



# the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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## From the President's Desk



**Robert Buck**  
State President

Bethlehem Grange No. 121  
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Two particular Grange members from our state have contacted me expressing displeasure at the content of the Legislative department columns. The Grange, of course, is supposed to be non-partisan. The columns have reported on events and policies of the current administrations which, whether you agree with them or not, can often be considered controversial. With the death by murder of conservative activist Charlie Kirk in Utah recently, the space is present for more division in our country as fingers are pointed trying to lay blame. National Grange President Hamp recently wrote in her email column on the need to stay strictly non-partisan. Now more than ever, I agree with that assessment, but will also make it clear to people that when our Legislative Director reports on the mistruths and apparent cover-ups in his column, that I will stand behind him. There must be a line of distinction between reporting and supporting or criticizing.

The latter part of this summer has been dry and the birds seem quieter and less active than usual for this time of year. I wish I could say the same for the political scene in our country. On the up-side, I saw the

American Kestrel, a small falcon, on Cassidy Road here in Southbury the other day. This summer I've seen more than usual Coopers Hawks, a not terribly common type of hawk. The warblers are starting to migrate south and I've seen a few of them in outings. This includes the Hooded Warbler which I have observed many times around the area this spring and summer as they become more common.

The Big E is over and another year of hard work preparing and staffing

## Overcoming Grange Apathy

Terri Fassio,  
Public Relations Co-Director

Granges have weathered countless storms throughout their histories. From the agricultural revolution to two world wars, from the Great Depression to the digital age, this organization has adapted and persevered. Yet today, many individual Granges face perhaps their greatest challenge yet: the insidious spread of member apathy that threatens to transform vibrant community organizations into stagnant social clubs destined for obsolescence.

Across various types of communities, a troubling pattern has emerged. Long-established Granges that once served as the beating heart of their communities now struggle with declining membership, reduced community engagement, and an increasingly narrow focus on maintaining the status quo

the New England Grange Building for its duration. A lot of preparation goes into that event. Thanks to Noel and Dawn for fulfilling the duties of their managerial positions and Ted Powell and all the rest of the workers from Connecticut and the other states in the region for contributions of time. I worked my weekend and, as always, had fun doing it. We work hard in this endeavor to support the upkeep of the building and try to publicize Grange through this tool we have been given by a previous generation of Grangers. Thanks also to all those supplying the handmade

...Continued next page



rather than embracing growth and innovation. This isn't merely about numbers on a membership roster — it represents a fundamental shift in organizational culture that, if left unchecked, could spell the end of local Granges that have served their communities faithfully for generations.

The marketing challenges are particularly acute because they stem not from external pressures alone, but from internal resistance to change among the very members who should be the Grange's greatest champions. When long-time

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**Connecticut State Grange**  
A part of the National Grange



**NEXT ISSUE:**  
Articles Due October 15

# From the President's Desk

*Continued from page one...*

articles for sale. People come back year after year for them.

With State Session right around the corner, preparations continue and we all hope for a productive convention. Our National representatives, Joe Goodrich and wife Lisa from Vermont, will be attending so make them feel welcome to the Flatland. A workshop on the future of the Grange is on the agenda and I can't wait for it. It promises to be thought provoking. Then on to the National Grange ABC Cruise

which will be a new experience.

Higganum Grange #124 will be turning in their charter. They have lost the use of their meeting room due to the sale of the building they used to own but sold years ago and which was recently resold to someone who is unwilling to continue the agreement on hall use with the previous owner. They have no alternate meeting place and health issues and age of members make continuing as a Grange not possible. My understanding is that few of the remaining members if any will continue their memberships. I thank the Higganum members for doing what they did for as long as they were able. However, it should be noted that any Grange wanting to dispose of a real asset like a Grange Hall MUST run their plans by the State Grange Board of Directors. This requirement comes not from the State Grange but the National

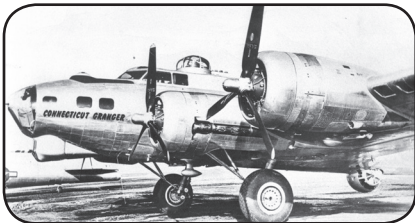
Grange Digest of Laws.

I can tell from the reports on Community Service coming in that we are on track to equal or exceed last year's figures. We will have agricultural contest winners, and the Honor Grange awards for Subordinate and Pomona Granges have been reinstated. As was done in previous years, the President of the top ranked Pomona will have the honor of closing the 141st Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange in the Fourth Degree on Saturday.

In the recent Frontline Flash for National Grange, the latest phrase in President Hamp's Speak Like A Champ series is "succession planning." This refers to the idea that your Grange, like any organization, should have a view of the future with leaders lined up to take over top positions. As we struggle with membership, this is an incentive to keep on pushing for new members if we want our Order to survive. Food for thought.

## 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  
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## Needlework Contest Results



**Dawn Percoski**  
Family Activities Dir.

Vernon Grange No. 52  
CWA@ctstateGrange.org

### Hospitality Room Help

I will be coordinating items for the Hospitality Room. If you would like to donate snack items, please send it along with someone who is coming to the state session, possibly your delegate. All food must be individually packaged such as in the Family packs. Drinks are always appreciated as well.

**CT Winners for CT at the NEGB for this year are as follows:**

**Class F – Counted Cross Stitch:**  
3rd- Mariellen Baxter, Vernon Grange #52

**Class I – Quilted Wall Hanging:**  
3rd- Alma Graham, Coventry Grange #75

**Class J – Stuffed Toy:** 1st- Sandy Roman Beacon Valley Grange #103

Congratulations to you all!





# 141<sup>st</sup> Annual Session Tentative Schedule

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025**

Ballroom, Holiday Inn, 10 Laura Blvd., Norwich, CT

- 7:00 P.M. Opening in form in the Sixth Degree  
Introduction of National Representatives,  
National Treasurer Joe Goodrich and Sister Lisa  
Roll Call of Officers, Deputies, Committees  
Lower Grange to Fourth Degree  
Presentation of Fourth Degree Delegates  
Roll Call of Granges  
Report of Credentials Committee  
Session Committee Announcements  
Introd. of Business to be referred without debate
- 8:00 P.M. Address of State President Robert Buck  
Response of Overseer Theodore Powell III  
Report of Treasurer Jody A. Cameron  
Report of Secretary Todd A. Gelineau  
Report of Executive Committee/Board of Dir.  
Report of Lecturer David Roberts
- 9:00 P.M. Closing
- 9:05 P.M. Annual Meeting of the Connecticut State  
Grange Foundation, Inc.  
Report of CSG Foundation Pres., Alma Graham  
(Please remain seated for this brief meeting)
- 9:30 P.M. Time for Committee Meetings (if necessary)

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025**

- 7:30 A.M. FREE Continental Breakfast provided by the  
Connecticut State Grange (Chelsearose Room)
- 9:00 A.M. Opening & Introductions  
Roll Call of Officers  
Minutes of Previous Day's Session  
Introd. of Business to be referred without debate
- 9:15 A.M. Special Order of Business: Election of ONE  
member of the Executive Committee and any  
other vacancies which may have occurred
- 9:30 A.M. Report of Legislative Committee  
Report of Agriculture Committee  
Report of General Deputy  
Reports of Pomona Deputies  
Report of *Connecticut Granger*
- 10:45 A.M. BREAK
- 11:00 A.M. Presentation by the Membership & Public

Relations Committees:

*"When Tradition Meets Reality"*

- 12:00 P.M. Luncheon (Nutmeg Ballroom), Hosts: TBD
- Blessing by State Chaplain
  - Family Activities Awards & Report
  - Membership Awards
  - Public Relations Awards
  - Agriculture Contest Awards
- 2:00 P.M. Recognition of Past Voting Delegates
- 2:15 P.M. Address of National Representative
- 2:45 P.M. Budget Approval (tentative)
- 3:15 P.M. BREAK
- 3:30 P.M. Report of New England Grange Building
- 4:30 P.M. Closing
- 7:00 P.M. Celebration Banquet (Ballroom)
- Professional Agriculture Awards
  - Scholarship Awards
  - History Book Presentation
  - Lecturer's Program

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025**

- 7:30 A.M. FREE Continental Breakfast provided by the  
Conn. State Grange (Chelsearose Room)
- 9:00 A.M. Opening & Introductions  
Roll Call of Officers  
Minutes of Previous Day's Sessions  
Introd. of Business to be referred without debate
- 9:15 A.M. Memorial Service  
Closing in form in the Fourth Degree
- 9:45 A.M. Break for Preparation of Sixth Degree
- 10:00 A.M. Conferral of the Sixth Degree, Ballroom**  
Open to all Sixth Degree members, registration  
not required to attend.  
Opening in form in the Sixth Degree  
Escorting National Representatives  
Recognition of Honored Guests and Past Voting  
Delegates to National Grange  
Conferral of the Sixth Degree in full form  
Recognition of Golden Sheaf Members
- 11:15 A.M. BREAK (or at conclusion of the Degree)
- 11:30 A.M. Committee Reports (Resolutions)
- 12:00 P.M. Youth & Junior Recog. Luncheon, Hosts: TBD
- Blessing by State Chaplain
  - Junior Recognition
  - Youth Recognition
- 1:30 P.M. Business Session  
Community Service Report  
Honor Grange Awards  
Installation of Officers
- 3:00 P.M. Closing in Form in the Fourth Degree

Degree candidates must be at the Holiday Inn by 9:30 A.M.  
with the Fourth and Fifth Degree Words and the Sixth Degree  
ticket stub to be admitted. Applications are \$10 and can be  
purchased from the State Secretary.

*This Schedule is Tentative and subject to change.*

# Resolutions for Consideration at the 141<sup>st</sup> Annual Session

Resolutions #1-6 were printed in their entirety in the last issue. The Session Committee assignments for those resolutions are listed below along with the additional 4 resolutions received since the last issue.

**1) RE: SUPPORT FOR ORGANIZ. ADVOCATING FOR PUBLIC ACT NO. 25-33**

**Ref. to: Agriculture/Conservation/Environment**

**2) RE: CONN. STATE GRANGE SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Ref. to: Good of the Order/Membership/Master's Address**

**3) RE: STRONG OPPOSITION TO AN ANNUAL DUES INCREASE FOR ALL MEMBERS**

**Ref. to: Good of the Order/Membership/Master's Address**

**4) RE: VIDEO RECORDING DEVICES ON ALL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

**Ref. to: Legislative/Insurance**

**5) RE: FOOD SAFETY AWARENESS**

**Ref. to: Agriculture/Conservation/Environment**

**6) RE: TOLLS ON CONNECTICUT INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS**

**Ref. to: Agriculture/Conservation/Environment**

**7) RE: USA 250th Anniversary Tree Planting**

**WHEREAS** in 2026, the United States of America will be celebrating its 250th Anniversary, and

**WHEREAS** Granges historically honor patriotic and historic events; and

**WHEREAS** a commemorative tree and label planted on Grange property, or other property of

choice, would serve to honor the celebration, now and in the future, and

**WHEREAS** the choice of a tree as a commemorative symbol connects the Grange principles honoring nature, and

**WHEREAS** publicity related to this event would encourage public awareness of the Grange as an organization within the local community.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Connecticut State Grange encourage each Community Grange to plant a tree

with label to honor the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America.

**SOURCE:** Greenfield Hill Grange #133; Nutmeg Pomona #16

**REFERRED:** Agriculture / Conservation / Environment

**8) RE: CAPTURING ELECTRICITY FROM PARKING LOTS**

**WHEREAS** the needs for the cost of electricity are rising, and

**WHEREAS** many parking areas have good solar exposure and provide for practical solar collection, and

**WHEREAS** solar-panel-covered parking lots can supply solar-generated electricity to the electric power network, and

**WHEREAS** solar-panel-covered parking lots can provide for improved quality of life, leaving cars cooler in the summer, shielding cars and their owners and passengers from rain and snow in inclement weather, and provide for electric car charging, and

**WHEREAS** colleges, town centers, and shopping areas all across the United States have successfully demonstrated this concept.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Connecticut State Grange petition the Connecticut General Assembly to require that new, publicly owned parking areas under the purview of the state, including Connecticut State Parking, the Hartford Parking Authority, the Transportation, Traffic & Parking Department in New Haven, Department of Parking Services in Greenwich, and others, and all smaller Connecticut municipalities, cover these lots with solar panel roofs where there is sufficient solar influx and nearby electrical grid access, and to incentivize new and existing commercial parking lot owners and associations do the same.

**SOURCE:** Harmony Grange #92; Nutmeg Pomona #16

**REFERRED:** Credentials/Constitution & By-Laws

**9) LEAKING ABOVE-GROUND FUEL OIL TANKS**

**WHEREAS** the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (D.E.E.P.) states "With an aboveground storage tank (AST), you are more likely to detect a

*Continued next page*

## Session Committee Assignments

### CREDENTIALS/CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

*Chair: Dave Roberts*

Mountain Laurel Pomona #14

Beacon Valley #103

Granby #5

Higganum #124

Norfield #146

Riverton #169

Stonington #168

### GOOD OF THE ORDER/ MEMBERSHIP/MASTER'S ADD.

*Chair: Donald Lanoue*

*Vice Chair: Charles Dimmick*

Nutmeg Pomona #15

Bethlehem #121

Coventry #75

Greenfield Hill #133

Hillstown #87

North Stoughton #138

Senexet #40

Taghannuck #100

Whigville #48

Hillstown Jr. #87

### LEGISLATIVE/INSURANCE

*Chair: Jaimie Cameron*

*Vice Chair: Ted Powell*

Eastern Connecticut Pomona #14

Bridgewater #153

Ekong Community #89

Harmony #92

Killingly #112

Oxford #194

Simsbury #197

Vernon #52

Winchester #74

Ekong Comm. Jr. #101

### AGRICULTURE/CONSERV./ ENVIRONMENT

*Chair: A. Ruel Miller*

*Vice Chair: Noel Miller*

Cannon #152

Hemlock #182

Lyme #147

Redding #15

Stafford #1

Wallingford #33

Wolcott #173

Cheshire #23

# Resolutions

Continued from page 4...

leak before it becomes severe" implying that visual inspection and actual leakage is the current method of establishing a requirement for replacement, and

**WHEREAS** home heating oil fuel tanks have an unknown actual life but a typical life of 15-20 years, and

**WHEREAS** said fuel tanks will begin to leak oil after that time on an indeterminate schedule, and

**WHEREAS** many homeowners inherit in the purchase of their home old fuel oil tanks with no knowledge of the age of the tanks, and

**WHEREAS** the fuel contaminates the ground below the tank and can enter ground water, and

**WHEREAS** the cost of remediation is prohibitive to most homeowners and reporting and remediation is often ignored or hidden, resulting in damage to the ground water, a public trust, and

**WHEREAS** leakage of tanks is unavoidable if left unmanaged, and

**WHEREAS** we cannot remediate the old existing tank inspection and replacement system but going forward it would be beneficial if a new tank management system were put in place that contained the intent of conservatively avoiding leakage.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Connecticut State Grange urge the Connecticut General Assembly to establish registration of all new fuel oil tanks for both businesses and residences. The Connecticut D.E.E.P. or appropriate State authority would send notices to home and business owners indicating the age of the tank at 15 and 20 years with clear notice of the high cost of ignoring the need for tank replacement.

**SOURCE:** Harmony Grange #92, Nutmeg Pomona #16

**REFERRED:** **Credentials/Constitution & By-Laws**

## 10) MAKING RECYCLING MORE CONVENIENT FOR CONSUMERS

**WHEREAS** Connecticut has a bottle bill, also known as container redemption program, which requires consumers to pay a 10 cent deposit at time of purchase, and

**WHEREAS** the consumer is then responsible for returning the empty container to get the deposit back, and

**WHEREAS** the seller gives the deposit back to consumer only if the seller's store currently sells that brand of drink, and

**WHEREAS** consumers shop at several stores, and

**WHEREAS** this discourages consumers from recycling because it is troublesome to organize and return them according to where you purchased them.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Connecticut State Grange encourage the Connecticut General Assembly to amend the rules so that consumers can take recycling back to any store's recycling center.

**SOURCE:** Harmony Grange #92; Nutmeg Pomona #16

**REFERRED:** **Credentials/Constitution & By-Laws**

# Can't join us in Norwich? Join us on Zoom!

Once again, the Connecticut State Grange is providing the opportunity for members to attend State Session virtually. This includes those who may not be members of the Connecticut State Grange. Delegates are reminded they can only vote in-person at the Holiday Inn. Zoom attendees may observe the session but cannot interact with the proceedings.

To attend on Zoom, go to their website Zoom.us or open the Zoom app you may have downloaded to your computer or device. Select "Meetings" in the banner at the top of the page and then select "Join a Meeting". They will then prompt you to enter the Meeting ID and Password for the meeting you want to attend. Those are listed for each day below.

If you are unable to join via computer, tablet, etc., you may also listen to the meeting over the phone by dialing the number listed below. When prompted, you will enter the meeting ID and password for the particular day you are attending (also listed below).

Please note: Only the business meetings will be available over Zoom. The Sixth Degree and all of the meal functions (including the Celebration Banquet) will not be broadcasted.

## DAY ONE

### Connecticut State Grange Session

Oct 16, 2025 07:00 PM Eastern Time

Meeting ID: 868 5336 2695

Passcode: 935196

## DAY TWO

### Connecticut State Grange Session

Oct 17, 2025 09:00 AM Eastern Time

Meeting ID: 891 7030 1797

Passcode: 170605

## DAY THREE

### Connecticut State Grange Session

Oct 18, 2025 09:00 AM Eastern Time

Meeting ID: 819 5491 1855

Passcode: 882607

*If you are unable to participate via computer, tablet or other device, you may call in and listen to the proceedings live by dialing...*

**1-646-931-3860**

When prompted, type in the Meeting ID and Passcode listed above for the appropriate meeting day. (The meeting IDs and passcodes are different for each day of the session).



**"APATHY"** *Continued from pg. 1...*

members become comfortable with a small, insular group and resist efforts to attract new members or implement fresh programming, they inadvertently create an environment where apathy flourishes and growth becomes impossible.

The current crisis facing many Granges is multifaceted and deeply rooted in both societal changes and organizational dynamics that have developed over decades. To address this challenge effectively, we must first understand its various dimensions and how they interact to create the perfect storm of stagnation.

### **The Demographics of Decline: Aging Out**

Many Granges are experiencing what marketing experts call "demographic inversion" — a situation where the average age of members continues to rise while new member recruitment fails to keep pace with natural attrition. This creates a self-reinforcing cycle where the Grange becomes increasingly disconnected from the broader community it purports to serve.

In numerous Granges, the membership roster reads like a who's who of families who joined decades ago, with few new names added in recent years. These long-standing members, while dedicated and well-intentioned, often represent a narrow slice of their community's demographic makeup. They may be predominantly older, from similar socioeconomic backgrounds, and share common perspectives that, while valuable, don't reflect the diversity of modern communities.

This demographic concentration creates several problems. First, it limits the range of ideas and perspectives available for program development. Second, it can make the Grange feel unwelcoming or irrelevant to potential new members who don't see themselves reflected in the current membership. Third, it often results in activities that appeal primarily to existing members rather than attracting new ones.

### **The Comfort Zone Trap**

Perhaps the most significant factor contributing to Grange apathy is what marketing experts call the "comfort zone trap." After years or even decades of operating in a particular way, many Grange members have developed strong attachments to familiar routines, traditional events, and established social dynamics. This attachment to the familiar, while natural and understandable, can become a significant barrier to Grange growth and community relevance.

The comfort zone manifests in various ways within the Grange. Members may insist on holding the same activities and events year after year, even when attendance has dwindled and profits have declined. They might resist suggestions for new meeting formats, updated communication methods, or innovative programming that could attract younger members or address community needs. Most problematically, they may unconsciously create social barriers that make new members feel like outsiders trying to break into an established clique.

This resistance to change isn't necessarily malicious or intentional. Many long-time Grange members genuinely believe they're preserving important traditions and maintaining the organization's integrity. However well-intentioned, this type of thinking can inadvertently stifle the very adaptation necessary for Grange survival in a rapidly changing world.

### **A Relevance Gap**

Communities face challenges that didn't exist when many Grange programs and approaches were first developed. Issues like digital literacy, sustainable agriculture practices, rural broadband access, youth retention in rural areas, and changing family structures require fresh thinking and innovative solutions. Yet many Granges continue to focus primarily on traditional activities that, while valuable, may not address the most pressing concerns of their

community members.

This relevance gap creates a vicious cycle. When community members perceive the Grange as outdated or disconnected from their real concerns, they're less likely to join or participate actively. This lack of new member engagement reinforces existing members' belief that their traditional approaches are sufficient, further widening the gap between the Grange and the community it serves.

The challenge is compounded by rapid changes in how people communicate, how the Grange markets itself, how its members socialize, and how Granges engage with other organizations. While many Granges still rely heavily on traditional methods like printed newsletters, telephone trees, and word-of-mouth communication, potential new members increasingly expect digital communication, online registration systems, and social media engagement. The failure to adapt to these changing expectations can make even the most well-intentioned Grange appear antiquated and inaccessible.

### **Leadership Bottleneck**

In many Granges, leadership positions have become concentrated among a small group of long-time members who, while dedicated, may lack the energy, or vision, necessary to drive Grange renewal. This leadership bottleneck creates several problems that perpetuate apathy and resistance to change.

When the same individuals hold leadership positions year after year, it can discourage other members from stepping forward with new ideas or taking on responsibilities. Newer or younger members may feel that their contributions aren't valued or that there's no room for them to make a meaningful impact on the Grange.

Long-tenured leaders may become overly invested in maintaining existing programs and approaches, viewing suggestions for change as implicit criticism of their efforts. This can create a

*Continued next page*

culture where ideas are discouraged and conformity is rewarded, leading to the gradual erosion of overall member engagement and enthusiasm.

### **The Ripple Effects**

The impact of member apathy extends far beyond the walls of individual Grange halls. When local Granges become stagnant and inward-focused, the effects ripple through communities, the broader Grange organization, and the agricultural and rural advocacy movements that depend on grassroots engagement.

### **Community Impact**

Historically, Granges have served as vital community anchors, providing meeting spaces, organizing events, supporting local causes, and fostering social connections that strengthen the fabric of each community. When Granges become apathetic, communities lose access to these valuable resources and services.

The absence of an active, engaged Grange can leave significant gaps. Local organizations may struggle to find affordable meeting spaces. Community events that once brought neighbors together may disappear. Young people may lack opportunities to develop leadership skills and civic engagement. Senior citizens may lose important social connections and support networks.

Most significantly, communities may lose their voice in agricultural and rural policy discussions. The Grange has historically played a crucial role in advocating for rural interests at local, state, and national levels. When individual Granges become disengaged, this advocacy diminishes, potentially leaving communities without effective representation in important policy debates.

### **The Consequences**

State and National levels of the Grange depend on the engagement of individual subordinate Granges. When local Granges become apathetic, it undermines the entire

organizational structure and limits the effectiveness of broader Grange marketing and initiatives.

Apathetic Granges typically contribute less to state and national programs, both financially and in terms of member participation. They may send fewer delegates to state and national sessions, reducing the experiences and decision-making. They're less likely to implement national or state programs at the local level, limiting the reach and impact of initiatives designed to serve Grange members and their communities.

This creates a downward spiral where reduced local engagement leads to less effective state and national programs, which in turn provides fewer benefits and resources to local Granges, further reinforcing their apathy and disengagement.

### **The Root Causes**

To develop effective solutions for Grange apathy, we must look beyond surface symptoms to understand the underlying causes that create this situation. These root causes are often interconnected, creating challenges that require comprehensive responses.

#### **-- Fear of Change**

Many long-time Grange members harbor deep-seated fears about organizational change, worrying that adaptation will somehow compromise the essential character and values that have made the Grange meaningful to them. This fear is often rooted in genuine love for the organization and concern for its welfare, but it can manifest as rigid resistance to any deviation from established practices.

#### **-- Loss of Identity**

Members may worry that attracting younger members will lead to the abandonment of cherished traditions, that adopting new technologies will diminish the personal connections that make Grange membership valuable, or that expanding programming will dilute the focus on its core agricultural mission.

#### **-- Threat to History**

The challenge is compounded by the fact that many long-time members have invested decades of their lives in the Grange and derive significant personal identity and social connection from their membership. Suggestions for change can feel like threats to their history and relationships, making rational discussion of Grange needs difficult.

#### **-- Lack of Strategic Vision**

Many Granges suffer from a lack of clear vision for their future role in their communities. Without a shared understanding of what the organization hopes to achieve and how it plans to remain relevant in a changing world, members may struggle to find motivation for the hard work of organizational renewal.

Instead of operating from a clear sense of purpose and direction, Granges simply continue doing what they've always done, hoping that past approaches will somehow produce different results.

#### **-- Communication Breakdowns**

Effective communication is essential for Grange vitality, but many Granges suffer from significant communication problems that isolate members from each other and from the broader community. These communication breakdowns can take several forms.

Internal communication problems may include inadequate information sharing about organizational activities and decisions, limited opportunities for member input and feedback, and the use of communication methods that don't reach all members effectively. When members feel uninformed or excluded from organizational discussions, they're more likely to become disengaged.

External communication problems may include outdated or ineffective marketing efforts, limited use of modern technologies, and failure to articulate the Grange's value. When the broader community doesn't understand what the Grange

*Continued next page*

offers or how to get involved, growth becomes nearly impossible.

### Strategies for Renewal

Addressing Grange apathy requires a approach that tackles both the symptoms and root causes of stagnation.

The first step is developing a clear, compelling vision for what the Grange can become and how it can better serve its community. This vision must be developed collaboratively, with input from all members, and must balance respect for the history and traditions with recognition of the need for adaptation and growth.

The vision process should be honest and frank. Members should be encouraged to share their concerns, hopes, and ideas without fear of criticism or dismissal. This open dialogue can help identify common ground that can serve as the foundation for a renewed purpose.

The vision must be marketed and communicated consistently and reinforced through Grange decisions and actions. Members should see clear connections between the vision and specific programs, activities, and initiatives. Progress updates and celebrations of achievements can help maintain momentum and demonstrate that the vision is more than just words on paper.

Mentorship programs can pair experienced members with emerging leaders, providing opportunities for knowledge transfer while also exposing veteran members to new ideas and perspectives. These relationships can help bridge generational and cultural gaps within the Grange while building the personal connections that make leadership transitions smoother.

Effective communication is essential for overcoming apathy. Granges must modernize their communication strategies to reach contemporary audiences while maintaining the personal connections that have always been central to the organization's appeal. Digital communication should complement, not replace, traditional

methods that remain effective for reaching certain audiences.

Outreach messages should be tailored to each Grange audience's interests and concerns, clearly articulating how Grange membership can provide value and opportunities.

Granges often suffer from programming that has become stale and disconnected from community needs. Revitalizing programming requires careful assessment of current activities, identification of unmet community needs, and development of new initiatives that can attract diverse participants while honoring the organization's core values.

Program development should be refined based on participant feedback and outcomes. This approach allows Granges to try new things without making major commitments of time and resources, while also demonstrating to skeptical members that change can be managed thoughtfully.

Isolated Granges are more likely to become apathetic and irrelevant. Building strategic partnerships with other community organizations, businesses, and institutions can help Granges expand their reach, share resources, and demonstrate their value to the broader community.

Attracting and retaining younger members is crucial for long-term organizational sustainability, but it requires intentional effort and willingness to adapt and programming to meet the needs and preferences of different generations.

Flexible participation options can accommodate the busy schedules and multiple commitments that characterize many younger adults' lives. This might include shorter meeting formats, online participation options, project-based involvement that doesn't require ongoing meeting attendance, or leadership roles with clearly defined time commitments.

Mentorship programs can help younger members feel welcomed and valued while also providing opportunities for knowledge transfer between generations.

These programs should be designed to facilitate genuine relationship-building rather than simply assigning older members to "teach" younger ones about Grange traditions.

Overcoming Grange apathy requires building positive momentum through recognition and celebration of progress, even when changes are small or incremental. Success stories can help demonstrate that change is possible and beneficial, encouraging continued effort and engagement.

Milestone celebrations can mark important achievements and provide opportunities to reflect on progress and provide opportunities to recommit to continued improvement. These celebrations might commemorate membership milestones, successful completion of major projects, recognition from other organizations, or achievement of specific goals.

Dramatic, sudden changes are more likely to provoke resistance than gradual, incremental modifications that allow members to adjust over time. A phased approach to renewal can help build confidence and support while minimizing disruption to Grange operations.

Learning from the experiences of Granges that have successfully overcome apathy and achieved renewal can provide valuable insights and inspiration for Granges facing similar challenges.

The challenge of overcoming apathy in individual Granges is neither simple nor easily resolved, but it is far from insurmountable. Adaptation does not require abandoning the core values and principles that have made the Grange meaningful for generations of members. The experiences of Granges that have successfully navigated this transformation demonstrate that renewal is possible when members commit to honest self-assessment, embrace necessary changes, improve marketing and communications, and focus on serving their communities' evolving needs.



#### **E. CONNECTICUT POMONA #14**

*Corr: Carol Hnath*

**Dec. 6:** "Holiday Fun" at Ekonk Community Grange Hall, Sterling at 7 pm

The next meeting of Eastern Connecticut Pomona Grange #14 will be held on December 6th at Ekonk Grange Hall. The program will be "Holiday Fun". The collection items for this meeting will be non-perishable meals such as mac and cheese, granola bars, etc.

Our officers have been installed and we are ready to start the next Grange year. Marisa Wilson of the North Central Connecticut Habitat for Humanity came to our last meeting. She shared information and answered questions about their program. Our Pomona will be working on a community service project with them in April.

#### **SENEXET GRANGE #40**

*Corr: Diane Miller*

**Oct. 22:** Meeting

We were pleased to receive from the National Grange the Rural Life initiative Grant of \$1000, This was based on our Locally Grown Day in which included 15 area farms and activities, Senexet Grange fair, Country Breakfast. 3 farm displays and a Buzz on Beekeeping presentation that was very popular. We have received 5 applications for membership. We are proud to have Amy, Danielle, Robert and Lillian

## Senexet Grange Scholars



**Senexet Grange recently awarded their 2025 Scholarships to (l to r): Xandar Miller, Eva Monahan, Emily Jurnovoy and Kaelyn Trembley.**

who worked very hard on this.

We had a wonderful exhibit at the Woodstock Fair.

On August 6 the Senexet Grange hosted the John F Duffy and the Helena B. Duffy Scholarship awards to four local students. With the families present, each student received \$1,000: Xandar Miler, Eva Monahan, Emily Jurnovoy and Kaelyn Trembley. Congratulations to these Woodstock students.

We are looking forward to seeing new members

#### **VERNON GRANGE #52**

*Corr: Cherie Robinson*

**Oct. 2:** Vernon presents program at Coventry

**Oct. 3:** Witches

**Nov. 7:** Coventry Presents program at Vernon

**Nov. 14:** Vernon presents program at Hillstown.

A combined in-person and zoom meeting enjoyed a fine program on Fairs. Our guest for the evening was Deputy Ted Beebe who filled in as Stewart. Starting with the history and then brought up to date with

the establishment and planning of Modern Fairs. This included skits and information on all parts of farm life, Animals, Growing vegetables and preparing food, with prize ribbons for the best. The fair was used to educate "city folk" on rural life and helped them learn where their food came from, and at the same time Farmers were introduced to modern things like electricity which helped them learn about city life. In the 1900's Mechanical rides, Games, performers and food stands were added. Fairs have remained popular today as a bridge of farm and city life. There is something for everyone and many make the Fair an annual trip. Next month we visit Coventry and present the program, It is always an enjoyable evening and hope many will join us for the fun. Meeting time is 7:30 P.M.

#### **NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138**

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*

**Oct. 10:** Program hosted by Jeff Barnes

**Oct. 24:** All Ghosts and Goblins invited to Halloween Party

### Nov. 14: Food and Other Things

August has been a busy month on our grounds with different organizations holding their events here.

We have completed our two-year adventure through all the wars of the United States. It has been an interesting and informative trip. (We are hoping there will not be an end-of-the-month quiz!)

This year members will be responsible for some of the programs and we look forward to Jeff's offering on October 10. As he and Deb have just completed a 7,000 mile trip across the United States in their camper we are wondering... and hoping... Please join us to learn what it will be.

Our annual Halloween Party is always lots of fun. There will be

prizes for costumes and games. We usually have a cup social, and the refreshments are always "out of this world."

Just a gentle reminder that dues for 2026 are now due. Why not pay them at a meeting and save a stamp. And if we could just have a bit of rain so our gardens won't shrivel up to nothingness, next time we will tell you all about sweet September.



## Bethlehem Grange Takes First

Bethlehem Grange #121 was thrilled to receive a first place ribbon for their Grange exhibit at the 100th Anniversary Bethlehem Fair in September.

## Ekonk celebrates agriculture in Brooklyn



Ekonk Community Grange #89 (Sterling) participated in Celebrating Agriculture at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds on September 20. Members of Ekonk pitched in to serve breakfast and spread the word about Grange.



### **MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15**

**Oct. 4:** Installation of Officers & Reception, 2 PM, Riverton Grange Hall. Noel Miller will install the newly elected officers. The installation will be followed by a reception.

### **WINCHESTER GRANGE #74**

*Corr: Todd A. Gelineau*

**Oct. 14:** Getting Cooler, Ref. by Ellen Pettit

**Oct. 25:** Book & Bake Sale, 10-2

**Oct. 28:** Halloween Harvest (Neighbor's Night/Country Store), Ref. by Terri Fassio

As of this writing, Winchester Grange has held its first day-long food drive at the hall on Sept. 27. We thank everyone who donated so much food and supplies for donation to area food banks.

Our next event will be our Book and Bake Sale on Sat., Oct. 25 from 10 AM to 2 PM. We were overwhelmed with wonderful donations for our August Grange Fair that we decided to have another sale. There will be plenty of books and lots of baked items for sale.

Coming up in November is our Annual Holiday Super Prize Party on the 7th. Doors open at 6 and drawing begins at 7. It's a penny auction, a tea cup auction and a country store all rolled up into one Super Prize event!

### **TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100**

*Corr: Barbara Prindle*

**Oct. 9:** Halloween Costume Party

# **Cornwall Agricultural Fair**



**Taghannuck Grange Secretary Barbara Prindle poses in front of the booth her Grange created for the Cornwall Agricultural Fair on Sept. 13. This booth has become a great source for new member contact.**

by Debbie Hanlon Ref: Debbie Hanlon

**Nov. 1:** Grange Square & Contra Dance (last one) 7pm-9pm

**Nov. 13:** Special Health Secrets by Sharon Kroeger Ref: Debra Tyler

**Dec. 11:** Cookie Exchange—bring 4 doz. of 1 kind of cookie Ref: All

**Jan. 8:** Surprise by Bill Dinneen Ref. Bill Dinneen

NOTE: Refreshments & Social time at 7:00PM with Meeting at 7:30PM unless otherwise noted.

We welcomed Todd Gelineau to our September meeting and as is our custom immediately asked him to fill a station. In this case he was Steward for the night. He also performed the Welcoming Ceremony as we brought Debbie Manasse into our Grange as a new member in good standing. The program that evening was Installation of Officers. Most members continued in the same office they now hold. Todd installed our two new officers. Lynn Cline is now our Overseer and Ruth Schnell is our new Flora. We completed the collection of G-notes from our members and 120 G-notes were given

to Todd to help with the expenses at State Session.

We had a Grange Booth at the Cornwall Agricultural Fair on Saturday, September 13th on the Cornwall Green. Our "bubbles" drew both kids and adults. This gave us a chance to explain what our Grange does. The most interest was caught by our two loose leaf books. One showed photos of all the Community Service activities we held during the year and the other held copies of all the Resolutions that were brought to State Grange Session in the past two years showing what passed and what didn't.

Everyone is invited on September 20th at either 1PM or 6PM to the barn at Local Farm on Popple Swamp Road in Cornwall, Ct. Come see one of our members, Margaret Hopkins and her Chalk Gremlins troupe perform an aerial show.

You are also invited to our October 9th Halloween Costume Party (Our usual Grange night). Please try to come in costume as the Hall turns into a Halloween experience.

*Continued next page...*

## BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

*Corr: Dorothy Fairchild*

We are thrilled to announce that Bethlehem Grange received 1st place honor at the Bethlehem Fair. Much thanks and appreciation to all who worked on our exhibit. A picture can be found at the CT State Grange Website and on pg. 10 of this issue.

We enjoyed visitors Ted Powell VP CSG and Stephanie from Coventry Grange at our September meeting. Also, four Whigville Grangers attended, as well as Hank the Burro.

Barbara R. conducted a card game to which everyone participated.

Pizza, salad, and desserts were abundant.

## SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

*Corr: Marguerite Smith*

On Sept. 11 we were pleasantly surprised with 3 friendly and helpful guests from the Mele family. They came out from Whigville Grange in Burlington which is just around the corner from Simsbury. We look forward to going out to visit them in the coming months. Thanks for coming out our way, Kim, Vin and

James!

On Sept. 21 we had a great crowd for our much anticipated presentation by AARP on the Fraud Watch Network. The presentation by AARP was very informative and everyone enjoyed the free gel pens and refreshments. There were several important take aways including the fact that 18-34 year olds are most often affected by fraud.

On Sept. 25th we co-hosted a For All Ages event called Tea @3 at Simsbury Yarns. This 12-week program tackles loneliness by pairing a college student with a 55+ adult. Participants knit or crochet a tea cozy for this great program. Check out this link for more information. <https://forallages.org/tea-at-3>

October 3rd - Friday - Our Beaver Pond Wildlife Films return this month with film #4 - Late Summer. Join us for a social hour at 6:00pm and Film at 7:00pm. Several people who have previously seen the films have commented that the fourth film is their favorite! Bring your dinner or take part in our social hour

offerings - shrimp cocktail, cheese and crackers, and more. There will be a Q&A after the film with filmmaker, Ray Asselin. This film series is attracting a LOT of local attention. See you there!

October 6th - MUSIC MONDAY! 7:00 pm - Ava Grom - guitarist and singer - Ava is a music student at Trinity College and plays acoustic covers and originals in the styles of Folk, Blues, and Indie. She spends her weeknights gigging at local open mics such as the Mapletree Cafe in Simsbury, Talcott Mountain Collective and Almost Famous Brewing as well as private parties. She started a band called The Lady Fingers at Trinity and loves to attend Jam nights where she can rock out on the electric guitar with fellow musicians. Come and relax with an hour of live music. Let's give Ava a warm Simsbury Grange welcome. Don't miss it! Parking available in Farms Village Plaza. You can see videos of Ava's live performances below, and find more videos on her YouTube, @AvaGromGuitar <https://www.avagrom.com/about-ava>

# 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](mailto:submissions@ctstateGrange.org).

We did not receive any responses to last month's picture.

# Photography Contest Results



**Dave Roberts**  
State Lecturer

Riverton Grange No. 169  
Lecturer@CTStateGrange.org

Autumn is upon us, and with it comes the vibrant energy of Grange programs, contests, and community events. I continue to be impressed by the creativity and dedication of our Lecturers across the state—you are the heart of so much that we do!

As we move into the fall season, I want to take a moment to thank all who have participated in our State Lecturer's programs and quarterly Roundups this year. Your enthusiasm, talent, and Grange spirit make all the difference in keeping our traditions alive and inspiring new ideas along the way.

## Important Update Extended Deadline!

If you've been working on a submission for our State Lecturer Appreciation Award or Honor Lecturer Award—good news! The deadline for entries has been extended to October 11. If you need a little more time, now is your chance to polish your entry and submit it. Here are the award criteria:

### 2025/2026 LECTURER'S APPRECIATION AWARD

CRITERIA for Community and Pomona Granges:

1. Be responsible for a suitable program at every meeting.
2. Programs should be as appropriate up to 30 minutes in length.
3. Cooperate with your Grange Committees.
4. Reports to the State Grange Lecturer/Program Director should be submitted in a timely manner.
5. Participate in at least one Connecticut State Grange Lecturers' Roundtable.

2025/2026

### HONOR LECTURER'S AWARD

CRITERIA for Community and Pomona Granges:

- Meet the requirements for the Lecturer's Appreciation Award listed above, plus participate in at least three additional contests or projects (Heirloom, Photo, Complete, "Honoring Our Elders," "A Word from Home," or "Initiate a New Program")
- In addition, attend at least two or more Connecticut State Grange Lecturers' Roundtables and submit a "Grange in Action" or "Distinguished Grange" nomination.

Please ensure that you follow the

submission guidelines and submit your materials to the designated address by the new deadline. Program Director/Lecturers can submit their nomination to the State Lecturer either electronically to [lecturer@ctstategrange.org](mailto:lecturer@ctstategrange.org) or [granbydavidroberts@gmail.com](mailto:granbydavidroberts@gmail.com) or via regular mail (P.O. Box 155, Riverton, CT 06065). If you have any questions about what's required, don't hesitate to reach out—I'm happy to help.

Let's finish the Grange year strong. I look forward to seeing all your wonderful entries and celebrating the incredible work being done in every corner of our state.

Keep up the great work—and thank you for all you do to support the Grange and one another.

## New England Grange Building



**Top photo: A sampling of the many craft donations for the Grange Store. Bottom: Some of the winning needlework entries.**



### **NUTMEG POMONA #16**

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

Hopefully by now you have received your new Pomona handbook. They are a nice bright red in color. The officers and members of Nutmeg Pomona send our sincere thanks to Terri Fassio for all her help when our Lecturer Robert Charbonneau suffered a stroke. Terri stepped in and finished the set up. I can get the information, put it in order and type what needs to be typed; but putting it in camera ready condition is far beyond my knowledge.

Happy to hear that Bob is doing well in his recovery and is home.

Delegates to the State Session are Master Donald Lanoue and Overseer Charles Dimmick.

At the last Pomona meeting, Harmony Grange won the Community Service Soup basket. Who will go home with it this time?

Our next meeting is not until December 7th at Wallingford Grange.

### **CHESHIRE GRANGE #23**

*Corr: Ruel Miller*

**Oct. 1:** Fair Food and Why We All Like It

**Oct. 15:** Omitted-State Session

Getting back into the groove after our successful fair. We installed Diane Calabro as our new Lecturer replacing Barbara Kulisch who



**Quilts of Valor were presented to James Drexler, Egon Mordarski, and Douglas Newell at the Wallingford Grange Fair.**

held the office for many years and did a great job with very interesting programs. Our thanks To Barbara for her service. We recently have had several inquiries about space available in our hall from various groups. We are entertaining these requests. Several of our members will be attending the State Grange Session mid month in Norwich. We will be putting on a fall fund raising roast beef dinner for a local hiking club. We extend our best wishes to all our Connecticut Granges for an enjoyable and productive new Grange year.

### **WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33**

*Corr: Stephen Fengler*

Oh what a wonderful 88th Annual Wallingford Grange Fair! The fun, the food, the fellowship! Thank you to all who came by to our 88th Annual Grange Fair, supporting the Grange, and helping us serve the community which we so love. We thank the Yalesville Fife & Drum Corp for performing our National Anthem. We thank the Bobby Loo Acoustic Duo for providing delightful live music during the event. We also thank all of our exhibitors for exhibiting in

various categories from horticulture, vegetables, baking, photography, art, and more. We thank our fair exhibit judges, the non-profits who came out, and all who helped run the many different booths at the fair. Finally, congratulations goes out to our Wallingford Grange fair committee including Kathy Bergonzi, the head chairperson, and all members of it for putting out another wonderful fair!

At the Grange Fair, the Quilts of Valor Wallingford Grange Group also presented three Quilts of Valor to veterans in the community. The veteran recipients included Navy Veteran James Drexler who served in defense and intelligence communications, and Air Force Veterans Egon Mordarski and Douglas Newell who both served in Türkiye in intelligence communications. These quilts represent an expression of gratitude meant to thank and comfort our veterans. We can never know their sacrifice while keeping us safe. These Quilts of Valor unequivocally say thank you to them for serving our nation. For all of this and more, we were proud to wrap these quilts around Egon's, Doug's, and Jim's shoulders; shoulders that have

carried more than their fair share, and hope that they bring comfort and healing to these fine gentlemen. We thank them for allowing us to recognize them.

Some special events Wallingford Grange is looking forward to hosting include the Harvesting Honeys and Tastings Event (October 8th: 6pm-8pm), Basic Car Maintenance Workshop for youth ages 15-21 (October 11th: 9am-12pm), Pastabilities Fundraising Dinner (October 11th: 5pm-7pm), Halloween Scavenger Hunt (October 25th: 12pm- Midnight), Youth Halloween Ghost Snack and Spooky Jug Making

Event (October 30th: 5pm -7pm), Pasta and Cultures Event (November 4th: 6pm-8pm), Pancake Breakfast (November 8th: 8:30am-11am and veterans eat free), and Soap Carvings Youth Event (November 11th: 11am-12pm).

To stay informed about these different happenings and upcoming events at Wallingford Grange, please follow our "Wallingford Grange" Facebook page. Hope to see you at these events!

#### **BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103**

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

Our October 10th meeting will be

the start of a new Grange year. It will also be the first meeting of our new Grange theme - "The Alphabet". Secretary Marilyn Maxwell will be in charge. She chose the letter "M". Don't know if she picked this letter because of her name or what she has in mind. Whichever I know it will be a good program. She is also the host for the meeting.

Our Delegates to the State Session are Overseer Ron Gunther and Gatekeeper Marianne Nielsen.

Next tag sale and Open Mic October 18th. Featured item is Halloween decorations. Tag Sale 9 to 2 - Open Mic 2 to 5. We always have some free snacks but Secretary Marilyn has added a lunch snack at a very reasonable price. This month chili.

We offer our sincere sympathies to our Chaplain Marie Sousa on the passing of her father Manuel Vilar and our Ceres Carol Brooks on the passing of her brother Alan.

The members sent get well wishes to Connie Brush who is a resident of Shady Knoll in Seymour and Pat Bisson (my sister) a resident of Beacon Brook Convalescent Center in Naugatuck. Also to Ron Gunther, Marianne Nielsen and Sandy Fitzner who missed our last meeting because of illness. We hope by the time you are reading this, the news is better and they have all returned to good health.

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

*Corr: Maureen Sanborn*

**Oct. 10:** Knock, Knock, Who's There?

**Oct. 24:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

**Nov. 14:** Making Holiday Pies

**Nov. 28:** Omitted for Thanksgiving

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

**Connecticut State Grange**  
**141st Annual Session**

**QUILT DRAWING**

**TICKETS: \$5.00 each**

**Drawing to be held and Winners Announced  
at the Celebration Banquet on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**

**To Benefit  
The CT State Grange Foundation  
Grange Improvement Grant**

**CONNECTICUT  
STATE GRANGE  
FOUNDATION**

**Quilt Made and Donated  
by Alma Graham**





**Charles W. Dimmick**  
State Chaplain  
Cheshire Grange No. 23  
chaplain@ctstateGrange.org

**Psalm 84:11** For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

**2 Corinthians 9:8** And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

What is God's grace? It is unmerited favor and mercy shown to unworthy men and women. Examples are found in both the Tanakh [the Old Testament] and the New Testament. It also pervades the Quran. Every chapter of the Quran begins with [translated into English] "In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful."

Note that I call us "unworthy". This is to remind you that none of us, no matter how we try, are able to live up to the standards that God wants us to follow. Nevertheless, despite our shortcomings, God blesses us with grace, and this blessing is unrelated to our unworthiness. It comes despite our shortcomings,



our straying from the paths God has laid out for us to follow, despite our not doing those things we should be doing, and our doing those things we should not be doing. We fall far short of the two Great Commandments: to love God with all our hearts; and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

One may ask, since we are unworthy, why does God bless us? To me, it is because God is by definition Good, and he blesses us to express his inherent goodness and love. But there is more: God blesses us to make us a blessing to others. If we have been blessed

by God, by an outpouring of his Grace, then it behooves us to pass it forward, to extend our grace to others, to share the blessing. As I have said several times before in this Chaplain's Column, we are born, not for ourselves, but to help others.

## *In Memoriam*

**Constance "Connie" Brush**  
Beacon Valley Grange No. 103

**Elizabeth Robertson**  
Vernon & Tolland Granges

*"Well done, good and faithful servants."*