



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

November 2023

From the Master's Desk



Robert Buck
State President

Bethlehem Grange No. 121
president@ctstategrange.org

As I write this, I reflect back on the Big E and our presence in the New England Grange Building (NEGB). I was able to contribute five days. Thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who put in time working in the building. Special thanks go to Noel Miller, Ted Powell, and Dawn Percoski. The former two for constructing a platform for the National Grange sponsored (in conjunction with USAgings and American Society of Consulting Pharmacists) vaccination tent wherein over the course of the 17 day event, 3337 vaccinations were administered and included those for COVID, RSV, and influenza. Yours truly received the COVID and flu vaccines. While Noel is the building manager, Dawn is the Grange sales manager and thanks to her for overseeing the sales department and keeping order there. Thanks also go to anyone else who came and worked sales, the quilt raffle table (a beautiful quilt from Maine was up for raffle to benefit the House in the Woods, a veterans camp, and Maine Children's Home), or the Connecticut room. Judging by the amount of crafts for sale in the

NEGB, I know our Grangers have been busy producing quality items for sale. People come back year after year to the Big E for these products and our jams and jellies.

While the push for rural broadband (internet) service by the Grange continues rightfully so due to the importance of access to rural areas, the NEGB had issues with the ACP program as supported by National Grange. The representatives including National Master Betsy Huber came to the Big E and we had a table of promotional items in the NEGB. However, the ideas for promotion of the program as seen by the ACP promoting National Grange partner, the Oregon Institute for a Better Way and Big E management diverged.

The ACP promoters left the event early. There also seemed to be a rather complicated application process and confusion over the distinction between who would qualify for free internet versus reduced price service. This could be a great community service project. A few things need clarification though. There will be a table for ACP at National Convention.

While writing, I am reflecting on leading my first State Grange Session, the 139th. I understand we have candidates for the sixth degree. Twenty four resolutions on a variety of interesting topics have been submitted. Hopefully we will have (have had when you read this) good attendance.

After State Session, I will be heading off to National Grange Convention in Niagara Falls. As it
...Continued on page 2



National Grange Vice President Chris Hamp presents a thought-provoking workshop entitled "Achieving Balance - Balancing Change" on Friday afternoon of State Session.



Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange



NEXT ISSUE . . . Articles Due Nov. 15

From the Master's Desk

Continued from page one...

is some 325 miles from Southbury, I am hoping for good weather. Your Vice President Ted Powell will be the second delegate for our State Grange. While Maggie cannot serve as a delegate due to farm obligations, hopefully she will join me at National for part of the convention. These are always exciting with the assigned committee work on resolutions. I will be on the

Grange Law Committee with Phil Prelli, and Ted will serve on Labor, Judiciary, and Transportation. Maureen Prelli will be on Grange Growth. There is always much to see and do at a National Convention. Each state in the Northeast Region will be donating a basket of its state's products to be raffled off to help offset the cost of the Region for hosting National. It is always great to catch up with Granger friends from other states. Next year, we are off to Iowa.

By now, Grange fairs are over and I have heard some great things about their successes. These are always good for promoting Grange and its activities in their respective communities.

As I travel, I hear of Granges putting on a variety of events for their fundraising and promotion in their communities. Please consider tuning into National Grange Membership Director Amanda Brozana-Rios monthly Membership Matters program or Communications director Phil Vonada's program, all on Zoom. They can be accessed from the National Grange website and are excellent for obtaining ideas and sharing your own. Take advantage of these benefits from National.

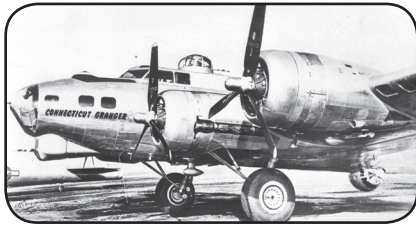
We all know of the plethora of Grange items for sale on eBay. A few months ago, there was a set of officer's staves for sale for over

\$3000 asking price. Recently, I bought the 1924 charter for Hookset Grange #329 in New Hampshire (at about \$125, much less than those staves). It caught my eye because as a kid, we used to vacation in Epsom, NH, not far from Hookset and always visited the Indian Cliff Gift Shop (which I loved) in Hookset. At National, I will be returning that charter to Tricia Taylor, the NH State Grange President.

As we go toward colder weather and winter, it makes me think of the 4th degree and the season to come. I don't know about you, but I've got yard and garden work to do before winter and the snow that may fly. I'll get to that after all these Grange conventions. As I write, I am planning to attend my Grange Law Committee meeting for National tonight. It should be interesting.

the Connecticut Granger

Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

STAFF

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

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the
15th Day of each month
and should be sent to:
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P.O. Box 3

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

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Celebration Banquet attendees.

Thank you to all of the members and Granges who donated generously to the Foundation Raffle held at State Session which raised \$361.00 for the Grange Improvement Grant Fund. Special thanks to Alma Graham for the first prize handmade quilt. A matching grant was offered by President Susan Masino. As of the third day of Session, a total of \$2,736.00 (including the raffle) was raised for the Foundation.

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE FOUNDATION



Result of Action on Resolutions at State Session

- 1) Maintaining Options for Consumer Use of Computer-Based Technology **Adopted**
- 2) CT State Grange Alcohol Policy **Adopted**
- 3) Recognition of Terri Fassio **Adopted**
- 4) Golden Sheaf Dues Reform.Rejected
- 5) Protecting Parental RightsRejected
- 6) Protecting Title IX.Rejected
- 7) Connecticut's Trash Problem **Adopted**
- 8) Legislative Policy Book **Adopted**
- 9) Congress Banned from Insider Trading. . .Rejected
- 10) Supreme Court Ethics RulesRejected
- 11) Student Loan Correction **Adopted**
- 12) Artificial Intelligence **Adopted**
- 13) Elimination of CT Gross Receipts Tax. . . **Adopted**
- 14) Use of Federal Funding to Install Gantries for Future Electronic Equipment on I-95 and I-84.Rejected
- 15) Increase the Number of Bottle Redemption CentersRejected
- 16) Healthcare Security **Adopted**
- 17) Email Delivery of Connecticut Granger. . **Adopted**
- 18) Creation of Recycling Education Incentive to Connecticut Towns. . . . **Adopted**
- 19) Age Limits in GovernmentRejected
- 20) Paper Recycling **Adopted**
- 21) Pomona Obligation Ceremony Rejected
- 22) Limitation on Subordinate Grange Memberships Rejected
- 23) Assembly of Demeter Titles **Adopted**
- 24) Electronic State Grange Quarterly Reports & Electronic Payments **Adopted**
- 25) Food Distributor Fees. Rejected
- 26) Master's Address **Adopted**
- 27) Increase the Number of Bottle Redemption Centers. Rejected for #28
- 28) Increase the Number of Bottle Redemption Centers **Adopted**
- 29) Rising College Costs Correction. Resolution sent to the State Grange Legislative and Education Committees along with the Board of Directors for a report back at the 140th Annual Session. (Becomes Res. #1 for 2024)
- 30) Presidential Award Program **Adopted**

RESOLUTIONS SENT TO NATIONAL GRANGE

Resolutions 1, 11, 12, 16 and 23 were forwarded to the National Grange for consideration at the National Session later this month.

The following are the adopted resolutions that were not printed previously in the Connecticut Granger.

26) RE: MASTER'S ADDRESS

WHEREAS Connecticut State Grange Master, Robert Buck gave his Master's Address to the members at the 139th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange, and

WHEREAS the Worthy Master touched upon many important and notable items within his report, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Master Robert Buck be thanked and commended on his first year as State Master, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Subordinate and Pomona Masters, all Committee Chairs, and all members take note of each of their respected areas and develop new ways to improve the Grange.

28) RE: INCREASE THE NUMBER OF BOTTLE REDEMPTION CENTERS

WHEREAS the State of Connecticut wants people to return bottles and cans for refunds, and

WHEREAS many organizations, clubs, youth groups, civic groups, and fire departments sponsor bottle and can drives to raise money to donate back to the community, and

WHEREAS many homeless and lower income families collect bottles and cans to earn as income, and

WHEREAS many return centers at local markets do not take all bottles and cans, and a number of redemption centers have closed due to the decline of recycling exports in this country.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange urge our Legislators to develop a plan to increase the number of bottle and can redemption centers in Connecticut to aid in the recycling of bottles and cans to help keep our state clean, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that further investigation go into all inscription codes so that all deposit bottle and cans will be accepted by the redemption centers.

30) RE: PRESIDENTIAL AWARD PROGRAM

WHEREAS there are many members who have put their personal and professional lives on hold for the good of Connecticut State Grange and are deserving of recognition, and

WHEREAS A program should be developed within the Connecticut State Grange to recognize at least one member each year, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the President of the Connecticut State Grange along with the Executive Committee develop the Presidential Award Program where the winner is to receive a plaque and some sort of monetary award to be set by the committee and to be awarded annually at the Connecticut State Grange Banquet.

Congratulations to all!



Dave Roberts
State Lecturer
Riverton Grange No. 169
Lecturer@CTStateGrange.org

It is exciting to see so many wonderful activities happening around our Grange world. Many of you reading this column joined with other fellow Grangers and had fun volunteering at the Big E and had the opportunity to meet Grangers from other New England States and from as far away as Alaska. If you haven't volunteered at the Big E, watch for an invitation next year and volunteer for one or more days to support Grange and have a fun time to boot.

By the time you read this column, the Connecticut State Grange Lecturer's Department will have completed its 2023 grant from the National Grange Foundation to promote a deaf awareness event here in Connecticut. Our planning committee worked hard over the course of many months with the American School for the Deaf and we think our preparation paid off for two outstanding events to promote deaf awareness. On Monday, October 30, Grange members participated in a Trunk or Treat event at the American School for the Deaf front parking lot horseshoe. On Tuesday, October 31, Grange members hosted a Costume Parade and Library Maze for the students and teachers inside the American School for the Deaf. Grange themes and images were worked into this fun event to help these students in Pre-K through Grade 5 celebrate Halloween and learn about the importance of agriculture to our daily lives. The Grange hosted a table of goodies (comic books, stickers, etc.) to hand out to the students in the maze. Thank you to all who volunteered!

I hope many of you participated in our seventh quarterly Connecticut

State Grange Lecturers Roundup held via Zoom on Sunday, September 17, from 7:00 – 8:00 PM. If you would like a recording of this event, please email me at Granbydavidroberts@gmail.com or call me at 860-469-5067 for the Zoom recording information. Our next Lecturers Roundup will be held on Sunday, November 19, at 7:00 PM, and our Special Guest will be Amanda Brozana-Rios, National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director. I will get the Zoom information out to all or you can contact me directly.

We finished up one Grange Year (2022-2023) and started a new Grange Year (2023-2024) on October 1st, so that means that it is time to recognize Grange Lecturers who earned awards for serving their Grange and their community. Awards were distributed at State Convention during the Celebration Banquet on Friday, October 20th, at 7:00 PM. For the 2022-2023 Grange Year, ELEVEN Granges qualified for the Lecturer's Appreciation Award (up from seven in 2021-2022) and TWO Granges qualified for the Honor Lecturer's Award (down from six in 2021-2022). Here are the worthy 2022-2023 recipients:

LECTURER'S APPRECIATION AWARD

- Cheshire #23 (Emily Alexander/Barbara Kulisch/Jane Miller);
- Greenfield Hill #133 (Lori Golias);
- Hemlock #182 (Nancy Swanson);
- North Stonington #138 (Sue Pianka);
- Riverton #169 (Raine Pedersen);
- Stonington #168 (Lila Cleveland);
- Taghannuck #100 (Kathy Hayden);
- Vernon #52 (Cherie

Robinson); Eastern CT Pomona #14 (Cherie Robinson); Mountain Laurel Pomona #15 (Debbie Vail); Nutmeg Pomona #16 (Robert Charbonneau)

HONOR LECTURER AWARD

Riverton #169 (Raine Pedersen); Eastern CT Pomona #14 (Cherie Robinson)

Congratulations to all Granges and Grange Lecturers/Program Directors! Well done.

Finally, I am pleased to report that we are within dollars of raising the \$2,000 needed for the bronze plaque for the State Grange Plot in Peoples State Forest. I am working with staff from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to finalize details on plaque placement on a boulder on The Grange Plot. All donors will be recognized at the dedication ceremony and we are so excited to finally preserve this important piece of Grange history from 1930. Watch for information on an upcoming dedication ceremony.

Please let me know if you need any help for your Grange or a speaker, as I enjoy visiting other Granges as your State Grange Lecturer.

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE
LECTURERS'
ROUND UP

★ ★ ★
zoom
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023
• 7:00 PM •

Let's gather VIRTUALLY on ZOOM to discuss the latest news and details from the Lecturers' Department.

For More Information and ZOOM Credentials:
CT State Grange Lecturer/Program Director Dave Roberts
lecturer@ctstategrange.org / granbydavidroberts@gmail.com
860-469-5067

Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM



Terri Fassio, Public Rel. Co-Director
As it is the start of the new Grange year, now is the perfect time to do a little housekeeping.

• In 2023, the Public Relations Committee offered 1 contest - Celebrate a Holiday! This contest contained three categories:

1. Grange Holiday Events
2. Grange Holiday Programs
3. Other Grange Holiday Celebration

Sadly, we had no entries in our contest. This contest will continue for 2024. As all Granges present programs, many of which are holiday based, we hope that Granges will participate in our contest next year.

• The Virtual Social Hours will continue in 2024! The next one will be in December (date to be announced). Keep an eye out as the new schedule will be published in the December CT Granger issue.

• Need help promoting your upcoming Grange events and activities? Contact the Public Relations Committee for assistance (just be sure to not wait until the last minute - the more time we have, the better we can facilitate the promotions).

• Does your Grange have a Facebook Page? When is the last time you posted an update? We know that some Granges have not posted an update in months, and in some cases, even years. It only takes a moment to say hello and announce when your next meeting or event will be. Need

help navigating the new Facebook administration tools? We can help!

• Thinking of setting up a Facebook Page for your Grange? Please contact the Public Relations Committee for assistance before you dive in - to make sure that you follow the guidelines of Facebook and the CT State Grange Social Media policy. We prefer to setup the page for your Grange, and then turn it over to your Grange to manage, to ensure that your page will get the most likes and views.

• Is your Grange interested in expanding its Social Media offerings beyond Facebook? Platforms like Instagram, Twitter (X), TikTok, Snapchat, Pinterest and more can be beneficial tools for promoting Granges. Contact us for all the details.

• Looking for signage for your Grange? Give Public Relations a call! We can work with you to help fulfill your signage needs. We can produce everything from lawn signs to banners of all sizes, to die-bond and metal signs, and much more.

• Looking for custom T-Shirts for your Grange? This is a great fundraiser! Contact CT State Grange Secretary Todd Gelineau or Public Relations Co-Director Terri Fassio for all the details. Small quantities available. Shirts come in a range of sizes and colors. We will work with you to create a custom design just for your Grange.

Drop us a line. We're here to help! E-mail: publicrelations@ctstategrange.org or information@ctstategrange.org.

Congratulations to the Graduates!

Congratulations to the graduates of the first Connecticut State Grange Leadership Academy. Held twice a month on Zoom from May through September, the Academy provided instruction and discussion on a wide range of topics related to Leadership Development in the Grange. All participants received a certificate and a folio during the Celebration Banquet at the 139th Annual Session on Friday, Oct. 20 in Norwich. The curriculum and program was organized and presented by Jody Cameron & Todd Gelineau. Stay tuned for info on how you can become a part of Leadership Academy 2.0.



Our Graduates:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Dorothy Aiksnoras-Vallee | Marcia Miller |
| Betty Blackwell | Noel Miller |
| Robert Buck | Karen Mowad |
| Jaimie Cameron | Ted Powell |
| Terri Fassio | Phil Prelli |
| Timothy Fengler | Carol Ritter |
| Alma Graham | George Russell |
| Robin Hettrick | Dave Roberts |
| Bill Knight | Linda Sanderson |
| Anne Marie Knochenhauer | Nancy Strong |
| Don Lanoue | Stephanie Thompson |
| Karen Macdonald | Debbie Vail |
| Aili McKeen | |

People's Update



Judy Doyle (member of Riverton Grange), Jim Warner (CT Dept. of Energy & Envir. Protection/DEEP) and State Lecturer Dave Roberts scouted the recently re-discovered Connecticut State Grange Plot at People's State Forest for a boulder. This boulder will be moved and have a plaque highlighting the history of this 1930 donation to the people of Connecticut.

157th National Grange Convention Livestream Schedule

All times are Eastern Time Zone

<p><u>Tuesday, November 14</u></p> <p>12:30 pm – Advocacy Luncheon Speakers: Mayor Robert Restaino of Niagara Falls, New York; NY State Assemblyman Brian Manktelow</p> <p>2:40 pm – “State of the Grange” Address by President Betsy E. Huber</p>	<p><u>Thursday, November 16</u></p> <p>9:30 am - Communication Workshop presented by the US Patent & Trademark Office</p> <p>10:20 am - Membership Workshop presented by the SHIPmates</p> <p>11:10 am - Revitalizing the Grange in your community</p> <p>2:00 pm - Rural Minds, NY FarmNet, & Travis Carlson - mental health in rural America</p>
<p><u>Wednesday, November 15</u></p> <p>12:45 pm - Salute to Agriculture Luncheon Speakers: The Lamb Family, Lamb Farms; Richard Ball, NY Commissioner of Agriculture</p> <p>4:00 pm - Communication Fellows Workshop</p> <p>7:30 pm - Grange Hall of Fame presentation</p>	<p><u>Friday, November 17</u></p> <p>8:30 am - Opening of the Business Session by National Grange Youth Team</p> <p>3:00 pm - Installation of Officers</p> <p>7:30 pm - National Grange Honors Night</p>
<p><u>Saturday, November 18</u></p> <p>9:00 am - Youth Workshop - “Leadership Dialogue” presented by Dr. Daniel Pinti, Niagara University</p> <p>11:00 am - Lecturer Workshop with Ann Bercher, National Grange Lecturer</p> <p>8:00 pm - Evening of Excellence</p>	

Tune in on:

@nationalgrange

#ng157

**Mountain Laurel Pomona
Holiday Meeting & Catered Lunch**

Saturday, December 2nd • 12:30 PM
 Please RSVP by November 24th
secretary@ctstategrange.org

**Winchester Grange Hall
100 Newfield Road
Winchester Center, CT 06094**

YOU'RE INVITED TO

Paint & Pizza

At Norfield Grange November 8th
 7 PM TO 9 PM \$35 per person
 12 Good Hill Rd. Weston CT
 Pre-register with Venmo @LynKimberly

Guided instruction by Agata Tria

Garlic Green Beans



Olive oil, garlic, and salt are some of the best flavor enhancers for vegetables, and this trifecta stuns again with this garlic green beans recipe. Using only one pot, this simple vegetable side dish is made even easier if you grab a bag of pre-trimmed green beans from the grocery store. For busy holiday prep, blanch and chill the green beans a day in advance. When you're ready to serve, cook the garlic and stir in the green beans. It might take an extra minute or two for the green beans to heat through,

but you'll have an easy Thanksgiving side dish for your menu in no time!

Green beans are full of vitamins and minerals and can certainly be very good for you! For this recipe, the green beans are simply blanched in boiling, salted water—adding no additional fat or calories. If a low fat or low calorie recipe is a priority, this recipe will work just as well if you cut the olive oil and butter in half. Use 1 tablespoon of each, for a healthier (yet still very flavorful) version.

Ingredients:

- 1-1/2 lb. fresh green beans
- Kosher salt, to taste
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 tbsp. salted butter
- Ground black pepper to taste

Directions:

- 1) Trim the stem end from the



green beans.

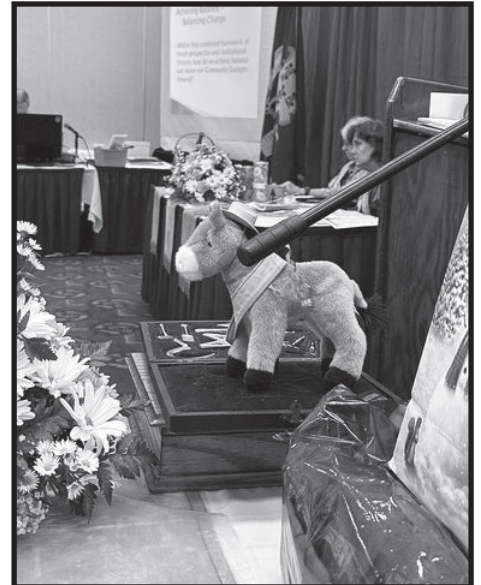
2) Heat a large pot of water over high heat until boiling. Season generously with salt. Add the green beans and cook for 3 to 5 minutes, until tender, yet still crisp. Drain and rinse under cold water to cool.

3) Return the pot to medium heat. Add the olive oil and garlic. Cook for 1 minute, until fragrant. Add the beans to the pot and stir gently to combine. Add the butter to melt and salt and pepper to taste. Serve immediately.

- From the Pioneer Woman



Hank waiting for the Saturday opening of the CT State Grange session in the 6th Degree in preparation for the 6th Degree.



This was my first State Session with Rob as State President. Yippee! Unfortunately, Maggie couldn't come. We had a great time with Chris and Duane Hamp From Washington. Chris is National Grange VP. Duane is a PSM of WSG. Chris did a great workshop on Grange values and change.



EASTERN CT POMONA #14

Corr: Carol B. Hnath

At our September meeting our officers were installed for the next two years. Jaimie Cameron is our new president. During our planning meeting in July several ideas were shared for projects during the coming year as well as the possibility of setting up a visitation schedule from the officers to our Subordinate Granges. These items are all in the planning stages and will be discussed more at our upcoming meetings. The new Pomona Handbook was distributed, and additional copies are available from the Pomona Secretary, if needed.

Our next meeting is our Christmas Party in December. We are planning on holding a dinner prior to the regular meeting at Ekonk Grange Hall on Dec. 2. More details will be made available soon.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kay Ruff

Nov. 2: Giving Thanks 7:30 p.m.
 Ref: Kay Ruff & Marycharles Howe
Dec. 7: Holiday Party 6:00 p.m. short business meeting 6:30 Christmas Buffet

On October 21st Glastonbury Grange will hold a Craft and Knick Knack Sale at a Townwide Tag Sale. The event will be held behind the Academy Building on Main Street. We are all praying for a sunny day.

October 5th we had a very informative meeting with Robin Hettrick. We will be hold a Committee Meeting Oct. 17th to review our

meeting with Robin and come up with a working plan for securing some new member. Hopefully taking part in the Townwide Tag Sale is a start in putting our name before the public.

When you are reading this Thanksgiving will be less than a month away. Glastonbury Grange wishes all a Happy and Pleasant Thanksgiving.

SENEXT GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Nov. 22: Working on winter programs
Nov. 21 & 22: Thanksgiving Pie Sales

We continue to work on the events that will be programs for the winter season. The regular meetings are held. Other groups are now using the hall for home schooling, yoga classes, line dancing and corn hole sessions for the community. A Cosmic Cat session will be held here right after Halloween. Since we have really nice stage a drama class will be held for a week in October.

The local Conservation Commission will be providing us with a pollinator garden on our property. We will continue to update our interior to make it more convenient for all. The Windham County Farm Bureau will be holding their annual meeting and dinner at our hall on Wednesday Oct. 25 and we will meet the day before to have our meeting and prepare for the dinner of beef and chicken with other local produce. We are grateful for the local farms who generously donate products we will be preparing for the dinner.

Members are encouraged to suggest programs that we could look into to promote for the winter season. Hope to see our members and guests at future meetings and events.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Irene Percoski

Nov. 3: Bread, The Food of Life; Ref. Cherie. Members bring 3 non-perishable food items please
Dec. 1: Peace; Ref. Irene

Jan. 5 or 12: Short program on Zoom
 Four members attended the meeting at Coventry Grange and

we captured Pattie the Platypus. Our Lecturer Cherie presented the program on Witches. Coventry will present their program for us when they visit in May. All the items for the ditty bags have been collected and will be assembled at our meeting in November. These will be given to the Vernon police Dept. to distribute to those in need. Items included personal toiletries, socks, toothpaste and brushes and some miscellaneous items. For Community Service, Vernon Grange has committed to the Promotion of the National Grange in the distribution of materials for the Affordable Connectivity program. Not all members were enthusiastic and much discussion was held. But we will forge ahead. We also will be writing 50 cards for veterans and have discussed Word for Thirds and 110 small ornaments for the local nursing homes. In November we have grocery Bingo. Each member will bring 3 items, 2 of which will go to the local food bank and the 3rd item will be used as a bingo prize. This is usually a fun meeting and we encourage all to try to come in person.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Jaimie Cameron

Nov. 18: Turkey Supper
Dec: Holiday Bazaar

It is with deep sadness to report that Alton Exley, a 74 year member,
Continued next page...



Irene Percoski visits Coventry Grange for their Halloween Neighbor's Night in October.

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.

husband to Marie Exley and grandfather to Shelley Cameron, CT State Grange Membership Director passed in July.

It has been a busy few months for Ekonk Community Grange. We have held our dinners in the summer months feeding 150+ at each dinner. We had a rather successful Grange Fair this year as we celebrated our 40th Fair. Lots of vendors, local fire departments, and a whole lot of fun. We had our food booth at Brooklyn Fair in August feeding hungry fairgoers hot dogs, chili dogs, coney dogs, crab salad rolls, homemade corn chowder, and some of the best local corn on the cob around! September we were asked to provide a very hearty breakfast and a delicious lunch at Celebrating Agriculture held at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds. October is our wind down and finish the last preparations for our final events of the year before we hibernate for the winter. November is our Turkey supper to get you ready for Thanksgiving and December is our Holiday Bazaar. Watch our Facebook for all event and meeting info. Come and see us on the hill anytime!

NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

Nov. 10: Plymouth - Expansion and the Pequot War

Nov. 24: No meeting - Happy Thanksgiving

Our first meeting in September had to be cancelled due to that nasty Covid guy visiting some of our members. Sue's program at our September 22 meeting taught us a great deal about early exploration; and a pop quiz taught some of us that we should have paid better attention in American History 101.

On November 10 we will be learning more about Plymouth and the Pequot war. The Pequots lived in our area and the Mashantuckets have a wonderful museum depicting their early life. It is well worth a visit.

We send get well and thinking of you wishes to our members who are "under the weather". We miss you. And if my column doesn't "vanish" again, which it has a deplorable tendency to do, next time we will tell you all about outstanding October.

Family Activities Zoom Meeting



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

Well, so much for Summer, another season gone. Now that State Session is over and we begin our new year, I'll be announcing our next Family Activities Chairman Zoom meeting soon. Look for an email from me, if you don't receive one you can email me at dawnrose1432@gmail.com. Please remove any of my old email (dawn.percoski@gmail.com) as I have deleted it due to spam and hacking issues. You can always send the request to familyactivities@ct-stategrange.org and I respond to that email as well.

We had our annual basket raffle at State Session, since I am writing this before then, I will have to announce the winners in the next article. On behalf of the Family Activities Committee, we wish all of you a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Meet the Candidates

Senexet Grange (Brooklyn) held a Meet the Candidates Coffee Hour on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 8-10 A.M. at the Grange Hall. Both parties were invited to attend and talk with Grangers and the public about the upcoming election. Coffee and refreshments were provided free by the Grange.





MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Dec. 2: Meeting & Catered Lunch, Winchester Grange Hall, 12:30 PM, Meeting at 2:00.

While there's a few weeks... we haven't heard from many people about reserving their space for lunch at the catered meal prior to the Mountain Laurel Christmas Meeting on December 2. Please contact Todd at Secretary@CTStateGrange.org or by phone at 860-307-1522 to let him how many to expect. We want to be sure to have enough food on hand and certainly don't want to waste food and money by over-ordering.

GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: Dave Roberts

On October 8th, Peter Keefe and his Winchester Grange Installation Team visited Granby Grange to install the newly elected 2023-2024 Officers. One highlight of the installation was using the original gavel of the late Granby Grange #5 member Harvey Goddard, who served as the first Connecticut State Grange President from 1875-1878. Philip Marshall was installed as Master, Ron Cowdrey was installed as Overseer, Kara Marshall was installed as Secretary, and Carol Innes was installed as Secretary. Following the meeting, a brief business program was conducted by Master Philip Marshall followed by a reception. One new member, Kathy Morgan, was voted into membership! An update was provided by Executive Committee Chair Dave Roberts on the Grange Hall renovation project. A variance is needed from the Town



The 2023-2024 officers of Taghannuck Grange No. 100 in Sharon after being installed by a team organized by NY State Grange Secretary Ryan Orton and members of Stanford Grange #808 and Pleasant Valley Grange #838 of New York.

of Granby and once that is approved, the new handicapped ramp, porch and unisex bathroom projects should be started.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Nov. 14: Remembering/Country Store, Ref. Sue Addison

Nov. 17: Penny Auction, Doors open at 6:00, drawing at 7:00 P.M.

Nov. 28: Are We Stuffed?, Ref. Steve Serota

Dec. 12: Christmas Meeting & Party, Ref. Rae Fassio

As always, we invite all to attend our meetings on Zoom and in-person. To receive Zoom info, please contact our Secretary, Sue Addison at saddison0210@charter.net.

Our spring Super Prize Party was so successful, we are having a fall version... this time we're renaming it as a Penny Auction. It was felt that the previous name was too confusing... so join us on Friday, November 17. Cards of tickets will be \$3.00 each. We are also accepting donations of non-perishable food items to be donated to area food banks. For each two items donated, guests will receive a free special prize ticket! See you there!

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Nov. 4: Grange Dance 7:00pm-9:00pm by Dance Committee with Ref. by ALL

Nov. 9: Changes by Chris Hopkins Ref. by Barbara Prindle

Dec. 14: Cookie Exchange (bring 4 doz. cookies of 1 kind). Ref. ALL

We will be making up plates for Social Services and Grange members who are home bound.

Jan. 10: Three Magi by Debra Tyler Ref. by Debra Tyler

Refreshments & Social Time begins at 7PM and Meeting at 7:30PM unless otherwise noted.

The Limerock Epic Bike Tour took place Oct. 8th. Over 200 riders used our Grange Hall as a "pit stop" i.e. using our bathrooms. The tour was 68 miles, 5,000 elevation and to quote their advertising flyer "The second rest stop, positioned in a classic Grange Hall /Fire Station..." They served lunch on our front lawn continuously for 2 hours. I spoke to many of the riders and only one knew about the Grange.

On our regular October meeting night we began earlier than usual with the Stanford Grange's Installing Team doing a great job of installing our newly elected officers. Special thanks go to Helen Traver as the Installing Officer and to Ryan Orton who brought his keyboard so we could have marching music. Chris Hopkins is our new Master, Ruth Schnell-Overseer, Lecturer-Jill Drew, Mike Taylor-Steward, Dennis Jasmine- A.S., Allie Hanlon-LAS, Chaplain-Debra Tyler, Treasurer-Debbie Hanlon, Secretary-Barbara

Continued next page...

Prindle, GateKeeper- Casey Flanagan, Ceres-Sharon Kroeger, Pomona- Meghan Flanagan, Flora-Janet Nickson, Musician- John Brett and Executive Committee for 3 years Bill Beeman.

Following the installation refreshments were enjoyed with a tip of the witches hat (Halloween Theme night with some in costume) to Debbie Hanlon for the inventive and delicious “Jack-O-Lanterns”, “witches hats”, Halloween cupcakes and sandwiches. Thank you to everyone who attended but who had to leave at that point in order to keep other commitments.

Next we had our new Master conduct our regular meeting. We voted on a new application for membership from Bill Dinneen of Cornwall Bridge. A big thank you goes out to Todd Gelineau for Obligating Bill Dinneen. There were lively discussions on many of the Resolutions that are going to State Session and notes were taken on member’s opinions so our Delegates’ votes reflect the sense of our meeting in their votes.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Dave Roberts

Nov. 3: Meeting & Program: Thanksgiving traditions; Ref.: Judy Doyle, Chris Wright, Colin Wright

Nov. 5: Honoring Our Veteran of the Month (Barkhamsted Senior Center, 109 West River Road, Barkhamsted, 06063); 6:00 PM

Nov. 25: Free Ham Dinner to Honor Our Veterans; Saturday, November 25; 5:00 – 7:00 PM; Barkhamsted Senior Center; hosted by Lecturer Raine Pedersen and Community Service Chair Dave Roberts

On Friday, October 6, Riverton Grange held its monthly meeting. Sister Shirley Moore’s 99th birthday was celebrated and Lecturer Raine Pedersen hosted a fun Halloween program. Final plans for the American School for the Deaf Awareness Event on October 30 – 31 was discussed. The Grange voted to meet only by Zoom for December – February and to host a Veterans Dinner on Saturday, November 25, from 5:00 – 7:00 PM, at the



Riverton Grange members pause to celebrate Sister Shirley Moore’s 99th birthday!

Barkhamsted Senior Center. Four bags of non-perishable food items were gathered by member donations and will be taken to the Pleasant Valley Food Bank by Jackie Martin.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Marguerite Smith

Three of our members are looking forward to attending the October 19-21 CT State Grange session in Norwich.

Our monthly Grange meeting on October 26th will include updates from the state session, information about potential programs in the coming months and community service.

October 30-31 - Some of our members are interested in helping out at the American School of the Deaf Halloween activities.

November 9 - We will be showing the 5th of a 5 part docuseries on Beaver Pond Wildlife by Ray Aselin.

Our filmmaker will be on hand to answer any questions at the end of the film. Here’s what we’ll see:

Foliage turns in time-lapses from green to blazing autumn colors. Wildlife prepares for winter, beavers build food caches, snow arrives, ponds are capped with ice, but beavers are still actively feeding and maintaining lodges. Muskrats and otters are busy, and beavers are heard vocalizing in the lodge. The general ecology of beaver pond habitat is discussed, including the eventual change from pond to meadow, and the large range of wildlife that the habitat supports.

Join us at 6:00pm for a neighborly social hour and enjoy the film at 7:00. Community members are now bringing food to share which will include a Tex-Mex casserole, Beaver Lodge cookies, shrimp, cheese, crackers, grapes and more!

Late Registration (no meals) is Open through Nov. 14 (\$42)



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Next meeting and holiday party will be held on December 3rd at Cheshire Grange Hall at 2:00 P.M. Program: "End of Year Revelry" \$5.00 gift exchange. Refreshments will be in the charge of Cheshire and Hemlock Granges.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

Nov. 1: We Salute The Military

Nov. 15: Thank you

As I write this, several of our members will be attending our State Session later in this month. This is something we always look forward to. A fund raising luncheon is planned for a local Hiking Club on November 1st. Which will help our treasury. Cheshire Grange like other Granges that own their halls, will be concerned with upcoming heating oil expenses for this winter. Not a pleasant situation on our door step. We wish all our Connecticut Granges to do well and move forward in our new Grange year.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Nov. 10: Program "Kiwi" Pat and Ron Fischer in charge - Refreshments by Joanne Cipriano

Dec. 8: Program "Cranberries" Christmas Party - Potluck supper at 6:00- \$5.00 grab bag.

Correspondence Jim & Lori Golias
Greenfield Hill Grange # 133

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Jim & Lori Golias

Autumn Greetings from the Greenfield Hill Grange!

Greenfield Hill Tag Sale



Greenfield Hill Grange in Fairfield, held a Members & Friends Tag Sale on Oct. 7.



Our End of Summer Lobster Fest was a huge success. This event has quickly become an annual GHG tradition! Even though it was a cold misty morning, our Autumn Fest Pumpkin, Mum, Bulb and Bake Sale saw a lot of visitors to our Grange. We are sure the aroma of warm apple cider and delicious baked goods helped to lure them in. Thank you for all who supported this fundraiser.

Dates to remember:

November 18 -- Holiday Boutique
If you love your freedom, thank a veteran! Happy Veteran's Day and thank you for your service.

The members of Greenfield Hill Grange would like to wish all Grangers and friends a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!

Happy Autumn and See you at the Grange!

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Nov. 10: Thanksgiving Feast

Nov. 24: Omitted for Thanksgiving

Dec. 8: Christmas Decorations

Dec. 22: Omitted for Christmas

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meetings.

Redding Grange Fair

ACOUSTIC **OPEN MIC** **ELECTRIC**
AT THE OXFORD GRANGE
MONDAY NOVEMBER 20TH
 482 OXFORD RD OXFORD CT
 6PM SIGN UP MUSIC AT 6:30PM
 SNACKS AND BEVERAGES AVAILABLE
EVERYONE'S WELCOME
 Drum Kit and Amps provided

ALL AGES

ALL AGES



Learn what's moving on Capitol Hill, how it affects you and all of rural America, and what the Grange is doing about it in our monthly policy update:

View from the Hill

WWW.NATIONALGRANGE.ORG/CATEGORY/POLICY-UPDATESNEWS/



WE CHERISH THE BELIEF THAT SECTIONALISM IS, AND OF RIGHT SHOULD BE, DEAD AND BURIED WITH THE PAST. OUR WORK IS FOR THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE. IN OUR AGRICULTURAL FRATERNITY, WE SHALL RECOGNIZE NO NORTH, NO SOUTH, NO EAST, NO WEST.

Grange Declaration of Purposes



Shelley Cameron
Membership Chair
Ekonk Comm. Grange #89
membership@ctstategrange.org

What an accomplished year

What an accomplished year, with 18 Granges welcoming over 75 new members into the Grange family. Six of which had a net gain in membership. This then contributed to the CT State Grange posting a net gain in membership for the 2023 second quarter report.

In the words of Steve Jobs “Great things are never done by

one person, they are done by a team of people.” This is never more true than when it comes to membership. It is not the job of just this committee to retain and invite new members. It is the job of every member of each Grange. Thus I would like to thank all of you for your hard work and success in making membership a priority in your Grange. It is because of all of you, on the front lines each and every day, opening your Granges and inviting potential new Grange

members in. It is your hard work and dedication in every event your Grange hosts, every article written and every interaction that keeps the Grange relevant and in the forefront of people’s minds and hearts.


I empower you to continue the great work you have been doing and invite you to push the boundaries farther by trying something new and expanding on the old, because together we can accomplish great things.

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 uncover the mystery of faces and places as we look through the Window to the Past. You can contact us by calling (860) 626-5074 or on the web by emailing: submissions@ctstategrange.org.



There were no answers for the September photo. Please contact us if you have any info on this month’s or any of the previous month’s photos.



WINCHESTER GRANGE

Holiday

PENNY AUCTION

Friday, November 17th
Doors Open at 6:00 PM • Auction Starts at 7:00 PM

FREE ADMISSION • 26 CHANCES TO WIN FOR \$3

Collection of non-perishable food items for the local food banks.
Attendees who bring 2 items to donate will receive one special prize ticket.

Winchester Grange Hall
100 Newfield Road
(Near the Green - Route 263 & Newfield Rd.)
Winchester Center, CT 06094

www.WINCHESTERGRANGE.org




Holiday Boutique

November 18th, 2023
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

All things holiday
Thanksgiving to Christmas to New Year's
Vendors, Crafts, Food

Greenfield Hill Grange
1873 Hillside Rd.
Fairfield, CT 06824

Breakfast, Lunch, & Refreshments available

For info: Call Steve Golias 203.367.4373

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

at the **National Grange Convention**
in **Niagara, New York**

November 14 - 18, 2023
Conference & Event Center Niagara Falls
Sheraton at the Falls
300 Third Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14303
(716) 285-3361



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Connecticut & Rhode Island Day in the Hospitality Room
on Tuesday, November 14th

- Registration Desk
- Idea Fair
- General Helpers

DONATIONS NEEDED
Socks, Mittens, Gloves, and Scarfs for men or women
for the Community Missions of Niagara.

Bring your donations to the Annual Session of the CT State Grange
Holiday Inn Norwich, 10 Laura Blvd., Norwich or October 19, 20, 21.

Contact Jody Cameron for more information:
treasurer@ctstategrange.org



The oak tree in front of Wallingford Grange Hall is known as a Constitution Oak as it was planted in commemoration of the Connecticut Constitutional Convention of 1901 by Simsbury Delegate Joseph L. Bartlett.

For the nature enthusiasts: native pin oaks (*Quercus palustris*) produces one of the smallest acorns of the native oaks in Connecticut. Pin Oaks are commonly used in landscaping because they don't have a tap root so they are easier to ball and burlap for transporting and planting. Wildlife including wood ducks feed on their acorns. This pin oak is also known as the Constitution Oak. Connecticut Constitution Oak Historical Marker <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=46061>



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

“Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.” Leviticus 19:2

“To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 1:7

“There will certainly be no fear for the close servants of Allah, nor will they grieve. They are those who are faithful and are mindful of Him.” Sura Yunis: 62-63

In Judaism, Christianity, and Islam there is a concept of people who strive to be holy, and who are sometimes referred to as “saints”. In Hebrew the term translated as “saints” is *qaddis*, which can also be translated as “holy ones”. The Greek word used in the New Testament is “hagiosis”, which also translates as “holy ones”. In classical Arabic the word is *alqidsan*, best translated as “friends of Allah”, or *walia tuqi*, translated as “holy one”.

What is a “saint”? Some will try to divide people into “saints” and “sinners”, but we all are sinners, even the holiest of saints. Let’s first recognize that I am not talking about “Saints”, those recognized

Striving to be Saints



Pope Saint John Paul II

by the Roman Catholic Church as deserving canonization, after a long process. Rather, I mean the much larger body of people who love God, and prioritize serving God and his people over their own selfish desires. In essence, they strive to follow the two great commandments: “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your mind, and all your soul” and “you shall love your neighbor as yourself”.

The Apostle Paul begins his letter to the young church at Corinth by saying that they are “called to be saints”. And the letter to the Romans begins: “To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints”. In Exodus we find God instructing Moses to tell the people: “Now then, if you will obey

My voice and keep My agreement, you will belong to Me from among all nations. You will be to Me a nation of religious leaders, a holy nation.”

To me the lesson is clear: none of us can make ourselves saints, but we are all called to be saints, and we become [lowercase] saints by answering God’s call by loving God, loving our fellow human beings, and striving to follow God’s commands.

In Memoriam

Alton Exley
Ekonk Community
Grange No. 89

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”