

2021-2022
CT Women and Family Action Packet

The Committee on Women's and Family Activities has had an incredible year. We want to take a moment to thank all of you for your participation in our contests and especially our raffles. We will be using some of that money to pay for the new ribbons that needed to be purchased. This was a one-time cost as we now will have ribbons for years to come. That said, we hope that you will all do your very best to continue to promote this year's efforts.

I know that this year continued to be challenging due to COVID and its variants. We are finally starting to open up our halls and meeting places. Some are meetings are a mixture, some people in person at the hall while others are on zoom. Even if you are not meeting, you can contact Faith Quinlan and get a conference number. That way all members can all talk with one another. If you advertise it in advance, many other members across the state can "drop" in for your meeting. However your Grange decides to meet, it's great to finally see everyone and start getting back to our new normal.

With this pandemic continuing, many are still relying foodbanks. We are still juggling rent or mortgage payments vs groceries or medications and often have to choose one over the other. Now more than ever, people, especially our seniors, need assistance in receiving a meal once a day and in some cases, it may be their only meal. Because of that, we will continue to support Meals on Wheels in CT as our special project thru the organization called CRT, the Community Renewal Team, which services veterans and seniors and lots of different programs. The services we are supporting specifically is meal on wheels. We will be able to specify that our donations go directly toward that program only and be distributed throughout the state. We are NOT continuing supporting the Wounded Warriors program at this time. If you still want to support that program, please do so at your grange level and report it in your year end reports. Please send your donations for the Meals on Wheels to the state secretary.

The other donations that we support are the Scholarship and Student loan. For this, all money collected goes into an escrow account which adds to the principal of the account, generating additional investment income. The investment income is what funds the scholarships and what makes the student loans possible. In this way we are able to grant loans and scholarships without taking from the principal.

In addition, the Connecticut Granger, has a similar situation. The more the Granger escrow increases, the better the income from investments will be. If the investment income continues to grow, it should keep pace with the normal rate of increase in expenses. There are opinions out there that the Granger has enough money because we are making it free to all members. However, we are making good on the original promise of the Granger's founders, that investment and donations in the name of the Granger would eventually lead to making the Granger free to all members, and we are doing that. But we can only continue to do that if there's a fund that is keeping pace with the rate of inflation.

The blue book was written for 2 years, we are into the second year. So most of the information you already have. I will be sending out packets to all Chairman. We would have you continue to encourage your members in the support of various community programs as specified in the bluebook. Your packet will contain the report forms as well as all of the contests. This year's Contests will have the theme of "Pumpkins" This applies to the craft for that year. The baking contest is for Pumpkin Spice Cookies.

The New England Needlework contests have been changed with 4 classes updates. Class A, D, H and I have all had changes in the requirements. So if you were not at the regionals and have questions, please feel free to contact me once you receive your packets. It will contain 1 pamphlet that you can copy for your members. Or once Todd has updated the state website for CFA, it will be available as a download.

I know you will always work to the best of your abilities to keep the Grange and this Committee thriving. I look forward to working with each of you and am excited to see all of your work in the months to come.

Fraternally,
Dawn R. Percoski, State Director