



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

Vol. 66, No. 9

The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

June 2026

From the President's Desk



Robert Buck
State President

Bethlehem Grange No. 121
president@ctstategrange.org

One of the stated goals of the Masonic Fraternity is to make good men better. Masons are taught that each of us is an unfinished ashlar stone, rough from the quarry. Through life, we polish that ashlar striving for perfection as we grow personally. By the Worshipful Master's station in the East of the Lodge, there are two ashlar, the rough one and the finished one to stand there as examples. In Grange, we have our case of implements: the ax, plow, harrow, spade, hoe, pruning knife, sickle and agate. Sounds like the introduction given to candidates in our First Degree where it is stated that our aim is to create a better and higher manhood and womanhood. In the allegorical teachings of Masonry, lessons are taught in the backdrop of the building of the temple of King Solomon, a representation of the fact that Masons are being taught to build and improve the temple of our own body and soul.

In the Grange, we use the four seasons of the year to represent our own progression and growth in life as we better ourselves. Think of the implements in the case on the President's station and of the charges attached to each representing the lessons in self-

betterment. For those of you that haven't seen all the degrees or haven't seen them recently, pick up the Subordinate Manual and read the degrees through to understand the valuable lessons contained therein. This, Brothers and Sisters, is what we believe in and stand for, and in turn it is what binds us all together in fraternity. A guide not only to how we treat and relate to each other, but how we ought to get on in all our personal interactions with others. This is why we have at times been called the "Aggie" Masons.

As I write this on May 4, Ted Powell and I are back from National Leaders Conference in Sparks,

NV. This will also be the location of the 2027 National Convention. It is a very nice convention facility in a naturally beautiful area with plenty of restaurants and meeting space. We were presented with many seminars full of useful ideas. One of the first presentations was called "Imagine. Align. Act" done by National Communications Director Phil Vonada. The first step in this paradigm is to IMAGINE what you would like to be as a Grange. Imagine broadly and boldly without worrying about the reality of what will be. Just IMAGINE what you might want: be bold, creative, and perhaps a little non-traditional. Think about serving your community but not necessarily as it's always been done. Be visionary and inclusive

...Continued next page

Changes to State Session



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary

Winchester Grange #74
Secretary@ctstategrange.org

The cost and offerings of State Session have been an ongoing topic of discussion with the Board of Directors and with many of you since last October. We have decided to make necessary changes without drastically impacting the experience for members.

We have received word from our Sales Manager that the Holiday Inn has been sold by IHG. We are told the hotel will remain a Holiday Inn

and this change will have little effect on our convention. I am having difficulty working on contracts and arrangements during this time of transition, but that's my job as your Secretary to work out these issues.

I have to talk a little about meals and their cost. There has been criticism that our meals at State Session are "too fancy". In short, our meals are not "fancy." A basic continental breakfast with no more than toast, bagels, fruit and coffee starts at \$14.00 per head. Basic lunch offerings start at \$18.00 per head. These prices, from the Holiday Inn Norwich, are the most inexpensive offerings to be found

...Continued on page 4



Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange



NEXT ISSUE:
Articles Due June 15

From the President's Desk

Continued from page one...

by involving the community. Next ALIGN. Think of going out into the community to engage instead of waiting for them to come to you. The Grange is strong on community service and dinners but falls short on communication with and to the community. Welcome visitors to your halls with regular and inviting events. Keep your halls active. Improve advocacy by networking and coordinating events with other groups. Program to attract diverse viewpoints and interests. The final

step is to ACT. This can be the hardest step to take because the ideas must crystallize into reality. Think about what you must do to move along new projects. Consider barriers to their initiation and how to remove these barriers to fulfill your goals. You may have barriers to goals that can be dealt with short term, say within 6 months, others may require building up to, say within 6 months to 2 years. Those needing more than 2 years are what we can call the long term or 2050 vision as you should consider the long haul after you are all gone and others take over. The best goals are the most specific and not just general meaningless statements.

Another good presentation was put on by consultant Jen Jones of Whip-Smart concerning the rebranding of Grange in preparation of producing the Grange of the future. While you may think the effort is to change the organization, I tell you it is not, but rather to clarify what we are. Part of the thinking is that meetings are actually less important than events and projects. We have all experienced the turnoff feedback we get when you pressure someone to join by pushing meetings on them. There is a move to alternate business meetings with fun program meetings. You must allow people to want to join so they can be involved in what you do for your community. It was determined that the biggest barrier to getting folks to join is not age of life stage, but language and traditions that create the atmosphere of insider versus outsider. While tradition is identity to many members, the reality is that we actually create connections between people and make great and observable impacts in our communities. Grange brings people together to strengthen communities,

so that the Grange is the place to belong and contribute to this. Stress the togetherness and impacts we have over our fraternalism in a confident manner. Confidence in tone is essential to your elevator speech. As part of the rebranding, there is consideration of redesigning the seven-sided Grange logo due to its arcane and cryptic significance clear only to insiders. While we may cherish this bit of history, realize that it is only about sixty years old. Sixty of our 159 years of history; clearly a fairly new concept of short duration compared to our totality.

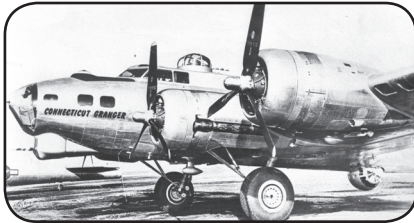
Stay tuned for more topics from the conference. A side discussion Ted and I had with National President Chris Hamp concerned Grange fundraising efforts. GoFundMe pages are OK ways to raise money. Auxiliary "Friends Of..." groups are OK as long as they are properly incorporated as 501(c)3 with bylaws and directors that are Grange leaders so that proper control of funds raised is guaranteed. If these 501(c)3 organizations use the word Grange in their legal title, they must be properly licensed with National Grange to be legal with respect to our protected Grange trademark. By-laws and incorporation papers should be supplied to the Connecticut State Grange Secretary.

As far as other non-Grange 501(c)3 non-profits receiving money donations or grants and passing that money on to a Grange, those non-profits become legally responsible and liable for any improper financial transactions with respect to IRS regulations on income tax and deductibility matters. With these things in mind, they give our Granges several different options to raise needed funds for projects and hall maintenance.

Until next time, get out there and keep on Granging! Be Grange-Strong.

the Connecticut Granger

Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

STAFF

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

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

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

Connecticut State Grange
100 Newfield Road
P.O. Box 3

Winchester Center, CT 06094
or Todd Gelineau, Editor
P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069
Granger@CTStateGrange.org
(USPS 563-220)

the Connecticut Granger

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

Connecticut Granger, Inc..
100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3
Winchester Center, CT 06094

Periodicals postage paid
at Winsted, CT 06098

POSTMASTER:

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

Don't waste my time, money or energy



**Jody & Jodi Ann
Cameron**
Membership Co-Dir.
Ekono Comm. Grange No. 89
membership@ctstategrange.org

Let's reflect on this as we talk about making your Grange relevant, visible and desirable to your members, community and prospective new members. Are you letting your membership and community know what's going on at the Grange? Are you using social media, email, local radio or newspapers to "get your word out?" Does your Grange have a Facebook page and are you keeping it current? Do you have a relationship with your area newspaper or periodical? Do you have a local radio station? Do you send emails to your members?

Or does your Grange always talk about what you used to do, post old photos of yesteryear or of members that have been gone so long no one even knows them today? Do we always do what we've always done just because?

If we want to see our Grange succeed or even stand a chance of success, we need to live in the here and now. We need to make sure we are relevant to what our community needs, what our members' needs are and what our Granges needs are; and for our Granges to fulfill those needs.

Ask yourself, are you holding effective, time sensitive, educational meetings that meet the needs of your active membership? Being mindful of their needs for socialization offering a good work/life balance?

Are you holding events or activities that promote or spotlight your Grange? Is your building and



grounds in good repair and inviting to the public eye? Do you invite the public to your facility?

Do you do anything in the community? Community Service, Project Sustenance, public dinners, forums or special events that are current to your community's needs.

Our current membership and

How will you Grange today?

prospective new members have limited time available to contribute to another thing. If we do not embrace the current social climate, we currently exist in we will not exist for much longer.

There is need in every community, there is a desire to positively contribute from every generation and there is a common thread that can make all of this come together; your GRANGE! If each active member contributes

the best of their time and talents, not overburdening themselves in so doing, imagine the accomplishment your Grange can see. There will be a day, not so far off, where you will see people coming to your Grange purely because they see you are true and faithful members of an organization that means something to your community and your citizens. A group of like-minded, kindhearted doers and givers of themselves, not dragged down by partisan views nor selfish motives, not intentionally looking to build their resume, but who want to see the best for their community and every one of their neighbors. Who wants to see their town, their home and their family prosper and feel welcome and safe.

This is how we build our Granges, this is how we solidify another 150 plus years and this is how we should and must Grange. Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today and each day.

How will you Grange today?

State Session changes

Continued from page one...

ANYWHERE. Every hotel and convention center requires events to spend a minimum amount. The Holiday Inn also has a minimum which is lower than nearly any other (reputable) hotel in the region.

While those prices may seem expensive, keep in mind it also includes the cost of the meal, staff and gratuity. In case you haven't been to a fast food restaurant recently, it's difficult to find a meal for less than \$15.00.

We have also talked about alternative meeting locations and the use of caterers. Catering is just as expensive as hotels (if not more). Meeting in a hall or independent meeting space also presents the challenge of arranging for or renting many of the things provided by the hotel as part of our contract. We are not ruling out these options for the future but for now, we are staying the course at the Holiday Inn.

In the past, we have made breakfast reservations for each and every member registered to attend the convention. This will no longer be the case. When the registration forms come out in July, there will be a new section for each registrant to indicate if they will be having breakfast on Friday and/or Saturday morning. These breakfasts will remain free, but only members who reserve ahead of time on the form will be allowed to attend.

We hope to have a more accurate count of members actually having breakfast rather than reserving for 80 people and having only 50 or 60 attend. In this example, we pay for 80 even if only 10 people show up.

The Friday luncheon will continue to be the Classic Deli Lunch. Due to price increases, Saturday's lunch will be a Bella Roma Lunch with Chicken Parmesan, Caesar

Salad, Flank Steak and Penne with Marinara. Believe it or not, the barbecue luncheons we have had in the past are much more expensive than options chosen this year.

Banquet choices are slightly different this time around:

- Baked Stuffed Sole
- Eggplant Parmesan
- Chicken Piccata
- Prime Rib

All served with seasonal vegetables, herb roasted potatoes and chocolate cake.

As you all know, meat prices have gone up drastically. Rather than raise the price for all banquet meals, we have decided to raise the price on Prime Rib to \$45.00. The other three options will be \$35.00 per person. To be clear, these prices are what we pay the hotel. The State Grange does not make any money on these meals. All meals at State Session are sold at or below cost to members.

The registration fee has been set at \$50 (a fee that barely meets the cost of the two luncheons).

The State Grange walks a delicate line making financially responsible

decisions while being sensitive to the effects on members. We know members will be less likely to come if Granges are unable to pay the cost or if the burden shifts to delegates to pay their own way.

The cost of hotel rooms will remain unchanged this year. For Friday evening it will be \$109 plus taxes and fees and for Saturday evening it will be \$129.00 plus taxes and fees.

Again, these are incredibly reasonable prices. The standard rate for this hotel is well over \$220 per night, plus fees and taxes.

I cannot stress enough how much time has been spent discussing, negotiating and planning for this year's session. With the totality of challenges before us, I believe we have made the best possible decisions that will provide for another enjoyable State Session in Norwich.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. In the meantime, we are told reservations are open for members to begin reserving their rooms anytime.

Family Activities Committee



Dawn Percoski
Family Activities Dir.

Vernon Grange No. 52
familyactivities@ctstategrange.org

It is usually time for me to let you know what day the first cleanup is for the New England Grange Building. Unfortunately, the next meeting is at the end of June and I won't know until then when to schedule it. The floors are going to be worked on during the summer so we can't sort our inventory and start in on any pricing that needs to be done. As soon as I know I will get a flyer out to everyone. It's going to be fun seeing everyone and I'll be informing the other states when the first day is going to be.

So keep up your crafting, donations can be brought to the

August needlework contest and I'll be sure they make it up to the NEGB. Start on your reports and I'll see you all soon.



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.



We received an email from someone who did not identify themselves, and had an email address that is not familiar. They said: "I think I know the answer to the May CT Granger Looking Back photo. I believe it is from one of the Setback Tournaments that Granby Grange used to hold. I cannot recall the name of the First Gentleman on the left. It might be Hobert Longley, but I am not sure. The others in the photo are George Tuffin, Lyall Shaw (holding the trophy), Roger Hayes, Sim Pero, and Newton Lyons."

November 9-14, 2026
Broken Arrow, OK

Visit
BROKEN
ARROW



Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center

Secure your hotel room: <https://grange.biz/160hotel>

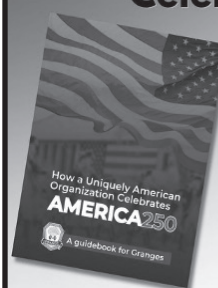
Celebrate America250 AMERICA
250

with the Grange

All Granges across the country are encouraged to participate in America's semiquincentennial - 250 years of patriotism, freedom, and shared values.

The Guidebook for Granges can be downloaded at

<https://grange.biz/America250>



A great Lecturers Conference



Dave Roberts
State Lecturer

Riverton Grange No. 169

Lecturer@CTStateGrange.org

The 2026 North East Lecturers Association (NELA) Biennial Conference brought together Grangers from across the region for a memorable weekend of fellowship, learning, and inspiration.

Hosted by the New York State Grange at their headquarters in Cortland, New York, this year's conference embraced the theme "America 250"—a timely and meaningful focus as our nation approaches this historic milestone.

Connecticut was well represented, with twelve members making the journey from Riverton, Whigville, Vernon, Coventry, North Stonington, Stonington, and Beacon Valley Granges. In total, more than 70 Grangers from across the Northeast participated (with the exception of Vermont), creating a vibrant and collaborative atmosphere throughout the weekend.

The conference, expertly hosted by New York State Grange Lecturer Brenda Noble, began Friday evening with an opening ceremony that showcased state pride—Connecticut members stood out in our signature orange.

Connecticut State Grange pens were given to all attendees in a conference-themed bag with goodies from all the states. The evening quickly transitioned into fun and fellowship, highlighted by Connecticut's sponsored game, "Blow a Duck." Participants used straws to race their America 250 rubber ducks across the finish line, with winners receiving orange glow-in-the-dark footballs generously donated by the Riverton Lions Club.

Saturday offered a full day

of enrichment, beginning with seminars and a tour of the New York State Grange Museum. The learning continued into the afternoon, followed by a unique and enjoyable visit to Homer Hops Brewery, where attendees learned about the brewing process—and even sampled a memorable blue strawberry beer. The evening gala and entertainment, provided by New York State Grange members, brought the day to a festive close.

Sunday morning greeted us with an unexpected April snowfall—a reminder that spring in the Northeast always keeps us guessing. The final day included a culminating seminar co-hosted by Massachusetts State Lecturer Deborah Goodrich and myself, titled "Project Sustenance: Then, Now, and the Next 250 Years."

This interactive workshop focused on the National Grange's Project Sustenance initiative, encouraging participants to reflect on the Grange's historic role in supporting food security while developing new, forward-thinking ideas for community impact. Through discussion, collaboration, and hands-on activities, attendees explored how local Granges can expand their reach, build partnerships, and create meaningful,

sustainable programs as we look toward America's 250th anniversary and beyond.

The energy, creativity, and commitment shared during this session—and throughout the entire weekend—were truly inspiring. It reinforced a simple but powerful truth: the strength of the Grange lies in its people and their willingness to serve.

As we returned home to Connecticut, we carried with us new ideas, renewed purpose, and a deep appreciation for the connections we share across state lines. We now look forward to the 2028 NELA Conference, which will be held in Maine.

Until then, let us continue the work of Project Sustenance in our own communities—honoring our past, strengthening our present, and building a future worthy of the next 250 years.

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

18th LECTURERS'

ROUND UP

★ ★ ★

zoom

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2026

• 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

Marketing Your Grange When the Summer Sun Shines

by Terri Fassio,
Public Relations Co-Director

As the days grow longer and Connecticut communities enjoy warmer weather, Community Granges have a perfect marketing opportunity. When farmers markets are busy with shoppers, town greens fill with concert goers, and families gather for parades and fairs, your Grange can meet neighbors where they already are: outside and ready to connect.

Summer events offer what no online advertising can replicate: face-to-face connections with community members actively seeking local involvement. These

gatherings draw diverse crowds — young families, retirees, newcomers, and long-time residents — many who've never set foot in a Grange hall. A friendly conversation at a farmers market booth can spark genuine interest in your Grange.

Visibility throughout the summer months builds name recognition for your Grange and shows it as an active community organization. Every appearance your Grange makes reinforces it as a community organization, and also extends marketing reach through photos and social media shares. Here's a few suggestions:

Make your booth interactive.

Use colorful displays, Grange banners, and simple activities—a kids' craft station, seed giveaways, or agricultural trivia. Collect email sign-ups for follow-up.

Showcase Grange expertise. Offer demonstrations in canning, gardening, cooking with local ingredients, or traditional crafts. These position your Grange as a valuable community resource.

Post on social media. Post before events announcing your presence, share real-time updates during, and recap afterward with photos and clear next steps for getting involved.

Identify 3-5 summer events in your community. Contact organizers about booth space or sponsorship opportunities. Form a small committee to coordinate participation. Summer is short, but its impact on your Grange can last all year. When your community is outside celebrating, your Grange should be right there with them.

YOU'RE INVITED TO
THE
HARMONY GRANGE NO 92
Servicing Shelton, Trumbull and Monroe

**Open House and
Ice Cream Social!**

103 HURD AVE, MONROE

**SATURDAY
JUNE 13, 2026**

10:00AM-3:00PM

FUN AND FREE

**MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS AND
SEE WHAT THE GRANGE IS ALL
ABOUT!**

SIMSBURY GRANGE

**2026 Certified
AGRICULTURAL FAIR**

Saturday, June 13
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Simsbury Grange Hall
236 Farms Village Road
West Simsbury, CT 06092

FREE ENTRY

- Win Prizes and Cash
- Displays by Local Farmers & Non-Profits
- Live Entertainment & more
- Our Famous Crock Pot Kitchen
- Supervised Children's Games

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.SimsburyGrange.org

Connecticut member awarded Ernestine Keiser Memorial Scholarship

by Amanda Brozana

Grange Foundation Associate
(re-printed from Grange Today)

The Grange Foundation has named Bryn Miller of Woodstock, Connecticut, as a recipient of the 2026 Ernestine Keiser Memorial Scholarship, recognizing her strong record of academic achievement, leadership, and service rooted in her Grange experience.

A member of Senexet Grange #40, Miller currently serves as Assistant Steward and has remained actively engaged even while away at college. From helping organize community events to supporting outreach and service efforts, her involvement reflects a lifelong connection to the Grange and the values it instills.

Now a biomedical engineering major on a pre-med track at the University of Vermont, Miller brings that same sense of purpose to her studies. She has earned a 3.95 GPA and stands out among her peers not only for her academic performance but for the way she leads and collaborates in the classroom.

Outside of her coursework, Miller stays deeply involved in service and leadership. She has held multiple roles on campus, including orientation leader and student organization leader, and contributes to nonprofit efforts addressing global hunger and training service dogs. Across each of these experiences, her focus remains consistent: helping others and strengthening the communities she is part of.

"Bryn has lived her life to date as a model child, student and citizen," wrote Amy Monahan, President of Senexet Grange. "Her bold confidence, fresh ideas, caring attitude, strong values and drive are sure to lead to a bright future." Those who have worked with

Miller in higher education settings describe a similar impression. Faculty note her ability to connect with others, take initiative, and lead with both confidence and care. Miller plans to continue her education through an accelerated master's program in biomedical engineering while preparing for a career in medicine. Her long-term goal is to improve access to health care in rural and underserved communities—work that reflects both her academic training and the values she developed through the Grange.

In her scholarship essay, Miller connects her educational path directly to service, writing that her goal is to return knowledge and opportunity to communities like the one that raised her.

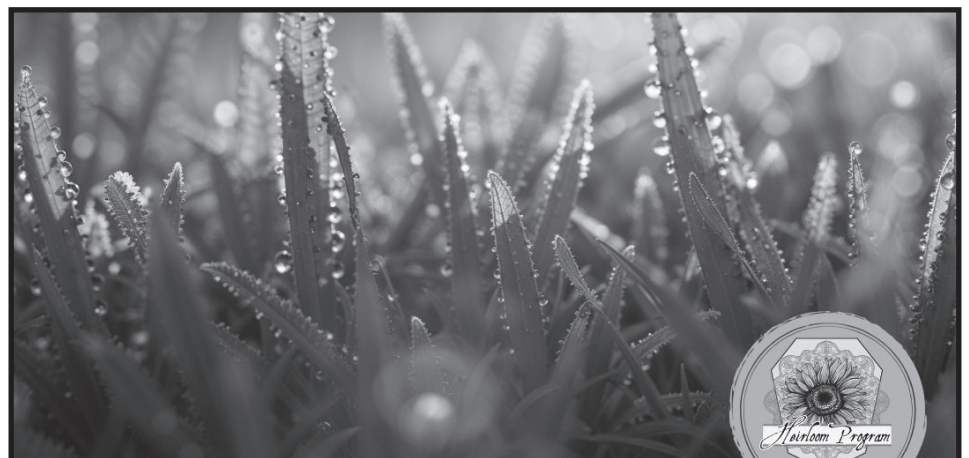
"The investment in my education is not simply an investment in one student; it is an investment in the future health and strength of the rural communities the Grange was built to support," Miller wrote in her application essay.

The Ernestine Keiser Memorial



Bryn Miller, a member of Senexet Grange #40 (CT) and a biomedical engineering student at the University of Vermont, is the winner of this year's Ernestine Keiser Memorial Scholarship from the Grange Foundation. Photo provided

Scholarship honors students who demonstrate a commitment to leadership, education and community. In Miller, the Grange Foundation recognizes not only a high-achieving student, but a young leader already putting those values into practice.



President, First Degree

**LET THE MODESTY AND USEFULNESS OF THE
HUMBLE GRASS BE TO YOU AN OBJECT OF IMITATION.**



SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

June 24: Picnic, PTSD Awareness and Dairy Month

Aug. 1: Locally Grown Day

We are meeting monthly to plan our community involvement. We are holding second Saturday Community Breakfasts to get the community together to learn about what is happening and interact with the various boards and commissions. Great conversations. These social events will bring residents and others in an informal setting to get to know what is going on. More than 30 came to our each of our first and second breakfasts. Letters to the editor have been written to the community newspaper to let readers know what the Grange is and the Grange history. This newspaper has a large local circulation.

Locally Grown Day will be held on Saturday August 1. Letters to be sent to all Woodstock farms/vendors to promote the event.

We will be hosting a Pasta dinner in May to raise funds and awareness for EMS First Responder Vests for Woodstock.

Member Bryn Miller was awarded the National Grange Ernestine Keiser Memorial Scholarship. She is attending the University of Vermont studying bio-medical engineering. A write up was published in the National Grange monthly newsletter. Our memorial scholarships will be

awarded to Woodstock students in August.

We welcome all members and friends to attend our events and meetings.

NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

June 12: Election of Officers and short program

June 26: Annual Picnic-Potluck at 6:30

At our April 10 program we enjoyed a presentation of Sue's entry in the State Grange Lecturer's contest and we feel this is another winner! Best of luck, Sue!

We had an exciting Community Citizen evening on April 24. Our hall was full and we were honored to welcome Past Voting Delegates (and State Treasurer) Jody and Jodi Ann Cameron and State Lecturer Dave Roberts to our festivities. Also in attendance were State Representative Greg Howard, First Selectman Bob Carlson and other town dignitaries. All these people

came to honor Jim Holdridge, our Community Citizen for 2026. Jim, an electrician by trade, has devoted his life to volunteerism. His many deeds were extolled by members of the 4 H, the Lion's Club, the North Stonington Agricultural Fair and the Grange. The skit of his "life", written by our Lecturer (and starring Jeff Barnes as Jim) drew many giggles from our audience. Jim walked away with his hands full of the many, well deserved accolades bestowed on him.

We also honored longtime members with seals and certificates. Joe LoPresti, who recently became a member when we merged with Preston City, entranced us with memories of his years as Youth Chairman of New London County Pomona and the many square dances he called. Joe received his 75 year letter and Cheree Miner received her 55 year seal.

We will hold our annual picnic followed by games on June 26 at 6:30; and "God willing and the Creek don't rise" we will have a good crowd there.

Redding Grange Open Mic Night



An epic Redding Grange Open Mic night in the books!!! Thanks to all that came out to play-and to listen. Your energy and support helps keep Redding Grange alive for generations to come. Special thanks to our Redding Grange Musician - the one and only Scott Smith! (It helps that he is a professional musician with North County Band- how lucky are we!?!?)



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: David Roberts

Mountain Laurel Pomona Grange No. 15 held one of its most successful and well-attended meetings in recent memory on May 9th at Whigville Grange in Whigville, Connecticut. President Dave Roberts called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM with 36 members present, representing Community Granges from across the Pomona jurisdiction. Members commented positively on the many recent improvements to the Whigville Grange Hall and praised the hospitality and refreshments provided by the host Grange. State Grange President Ted Powell and State Grange Gatekeeper Aili McKeen both addressed the attendees on behalf of Connecticut State Grange.

The Lecturer's Program was presented by James Mele, who stepped in while Lecturer Debbie Vail continues recuperating. Members appreciated the thoughtful and engaging program on the May holidays, which contributed to the positive spirit of the afternoon. All members were presented with a package of Oreos, and a complimentary raffle was held for fun giveaways.

The meeting itself was highly productive and completed in just 90 minutes. Members unanimously approved three resolutions for consideration at the next Connecticut State Grange Convention. The



Mountain Laurel Pomona held a well-attended meeting at Whigville Grange on May 9.

2026–2027 Pomona calendar was also reviewed and approved.

In recognition of Memorial Day and local veterans, following a presentation by American Legion Commander (Riverton Grange member) Tim Sweeney, members raised \$100 to support the Riverton American Legion Post #159 Poppy Program.

One of the most significant actions of the afternoon was the unanimous approval of a new Community Grange Incentive Program designed to encourage both communications outreach and membership growth among subordinate Granges. Under the 2025-2026 program, a Community Grange within our Pomona may either: spend up to \$200 on communications, publicity, or marketing efforts and receive reimbursement from Pomona, OR meet or exceed the National Grange membership goal by adding three or more members during the current Grange Year.

The Community Grange must submit their written funding request in person to Mountain Laurel Pomona at the upcoming August 22nd meeting.

The initiative is expected to cost Pomona no more than \$1,800 annually and will be funded entirely through interest earned from Pomona investments. Members expressed

strong support for the program as a practical way to strengthen local Granges and encourage innovation in outreach and recruitment efforts.

The next meeting of Mountain Laurel Pomona Grange No. 15 will be held Saturday, August 22, 2026, at 2:00 PM at Riverton Grange #169, 17 Riverton Road, Riverton, Connecticut. Members and guests are welcome.

GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: David Roberts

Sunday, June 14 Monthly Membership Meeting; 2:00 PM; at the Grange Hall, 212 N. Granby Road, Granby. Agricultural Fair Chair Carol Innes will present the Lecturer's Program, and Pat Tarca will provide the refreshments.

Granby Grange No. 5 continues to enjoy a busy, productive spring season, with strong member participation, successful fundraising efforts, and exciting plans for the future.

A major highlight was the Grange's recently completed 4th Annual Rubber Duck Race, sponsored by Lincoln Tech, held on May 2 at Salmon Brook Park. Despite the weather, the event was a tremendous success, drawing community support and enthusiastic participation. Members expressed

Continued next page...

appreciation to all volunteers who helped organize and run the popular fundraiser, which continues to grow each year.

Granby Grange is also making steady progress on several building and grounds improvement projects. New basement windows have been installed, additional restoration work is planned, and preparations are underway for future grant applications. Members are also developing a comprehensive Grounds Design Plan that may include a community garden, a pollinator garden, a greenhouse, a historical agricultural display, fruit trees, and expanded agricultural fair space.

Fundraising efforts continue to be successful, including spring flower sales, which have already raised \$580. Members also volunteered to assist with the upcoming Salmon Brook Historical Society Flea Market.

The Granby Grange Agricultural Fair Committee continues planning for this year's fair, scheduled for Saturday, September 12.

During the meeting, we welcomed new member David Suzenski in a special ceremony (see photo) conducted by Connecticut State Grange Lady Assistant Steward Dawn Anstett. The Grange also approved plans to host both the 2026 and 2027 Fifth Degree ceremonies for Mountain Laurel Pomona.

The Lecturer's Program featured a well-received Mother's Day presentation by Dave Roberts, including readings, music, stories, and member reflections honoring mothers and families.

Granby Grange's next meeting will be held on June 14 at 2:00 PM at the Grange Hall.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

June 9: Election of Officers, Ref. Ramona Fassio

June 23: It's Dad's Turn, Ref. Sandy & Earl Phillips

July 11: America 250 Dance from

6-9 with music by Mad River Music Band.

July 14: Mac & Cheese, Ref. Ellen Pettit

July 28: National Hamburger Day, Ref. Patrick O'Brien

Join us for any of the meetings listed above. We would love to see you at our hall. Coming up on July 11 is a very special event... In honor of America's 250th birthday, we will be holding a dance with the music of Mad River Music Band. Tickets are \$10 per person and are available by calling 203-465-2787. Tickets (not pre-sold) will be made available at the door. We are holding this event as part of the townwide/year-long celebration of America's 250th.

We remind members and friends that our 75th Grange Fair & Flea Market is coming up on August 8 from 9 AM to 2 PM at the Grange Hall and on the Green. Plan on entering your fruits, vegetables, flowers and baked goods in our contests and, of course, stay for the food, fellowship and flea market vendors.

We thank everyone who contributed to our tag sale last month. Every penny will go towards the upkeep of our hall.

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

June 3: Cultivating/Care of Soil 4:30PM-6:00PM

June 6 & 7: Rummage and Plant Sale 9AM-3PM

June 11: A Collaborative Effort by Lynn Kearcher Ref: Barbara Prindle

July 9: Travel by John Brett Ref: Lynn Cline

August 13: Organizing by Allie Hanlon Ref: Lynn Cline

Sept. 10: Autumn by Debra Tyler Ref: Debra Tyler

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

As I write this, we are looking forward to our Open House on June 3rd presented by our Grange School Committee. This time the

presentation is Signifying Summer: Cultivation (the 2nd degree). This ties together farming and our degrees. We hope to have as big a turnout as we did for our first presentation Signifying Spring: Seed Swap and starting (1st degree).

We added 10 more G-Notes at our last meeting that will help pay for State Session.

Our focus at this time is getting ready for our Plant & Rummage Sale which is our only fund raiser of the year. The tables are now set up and waiting for all the donations that will be brought to our Grange hall. The sale takes place Saturday June 6th and Sunday June 7th. Both days we open at 9AM and close at 3PM (or later if we have people still shopping.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Dave Roberts

Upcoming Events: Friday, June 5 — 7:00 PM. Due to the Hall kitchen renovation project, Riverton Grange's monthly membership meeting will be held via Zoom. To obtain Zoom credentials, please contact President Dave Roberts at 860-469-5067 or dave@daveroberts.org. The Lecturer's Program will be hosted by Carol Innes.

Sunday, June 7 — 1:00 PM. America 250 Series Launch — Event #1: "Discover Your Roots"

Join us for a genealogy workshop designed for beginners and those already researching their family history. The program will also feature a presentation on Revolutionary War resources by Mel Smith, History and Genealogy Librarian at the Connecticut State Library. Refreshments will be provided by Barkhamsted Forks Senior Center.

Sunday, June 7 — 6:00 PM. 50th Veteran of the Month Ceremony

Riverton Grange will host its 50th Veteran of the Month Ceremony, in collaboration with Riverton American Legion Post #159, at the Riverton Grange Hall. The

...Continued next page

public is warmly invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

May 1st Meeting Recap - Members and guests gathered at Riverton Grange Hall and via Zoom for the regular monthly meeting. President Dave Roberts opened the meeting by offering condolences to Lady Assistant Steward Melissa Sweeney on the recent passing of her father. Grange members presented Melissa and her family with a patio pot arrangement.

During the business meeting, co-chairs Dawn Anstett and Raine Pedersen shared an update on the America 250 Community Series, which will run from Memorial Day through late summer. The series will conclude in August with a catered dinner and a "Voices of Riverton Memories" program. Members expressed strong support, raising \$1,000 to help fund the initiative, and formally approved the budget for the four-part series.

The series will kick off on June 7 at 1:00 PM with "Discover Your Roots," a genealogy workshop focused on family history and Revolutionary War resources, featuring guest speaker Mel Smith.

Judy Doyle reported on the Kitchen Renovation Project. All necessary permits have been secured, and preparations are underway. Members have cleared the existing kitchen, and demolition is set to begin. During the expected two- to three-month renovation period, membership meetings will be held via Zoom.

Lecturer James Mele introduced the evening's program, presented by Chaplain Raine Pedersen on beekeeping.

Refreshments were served prior to the meeting by Treasurer Tillie Jackson and were highly praised by attendees.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Marguerite Smith

May 4th - Music Monday - featured Ava Grom, a local guitarist and



Dawn Anstett obligates new Granby Grange member David Suzenski at a recent meeting of the Grange.

singer and was well attended this month. Ava is a music student at Trinity College and plays acoustic covers and originals in the styles of Folk, Blues, and Indie. Grange guests came to relax with their dinners for an hour of live music. You can see videos of Ava's live performances below, and find more videos on her YouTube, @AvaGromGuitar <https://www.avagrom.com/about-ava>

May 14th - Thursday - Our monthly meeting was well attended and included some of our newest members. We are THRILLED to have new community members helping us plan for our upcoming June fair. We were very pleased to have Patrick O'Brien as a guest and inspector at this meeting. We learn a little bit more with each meeting and are helping our new members learn too! Thanks for attending, Patrick, and giving us more to think about as we strive to improve the efficiency of our meetings. We planned for the fair and were delighted to see our newly formatted fair posters and fliers. Thank you, Dawn, for all of your help with this project!

June 1st - Music Monday - Our monthly music series continues with our own Dave Galt, also fondly known as A Thing Called Dave. Dave is a huge local favorite with

fans across the area and is known for his incredible guitar skills, live-looping, and upbeat performances. He frequently performs covers and original music at venues, taprooms, and restaurants across the region, including regular gigs in Collinsville. Bring your dinner and join us - Doors at 6:30, music at 7:00.

June 13th - Saturday, from 10-3 Simsbury Grange's Agricultural Fair! Join us as we host our 15th annual event. It's super easy to enter our contests! Just aim your phone camera at the QR code below. It will take you to our Google Entry form. Note: we have expanded our list of contests this year to include eggs, quilting, maple syrup and honey for adults and Needlework and Textiles for children. Special guests this year will be select members of the Farmington Valley Chorus, aka Sweet Adelines. They are certainly a crowd favorite. We will also be highlighting students from Villari's Martial Arts Center in Simsbury. Come and enjoy our crockpot kitchen, bake sale, open mic performers in the afternoon, farm and nonprofit displays, supervised children's activities and more. Location: 236 Farms Village Rd. West Simsbury, CT 06070 Can't wait to see you!



CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

June 5-Election of Officers and Memorial Program -Let's Enjoy Sharing-Pot Luck Supper 6:30pm
June 17-International Picnic Day-Hiking and Picnics in our area

My May report was lost somewhere between here and there.

We held a successful Dean Martin Tribute Artist show in early May. One of our highlight open meetings designed to entertain and get a group of the public in to our hall. Our mid May Family Activities program was highlighted by a local Cheshire Police Detective speaking on their goings on and current scams that are filtrating in everywhere to include Cheshire. We have held a second meeting for our annual late August Fair, number 141 this year. As I write this, the cool weather is hanging in. Hopefully a warm up is close by. We wish you all an enjoyable summer.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Stephen Fengler

Wallingford Grange has hosted several fun events recently. First, we hosted our 3rd annual Battle of the Best Pizza in Wallingford contest. Different pizzerias throughout all of Wallingford competed for the coveted title. In the end, Fabi's Pizza of Wallingford took home the gold and finished first. Inferno Pizza was second and East Side Pizza was third. Congratulations to the Wallingford Pizzeria winners and



Cheshire Grange hosted Detective Dennis Boucher of the Cheshire Police Department for an informative talk about how easy it is to be scammed and ways to prevent it. (left photo). Jack Lynn (right photo) entertained Cheshire with his annual tribute to Dean Martin.

thank you to all the Wallingford pizzerias for donating their time and pizza. Save the date for next year's battle, May 1st!!!

Second, many thanks to Kathy Barnes for her presentation on barn quilts in April at the Grange! We were able to find out what is a barn quilt and the history of barn quilts to seek inspiration for making one's own barn quilt at home.

Finally, we had a wonderful family night event at the Mahan Planetarium at Sheehan High School in Wallingford. Families were able to learn more about the stars, planets, and constellations that make up our night sky. Thank you to Jim and Christine for the educational lecture!

Some special events Wallingford Grange is looking forward to hosting this summer include an event led by Quinnipiac Alpaca Farmers on Alpaca Farming where you can meet Alpacas too (June 3rd 6pm-8pm), Salads that aren't Salads Hands on Event (June 10th), Youth Event for making recipes from our past (June



19th), a Metal Detecting Lecture (June 23rd), a Floral Arranging Class (July 15th 6pm-8pm), and an event at Guveia Vineyard in Wallingford (July 22nd 6pm -8pm).

We will also be starting up our painted chair auction starting on July 1st so please keep an eye out for the different chairs that one can bid on. Bidding for the chairs will go from July 1st until approximately the end of August.

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!

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

June 12: Memorial

June 26: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

July 10: 6:00 Picnic and Meeting

July 24: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Wallingford Grange No. 33 Youth Event

June 19, 10-12

Colonial Recipes

at the Wallingford Grange



Youth 5-15, Discover how families cooked and ate in colonial times over 250 years ago! At this youth event, participants will explore simple colonial recipes, learn basic kitchen skills, and prepare a dish together while hearing real stories from early farm life. This is a FREE event but since supplies are being purchased, registration is required. Space is also limited.

Registration is Free

Link to register: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/youth-event-colonial-recipes>



Wallingford Grange, 586 Center Street, Wallingford

SPEAK LIKE A "CHAMP"

Speak like a "CHAMP" is a monthly message designed to get everyone speaking the same language to encourage positive teamwork as we Grange.

SHOW THE WORK

Show the Work emphasizes the importance of demonstrating progress, transparency, and follow-through. It means making visible the effort, planning, and results behind decisions and initiatives – not for recognition, but for trust-building and accountability. **Show the Work** reinforces that credibility is earned by action, not intention. Within the Grange, this concept reminds leaders and members to communicate steps taken, milestones reached, and outcomes achieved so that momentum is shared, understood, and celebrated across all levels of the organization.

Submit your Grange success stories to:

GRANGE  *Today!*
<https://grange.biz/grangetodaysubmit>

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE ANNUAL PLANT & RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, June 6th

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

& Sunday, June 7th

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Grange Hall • 7 Dunbar Road, Sharon, CT

Donations can be dropped off at the Grange Hall
Sunday, May 17th • Monday, May 18th
Noon - 3:00 PM each day

Donations must be clean and work.
• NO FURNITURE or TVs •

Email any questions to
TaghhannuckGrange@gmail.com
or call 845-418-9755

250TH CELEBRATION EVENT

Presented by
Riverton Grange #169

Folded WITH PRIDE

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Learn the history and traditions of
Old Glory
presented by

Timothy E. Sweeney
Commander, American Legion Post #159

Every participant has opportunity
to fold a flag and make a Rag Flag

Just in time to hang it up for this year's

250th Celebration

SUNDAY

JUNE 14, 2026

1:00 PM
RIVERTON GRANGE HALL





NORTHEAST CONFERENCE



JULY 12-14
START AT 6 PM

**NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE GRANGE**

This event is packed with opportunities for youth development, leadership skill building, and camaraderie. It provides participants with a chance to enhance their abilities while forging meaningful connections with others.

GAMES . WORKSHOPS. FIELD TRIPS

OPEN REGULAR REGISTRATION UNTIL JUNE 30TH



Northeast Chaplains Worship Service

SAVE THE DATE!

***Saturday, July 25, 2026
4:00pm***

***Stockbridge Grange Hall,
Stockbridge, MA***

***Supper available following the
service (prepared by Stockbridge Grange)***

*****Join us for a visit to the Norman
Rockwell Museum at 1:00pm, just a few
minutes from the Grange hall*****



**PART OF THE GRANGE CELEBRATES
AMERICA'S 250th OBSERVANCE**



WINCHESTER GRANGE PRESENTS

America's 250 Years of Freedom DANCE

**Saturday, July 11, 2026
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

Winchester Grange Hall
100 Newfield Road
Winchester Center, CT

PRICE: \$10.00/person
Children 12 & Under - \$5.00
• Price includes Ice Cream and Punch •
Call (203) 465-2787 for Tickets and Info



Featuring the band
Mad River Music



www.WinchesterGrange.org • www.Facebook.com/WinchesterGrange

Community Awards Celebration

7 pm Friday, June 12, 2026
Beacon Valley Grange
1354 New Haven Rd, Naugatuck



All are welcome *Refreshments served*

OPEN MIC

2 to 5 PM
Every
Third Saturday!



BEACON VALLEY GRANGE
1354 NEW HAVEN RD, NAUGATUCK





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

Freedom & Responsibility

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love. *Galatians 5:13*

In God's eyes freedom comes with responsibilities. Shortly after God gave the people of Israel freedom from slavery in Egypt, he laid upon them a series of responsibilities in the form of commandments, not only the familiar 10, but many others. The most important ones to me are: "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". In Leviticus, chapter 19 we read "You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt". Psalm 82 tells us to "Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed." Proverbs 31 instructs us that we should "Speak up for those who cannot

speaking for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and the needy. And do not forget those who are in distress in the ten commandments themselves, especially those concerning our relations with our fellow human beings: "Honor your father and your mother, so that your days will be lengthened upon the land that the Lord, your God, gives you. "You shall not murder. "You shall not commit adultery. "You shall not steal. "You shall not bear false witness against your fellow. "You shall not covet your fellow's house: you shall not covet your fellow's wife, or his man servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, nor anything that belongs to your fellow."

Where is the freedom if we have all those "thou shalt" and "thou shalt not"? It comes from the free will to either obey them or reject them, the freedom to argue with God about them or about God's

decisions, keeping in mind that if we obey God's commands, either individually or collectively, our lives and society as a whole will be better off for so doing. The choice is ours, but if we choose wrongly the consequences will be our own fault. So choose wisely.

In Memoriam

Carla Bue

Granby Grange #5

Robert Loveland

Whigville Grange #48

Robert Christensen

Lois Ferrin

Coventry Grange #75

Rosemarie Payne

Harmony Grange #92

Graham MacIntyre

Greenfield Hill Grange #133

Beverly LaBarge, G.S.

Hemlock Grange #182

"Well done, good and faithful servants."

