming and modest, yet have become key members of our community in such a short time. They truly went above and beyond the call of duty over the past year and are great examples of “Front-Line Heroes”. Congratulations!