



Connecticut State Grange STATE-WIDE CHARITY TAG SALE EVENT

Saturday, April 28 • 9AM-2PM • Locations Pg. 6

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Connecticut Granger



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The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

APRIL 2012

Keep the surveys coming



Jody A. Cameron
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

Well, where do I begin? I had prepared another article for this month, and then we sent out the surveys. So, I decided to change my direction and address some of the issues that are arising through the survey responses.

Let me first say, THANK YOU! Thank you for your interest in our organization. We have already received many survey responses and they are honest. It is this honesty that will enable us to work together and build a stronger Grange that truly meets the needs of its members; and that was the point. Please if you have not responded as of yet, please do

take the time to do so. A full response to the survey will be sent later this summer after all surveys are received, the deadline is 5/31/12, so keep them coming.

This is a note or notice if you will, to the Officers and Director of the State Grange. VISIT, many members have commented on their survey we are not visible. It is our duty and obligation to be visible and supportive of all Community and Pomona Granges. We, the Pink Sash wearers, only do so because the membership has given us that right. We serve them, so, we serve at their will, so, let's serve them. VISIT!!!!!! Now that being said, Granges cannot have it both ways, you cannot be legitimately concerned no one from the State Grange visits your Grange, and then be upset, the State Grange or "Big Brother" is watching you once there are more visitations.

There are quite a few who are concerned with the length of their meetings. This issue falls solely on the shoulders of the Master/President. It is the responsibility of him/her to maintain order at all times, at the same time making sure all members have the opportunity to be heard. Maintaining order and efficiency is key to a productive meeting. This is sometimes challenging, but we accept that responsibility when we take our oath of office. We as members need to continue to challenge our leadership to meet our needs. Continue to challenge the WHY. Why do we need to have EVERY detail in Committee Reports, why do we do what we do? Some things we cannot change without approval by the Delegate Body of

the National Grange as each Grange is bound by the Digest of Laws. Please continue to challenge your Grange Leadership, at all levels. By having an open dialog, we will strengthen our Granges to unimaginable heights. I am always happy to discuss these matters with any Grange.

Please keep the surveys coming, they are and will help us to build better programming that meets your needs. There will be a complete report out on the entire survey, with responses later this summer. As I stated earlier, these surveys are very enlightening, and I appreciate your honesty and desire to see a better, stronger Grange in your Community and State. This is YOUR Grange.

Signs of Spring



Children are greeted by a goat from the Butterfield Farm Company of E. Granby at a recent Norfield Grange Farmer's Market. More on the Farmer's Market on Page 6.

April is National Grange Month

Terri Fassio, P.R. Co-Director

April has been declared Grange Month by National Grange President Ed Luttrell, with the 2012 theme: American Values, Hometown Roots. The celebration will continue throughout the month as Community Granges throughout the state will be opening their doors to the public for family-oriented events focused on the contributions of the Grange in their communities. Be sure to check out the complete Calendar of Events on the Connecticut State Grange website.

News from the Deputy Team...

Become a Grange Mentor

Todd Gelineau, General Deputy

A major goal of this administration is to be responsive to the needs of each and every Community and Pomona Grange that we serve. The State Master recently contacted me with the idea of establishing a Mentor Program for the Connecticut State Grange organized under the Deputy Department. This is where WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The dictionary defines a mentor as 1. a wise and trusted counselor or teacher. 2. an influential senior sponsor or supporter.

The Connecticut State Grange will host a number of events:

Join the conversation on Wednesday, April 11th, as the Connecticut State Grange will be hosting an online chat beginning at 7:00 PM. Go to www.CTStateGrange.org/GrangeChat and log on. Guests can sign-in using their real names or anonymously.

Bowl your best game and support the teams at the "Bowl Across America" Bowl-A-Thon fundraiser sponsored by the

Continued on page 2

This will be an opportunity for members to draw on their experience through success and failure (as the ritual instructs us) and offer guidance to Granges. In some cases you will need to be a cheerleader supporting them and offering them the confidence to push forward. All you need is a desire to help.

What will I be doing?

Mentors will be expected to visit assigned Granges as much as possible and offer any assistance they can. Mentors do

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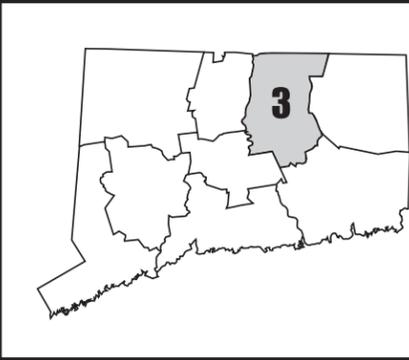


Scan this QR Code and join us on the web!

Deadline for the MAY 2012 issue of the Connecticut Granger: APRIL 5.



East Central Pomona No. 3



- Stafford No. 1
- Granby No. 5
- Tunxis No. 13
- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Tolland No. 51
- ✓ Vernon No. 52
- Coventry No. 75
- ✓ Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Enfield No. 151

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Apr. 5: Meeting 7:30 p.m. Skit Night, CWA Baking Contest and Easter Baskets
April 14: MontiCarlo Card Party 7:00 p.m.

May 3: Meeting 7:30 p.m. A Tisket A Tasket - Memorial Service

May 5: Semi-Annual Food and Unique Boutique Sale 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

As I am preparing this to be sent to the Ct. Granger it is February 27th. I am trying to think about things going on in April and May.

I hope some of our members have tried the CWA Baking Contest recipe. If you need a copy of the recipe contact Jean

Accornero and she will see that you receive a copy of the recipe. It is an easy and I thought it was good. It would be nice to have 5 or 6 entries in the contest on April 5th. I am sure Jean would be happy to have that many entries.

We will also be making the Easter Baskets for judging and then they will be delivered to shut-in.

Remember we need your support at our Monti Carlo Whist Card Parties. It is one of our fund raisers and we would like to see 5 or 6 tables at the card parties. Bring your neighbors and relatives with you. The more the merrier. There is always plenty of refreshments and door prizes.

May 5th is our Semi-Annual Food and Unique Boutique Sale. Again we need your support to make this profitable. You will probably receive a phone call to ask you to bake something for the sale. We certainly appreciate your continued support at our activities.

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Diane Small

Apr. 21: PASTA DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter!! Did the Easter Bunny leave an Easter basket on your doorstep? Spring is officially here. Now begins the trees starting to have leaves, flowers poking through the ground, and time to think about planting a garden. How many seed catalogs have you received? The choices are endless.

We are having a PASTA DINNER on Saturday, April 21 at 5:30 pm, at the Zion Lutheran Church, 120 Cooper Street. Dinner includes pasta, meatballs, salad, bread and dessert. For more information you may call Edith Schoell at 860-528-8015 or Gail Aylmer at 860-627-0679.

April 17 is listed as Hobby Night. All of us have some type of hobby. Do you like to read, garden, do crosswords, knit, crochet, woodworking, baking, cooking or are you a volunteer?! Any hobby will keep you busy with usually pleasant results.

May 3 shows us baskets. Baskets are useful and handy to have. You can do a lot with baskets. Magazines and papers will fit nicely, your handiwork, logs for a fireplace, or for anything you may desire. Are you going to enter the basket contest for the CWA..

This is the usual reminder not to forget to make something for the Big E. It's time to think about doing some grilling, summer is approaching.

TOLLAND GRANGE #51

Corr: J. Jordan

Apr. 3: Niagara Falls

Niagara Falls will be the topic of discussion at the Tolland Grange meeting on April 3. From our Grange to yours, Happy Easter.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

Apr. 6: Ecology- Earth Day revisited

Vernon Grange will vote at our April meeting to change our meeting time to 7 A.M. The plans are to meet at 6 for dinner and then have the meeting after. Our next meeting will be Good Friday, April 6th and we will revisit Earth Day!

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Hillstown Grange Annual Corned Beef Dinner will be held on March 24, 2012. Come and enjoy a real "family style" Corned beef dinner.

Our dinner is held on Saturday, March 24 at 6 p.m. at the Hillstown Grange Hall, 617 Hills St. East Hartford. Plan early to order your ticket because this event usually sells out. A limited number of dinners can be

ordered to go.

The Grange is a rural family fraternity founded in 1867, the nation's oldest general farm organization. The Grange is comprised of families and individuals who share a common interest in community involvement, agriculture, and working together in a family environment and has been serving the Hillstown area of East Hartford, Manchester, and Glastonbury for over 100 years

For more information and to purchase a ticket please call Helen at 860-568-6268 or email: hillstowngrange@aol.com.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Apr. 14: Get Out Your Umbrella – refreshments – Judy, Joe, and Louise

May 12: CWA Bake Off – refreshments – Contest entrees.

President Dwight D.

Eisenhower was the focus of our February meeting. Did you know he actually threatened nuclear war with China? He was a much more complex man than I remembered. The programs on Presidents have been quite an eye-opener for us and something that will be repeated. Thanks Marge for suggesting it.

Our Inspection was moved up to March to accommodate the Deputy's schedule. With April comes rain and a program on Umbrellas, and a CWA program for May that should show off our baking abilities. The committee on the cook book will meet after our regular meeting to start planning layouts.

Grange Month

Continued from page one...

Connecticut State Grange Youth and Junior Committees - April 21st, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, at AMF Lanes, 748 Silver Lane, East Hartford. The cost is \$10.00 per person which includes two games and shoe rental.

The Social Connection Committee has planned a State-wide Charitable Tag Sale Event for April 28th. Five Pomona Granges will be each hosting a Tag Sale from 9 AM - 2 PM, and the proceeds will be going to the American Liver Foundation.

The Connecticut State Grange welcomes National Grange President Ed Luttrell back to our state for a town hall style meeting on April 30th at Good Will Grange Hall, 43 Naubuc Avenue, Glastonbury, beginning at 7:30 PM.

Be sure to take photos of the meetings and events at your Grange, and submit them to the Public Relations committee for inclusion on the Connecticut State Grange website and in our Social Media offerings.

Cabin Fever at Hillstown



The Hillstown Grange held their first Mid-winter 'Cabin Fever Escape' event on Saturday, January 21, 2012, featuring a pancake and sausage breakfast, homemade Soups for Lunch, Grandma's Tag Sale and Bake Sale and more. The Agricultural Committee announced this year's special vegetable contest. Also a garden forum gave all gardeners a chance to talk and dream about their 2012 gardens. *Note and Photos by Frank Forest*

PLEASE! Do not send correspondence or any other mail to the Newfield Rd. address listed below. This is the address for Winchester Grange #74 and is only listed to satisfy USPS requirements. Please mail to the Editor's address listed below, right. Thank You!

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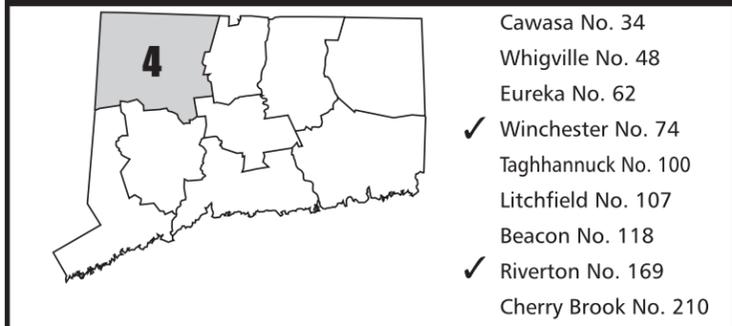
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 Vice President Brian Carpenter
 Secretary Treasurer. Edith Schoell

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



Cawasa No. 34
Whigville No. 48
Eureka No. 62
✓ Winchester No. 74
Taghannuck No. 100
Litchfield No. 107
Beacon No. 118
✓ Riverton No. 169
Cherry Brook No. 210

MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Apr. 28: Pomona Tag Sale, 9-2 P.M., LITCHFIELD Grange Hall

May 14: Fifth Degree, Winchester Grange, Dinner 6 P.M. (\$5); Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Deputies Lin Erickson and Peter Keefe join me in thanking all of the Granges who participated in the School of Instruction at Winchester Grange on March 24. ALL of the Granges in the Pomona were represented at the meeting (it's been a long time since this has happened). It was great to know that every Grange was present for this important meeting.

The Pomona Tag Sale, held in conjunction with the Statewide Tag Sales to benefit the American Liver Foundation, will be on April 28 at LITCHFIELD GRANGE HALL from 9 to 2 P.M. Several vendors have asked for space and we know the members throughout the Pomona will provide plenty of "valuable" items for this sale. A Bake Sale to benefit the Pomona will also be held this day, with proceeds earmarked for the roof repairs on the Pomona Cabin at Camp Berger.

Looking further ahead, the Fifth Degree will be conferred on Monday, May 14 at Winchester Grange with a supper (\$5) beginning at 6 P.M. All Granges are encouraged to talk up Pomona membership and bring their candidates to the Degree.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Apr. 10: First & Second Degrees, Ref. Joan & Dom Campi

Apr. 24: Third & Fourth Degrees, Potluck Harvest Supper at 6 P.M.

May 4: Super Prize Party, Doors Open at 6, Drawing begins at 7

Winchester's Cabin Fever Craft Fair & Bake Sale was held on Saturday, March 24. It was a great success with a dining room full of vendors and plenty of shoppers buying their wares and plenty of food from the Grange kitchen.

Winchester is scheduled to confer all four degrees in April and we encourage any Granges interested in bringing their candidates to the Degrees should contact

the Master at 860-626-0326.

Our annual Spring Super Prize Party (Teacup Auction) will be held on May 4 with the doors opening at 6 P.M. and the drawing to begin at 7 P.M. It's always a fun evening with plenty of great prizes and a lot of fun to be had!

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Shirley Moore

Apr. 6: NO MEETING (Good Friday)

Apr. 20: Meeting, 1st & 2nd Degr., Ref. Shirley & Rujo Moore

At our first February meeting, we sadly draped our charter in memory of Ralph Hedus. He was formerly a member of Laurel Grange in Canaan and when that closed, he became a member of Riverton. Our sympathy goes out to his family. At this meeting we honored the four presidents who were born in February. But, first we heard how Candlemas Day became Groundhog Day since Groundhog Day was two days before our meeting. And, continuing the presidents' program we had facts about many of our other presidents, a math quiz about retail shoes and ended with remembering Valentine's Day.

On Feb. 17, we had our potluck supper and were honored to have Ellery "Woods" Sinclair as our speaker. Mr. Sinclair is retired from Housatonic Valley Regional High School where he taught English and is now very involved with the American Chestnut Foundation, the HVRHS Vo-Ag Dept. and the FFA in the research of bringing about the American Chestnut restoration. A tree that inhabited most of the U.S. for years, the American Chestnut began dying in the late 1800s from an Asian fungus. The blight was first noticed in 1904 in NYC and by 1950 approximately 4 billion trees had been destroyed. In 1983, the American Chestnut Foundation was established with its mission being the restoration of the American Chestnut. The volunteers in this research program help pollinate trees and collect resulting nuts to plant in regional orchards. All of this is done under the guidance of the Foundation. Mr. Sinclair is a member of the American Field Service and has almost

400 seedlings of the chestnut on two acres of his property in Falls Village. It is the vision of the Foundation to have the American Chestnut available and marketable in about 15 years. This was a very informative program which was arranged by George Russell and Dennis Jasmine, members of our Agricultural

Committee.

We would like to advise you about changes in our future meetings listed in the handbook. On April 20, we will be doing First & Second Degrees and the Third and Fourth will be on May 4. On May 18, we will have our potluck supper followed by a program by the North Canton

Congregational Church Bell Choir under the direction of Mary Lou Keefe. And, finally on June 1, Peter Keefe will do the program, THE MIDNIGHT RIDE OF PAUL REVERE. We invite grangers and friends to any of our meetings.

National Master to visit Connecticut April 30

by Terri Fassio,
Public Relations Co-Director

As part of Connecticut's Grange Month celebrations, National Grange President Edward L. Luttrell will be making a visit to the state on Monday, April 30, as part of his cross-country tour. The Connecticut State Grange will be hosting the President's visit at Good Will Grange Hall located at 43 Naubuc Avenue, Glastonbury. The evening

will begin at 7:30 PM. The town-hall style meeting is open to all who wish to attend; Grange membership is not required.

Luttrell will discuss topics of interest to the Grange and Connecticut, including Grange growth and teamwork, community service, communications and more. Connecticut State Grange President Jody Cameron will oversee the evening.

Are you incorporated?



Edith Schoell
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

Your Grange will soon be inspected and hopefully you have answered the question regarding incorporation. Please check on the last date your Grange filed an incorporation paper with the Connecticut Secretary of State's office. This is important. If you are a new Secretary check with the previous Secretary, if possible, to find out when it was filed. The fee is \$50. If you need help in getting forms please contact me. Unfortunately I have not been able to reduce the amount if nothing has been filed for several years.



Joe Smith celebrates 102 years

On Saturday, Jan. 14, Enfield Grange celebrated Joseph Smith, Sr.'s 102nd birthday. In the picture with him is Joe's younger sister, Louise Kamay who celebrated her 100th birthday last fall.

Become a Grange Mentor

Continued from page one...

not have the responsibility or authority of a deputy. Instead, they will offer guidance and assistance. For example, a Grange may have a brand new slate of officers (or a large percentage of new officers) that are less familiar with the operation of a Grange meeting and might need guidance in taking minutes, performing the opening or closing, etc. This is where a Mentor can offer suggestions and point them in the right direction. A Grange might be having difficulty organizing a fundraiser or a community service project. A Mentor would be available to offer his/her experience in helping them get on the right track.

How will I know what to do?

All members interested in participating in the Mentor program will receive training from the State Grange. It is important that Mentors know when to refer Granges to the Deputy, State Master or other State Grange resources. As I said, Mentors do not replace the

Deputies, but they will serve an important role in directing Granges/Grangers to the resources that will benefit them most.

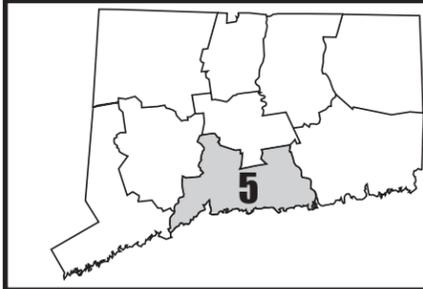
Granges involved in the program can be: established Granges in need of assistance, reorganized Granges, or completely new Granges (we hope to have many of these!). Mentors will be assigned to Granges by the State Grange. Granges interested in having a mentor can also contact the General Deputy for more information.

How do I get involved?

Please contact the General Deputy, Todd Gelineau by emailing GeneralDeputy@CTSateGrange.org, by calling (860) 626-0326 or writing to 170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790. Once enough members have signed up, a training session will be set-up.

All members are welcome to participate in this program. We look forward to hearing from you!

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- ✓ Cheshire No. 23
- ✓ Wallingford No. 33
- North Haven No. 35
- ✓ Old Lyme No. 162

NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

Corr: Don Lanoue

May 14: Conferral of the Fifth Degree

The officers will be preparing themselves for their parts in the fifth degree. We will be inspected on May 14 by Pomona Deputy East Jim Palmer. The officers and members do work hard to put on this degree and I would like to thank them in advance.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Apr. 4: Ballroom Fever-Open Meeting

Apr. 18: It's Grange Month

We all enjoyed our Valentine's box supper getting us in the mood for that "romantic day". At our second meeting in February we learned a little more of Cheshire's history with our member, Henry Rottman, who frequented a Cheshire family in the south end of town and telling about that family and their successful business venture into the cutlery field.

March will be a busy month for us with planning for our fair, a dinner at the end of the month that we have put on for years for a local hiking club. We continue to have craft nights making holiday favors for our nursing homes and members who are shut in. Mid March we are planning a fund raising card party at the hall. Join us April 4th where will have a chance to "trip the light fantastic".

We are looking forward to Spring as I am sure you all are.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Dan Lauttenbach

Apr. 12: "Grange Month" Program: Jim Lamoureux and Ref: Dan Lauttenbach

Apr. 26: "CWA" Program: Janet Haller and Ref: CWA.

Hello Everyone,

Here in the southern part of the state there are signs of spring: Snowdrops have pushed through and redwing blackbirds are very active in the meadows. The sugar shack up the road from me has boiled off the last of the maple syrup for the season which was very short this

year.

Feb 9- "Old Barns In Connecticut". There is some good material on this from the website www.connecticutbarns.org. There are many types of barns in the state but generally most are either the English barn or the New England style. The English barn was the early type and is characterized by a rectangle plan, pitched roof and tri-partition plan. Hay was usually stored on one side and animals on the other. Access and grain threshing taking place in the central bay. The New England barn was similar to the English except that entry was on the gable end and was just a rectangular layout. Expansion of the barn was easily done by adding along the axis of the ridge. There are also many other types such as the gambrel: the common roof line that people see in pictures, the bank, the connected and the round/polygon. The website I mentioned also has a state/town barn locator. There are a lot of barns in there and I used it to select about 20 barn photos to see if people could identify the type and where they are located in town.

Feb 23- President's Day! Janet Haller filled in for me when I got ill that night. There was poster of most the Presidents without their names and everyone was to see how many they could name. There was also a questionnaire: do you know what was donated recently to the FDR Library and Museum? or which president was the first to visit Europe and the pope? We also learned about some of the pets that presidents had at the White House. Did you know that Theodore Roosevelt had pet guinea pigs named Admiral Dewey and Father O'Grady? Or how about Maude the pig? Mr. Reciprocity and Mr. Protection where opossums that Benjamin Harrison had kept. Herbert Hoover had two crocodiles as pets.

OLD LYME GRANGE #162

Corr: Barb Kulisch

Apr. 13: Regular Meeting

followed by an Officers/Membership planning meeting

Apr. 27: Open Meeting-Family Activities/CWA, Country Store/Visitors

On February 10th, we draped our charter in loving memory of Sis. Elizabeth Davy Ogle, a 78 year member. She was our 3rd Degree Master for many years.

That night, Past Voting Delegate to National Grange,

Russell Gray, presented Sis. Barbara Clark Kulisch with her Golden Sheaf Certificate. Her sons, Karl and Ken escorted her to the altar, where Ken pinned his Dad's 50 year pin, on his Mom! The evening was enjoyed by all who were in attendance. The program was entitled February Is....

We are in hopes that the interview/photo shoot done by the Lyme Times/The

Day paper on Sis. Kulisch's special evening, will help up get some new members into the Grange.

Following our April 13th meeting, we will hold an Officers/Membership Planning Committee meeting to talk about how to draw in our community to the Grange.

Our doors are always open, come on down!

Cheshire busy with activities & programs

Cheshire Grange hosted a Neighbor's Night program on Hot Air Ballooning on March 7.

Lecturer Marge Bernhardt turned over the program over to Jane Miller, CWA Chairman. Jane gave a brief history about CWA. A number of Cheshire ladies lined up in front with cutout of balloons and each talked about a portion of what CWA is involved with. These involved some of their projects, including: Words for Thirds, sending care packages to the troops, etc.

Ruel Miller read an article of the winter of 1816. The article was about winter stayed through summer of that year. This included drought and excessive sunspots.

Jane introduced Erwin Dressel, owner of the hot air balloon rides, "Castle View Ballooning." Erwin gave a brief history of ballooning, along with a slide show. Erwin also talked about the modern equipment now used. He talked about the different aspects - pre-heater and burner, the basket, how the



balloon is set before flight, and flight conditions. He finished up his talk with a 6 minute video taken at a Glens Falls, NY ballooning event.

Erwin then talked about CT's first balloonist, Silas M. Brooks, 1824-1906. Erwin took questions and answers.



(right) Cheshire members play a game of "Uno" at their first annual Card Party held at Cheshire Grange Hall.

Gold Level Ballroom Dancers Andrea & Jeff Dunn will join our members Lu & Kent Marshall (pictured) to present A Ballroom Dancing exhibition at the next meeting of Cheshire Grange on Wed. April 4 at 7:30 at the Grange Hall. This will be followed by lessons for the audience, a country store and a social hour with refreshments.



Southern CT Past Masters

The April meeting of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters will be hosted by the members of Southington Grange. The evening starts with a pot luck supper at 6:30. A short meeting follows as soon as the dishes are done followed by the program and a Country Store.

Installation of Officers will take place at this meeting. Come and support these new officers.



Don't forget to make your donations to the Pomona State-wide Tag Sale on April 28 and remember to shop for those treasures you didn't know you needed. Your support helps the Grange and the American Liver Foundation!

New London County Pomona No. 6



Lebanon No. 21
 Colchester No. 78
 Pachaug No. 96
 Preston City No. 110
 ✓ N. Stonington No. 138
 ✓ Lyme No. 147
 ✓ Stonington No. 168
 Norwich No. 172

NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

May 12: Conferral of the Fifth Degree, N. Stonington #138

Our "Potluck and Movie Night" was a great success! There were 21 people in attendance with representation from Colchester, North Stonington, Norwich, Pachaug, and Preston City, plus 2 guests. The dinner was diverse and delicious; and we celebrated Arlie Chapman's 80th birthday (a little early) with chocolate cake. Debbie and Jeff passed out buttered popcorn and ribboned packets of candy while we enjoyed the movie Leap Year. (Natasha to the rescue when there were technical problems with the computer). It was wonderful to see friends we have not seen for a while. Hope we have as good a crowd (or bigger) for our August 25th picnic.

We will confer the fifth degree at North Stonington on May 12. Rehearsal date and set-up time will be set at the Talent and A-Number night. Look for further information in the next issue of the Granger or contact the Master, Lecturer or Secretary.

Election of Officers will take place on June 7 at Pachaug Grange. Your Pomona needs you, please attend.

It's April! Here comes Easter!

The spring is here at last!

We've made it through the winter and the summer's coming fast.

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Apr. 13: "I'd like to visit... the World Wide Web"

Apr. 27: "I'd like to visit... with the founders of our country."

We have lost a Grange treasure. Alice Morgan is now using her amazing musical talents in the Great Grange above. Their gain is our loss.

The Agricultural Committee treated us to an evening of laughter and learning on Feb. 10. We had a rousing game of Pictionary and sang, "Hairy MacDonald Had a Moose" among other things. On February 24

Duncan Schweitzer of Avalonia Land Conservancy gave a presentation on the removal of the Rutan Dam from a local estuary. He had pages of beautifully drawn plans. There is a particular type of crayfish in the area that must be protected and care must be taken of the surrounding landscape. Our Master noted that "in the good old days" the two-year-and-counting project would have taken 10 minutes.

Our April 13th program will deal with computer and internet security. Sounds like a must-see in this day and age. On April 27th we will present seals and certificates to long-time members and honor our Community Citizen. Hope to see a good crowd at this meeting.

We continue to donate food and personal items to the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center and cut coupons for our military personnel stationed in Germany. Please bring these items to Grange with you when you come. And if these late-winter snowstorms don't keep spring from springing, next time I'll tell you about marvelous March.

LYME GRANGE #147

May 3: Chaplain & Graces do their thing.

May 19: Food & Plant Sale

June 7: June is busting out all over

July 5: Yankee Doodle Dandy

We finally have a committee working on getting a new fence around our fairgrounds. It takes a lot more than you can imagine. Not only money but the town, the state and landscaping.

We also are doing something about upgrading our bathrooms so we will not have an outhouse in the winter.

With some phone calls and research, the Master found out where the septic tank is located also the well. Our well was drilled July 11, 1951 by a George Wilkie.

The weather has been good to us as we have been able to hold our meetings on schedule.

We gathered a lot of

groceries and diapers for the needy family in Lyme for Easter. Also money and gift cards. The social worker will deliver for us and turn the cash into gift cards. We voted to give the Cub Scouts \$100. We have sponsored the Lyme Scouts for over 40 years. the check will be presented to them at their Annual Blue & Gold Banquet.

We hope everyone enjoys the Easter Season. It's so nice to see bulbs coming up.

STONINGTON GRANGE #168

Corr: Jeff Barnes

Our January program, "What Tree Did you Fall From?" was a real history lesson on the early years of Stonington Grange. We have found applications for membership back to the founding year of 1907, and through them we learned a lot about the first members of our Grange. These applications show that while most listed their occupations as farmers and housewives, we also had fishermen, lobstermen, machinists, textile workers, teachers, carpenters, nurses, two well drillers, one doctor and one lighthouse keeper. There were also many young people who listed themselves as students and scholars. When it was time to think about building a grange hall the land was obtained for \$10 and the building completed in 1934 for about \$1,500, according to the many receipts and documents we have found. Quite a legacy!

Our Lecturer's February program was appropriately "When He Was President," her complete program entry in the State Lecturer's Contest. She will be presenting this at another Grange very soon. I know they'll enjoy it too.

We wish our entries in the Talent and "A Number" categories, Dick and Dot Wingate, good luck at the Pomona judging, and thank then for being good sports. This kind of fun is what the Grange is all about.

We have just received 3 applications for membership in Stonington Grange and we are very anxious to welcome them into our fraternity as fourth degree members. Meanwhile we are planning our special Community Citizen Award program for April. We have selected a very deserving recipient for the honor and expect a large turnout to wish her well on this special occasion. We invite you to join us on April 12th.

National Recognition



Several Granges throughout the state received special recognition from the National Master for posting net gains in membership during 2011. Each Grange received a personal letter and a reproduction of a Grange lithograph from the earliest days of the National Grange. Above, Lois Evankow receives the letter for Lyme Grange at the meeting of New London County Pomona. Norwich Grange also received recognition. State Master Cameron made the presentations.

Lyme helps the needy



Lyme Grange recently collected diapers, a 9 lb. ham, \$50 cash, a \$50 gift card to Big Y and other food items for a local family chosen by area Social Services. This is the same family Lyme collected for a Thanksgiving time.

Needlework Judging soon

First and foremost - I would like to thank all those who brought refreshments to Redding Grange on April 9th for the Ritual Challenge Award Night. It is always nice to now that you can rely on Grangers for food.

Next and not too far away - June 9th will be fast approaching and all New England Needlework judging in the Pomonas will have to have been completed and the entries brought to Cheshire Grange Hall by 9 a.m. Judging will begin promptly at 10 a.m.

- NO EXCEPTIONS! Also, all craft, baking, scrapbook and basket entries will be judged.

Just received word from National Grange that the quilt squares will not be judged until National Session, so we will be able to hold our judging at State Session.

Hope everyone is keeping busy and enjoying the nice weather.



Pat Palmer
 Family Activities/CWA Director
 CWA@ctstategrange.org

Join Us and Follow Our Boards!

The Connecticut State Grange
 is now on Pinterest!



www.Pinterest.com/CTStateGrange

Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 121
- ✓ Watertown No. 122
- Prospect No. 144
- ✓ Bridgewater No. 153
- Wolcott No. 173
- ✓ Oxford No. 194

EXCELSIOR POMONA #7

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Excelsior Pomona does not meet in April but the members are busy collecting items for the state-wide tag sale. Ours will be held at Oxford Grange from 9 to 2. Hopefully by now everyone knows the date – Saturday April 28th.

We will be selling refreshments and also craft items.

We congratulate Wolcott Grange for re-organizing and look forward to meeting with them at our next Pomona meeting. This will be held at Beacon Valley Grange on May 16th. We will be conferring the Degree for Inspection. We have one candidate so far.

Happy Easter to you all from the members of Excelsior Pomona.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our meeting in April is on the 13th and it will be our annual Inspection. Eloise Osuch will be our Inspecting Deputy. We have been treating her good so we should not have any trouble. Unfortunate the date being Friday the 13th this maybe a different story.

Our program by Lecturer Cindy Legg is "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head." I hope that's not the case. Joanne Cipriano will hostess for the evening.

On May 25th we will be celebrating our 123rd anniversary – save the date and come and help us celebrate.

We are collecting tag sale items for the state-wide sale. If you have any donations call Joanne for pick up.

WATERTOWN GRANGE #122

Corr: Fred Fairchild

Apr. 6: Meeting, 7:30; Theme: Easter Bunny

Apr. 20: Meeting, 7:30

We hope he will be hopping down the lane celebrating spring's good weather. I am sure our lecture has some rabbits in her hat to pull out. Come one and all and join us.

The theme four our April 20 meeting is Past Lecturers and Inspection. Like always I expect our past Lecturers to cook up some zany and entertaining moments. We will welcome spring in all its splendor. Visitors are always welcome.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Dean Perry

Apr. 3: Easter Flowers and distribution to shut ins.

Apr. 7: Easter Egg Hunt. 10 AM

Apr. 11: Regular Meeting Wed 7:30 at the Bridgewater Grange Hall

Apr. 27: Potluck dinner and Community Service Award.

May 9: Regular Meeting Wed 7:30 at the Bridgewater Grange Hall

Roast Beef Dinners @Bridgewater Grange Hall, 5:30 P.M. (Sat.), May 12, June 9, Sept. 8, Oct. 13

We had our monthly regular meeting at Dorothy Gustafson's house on Sunday, Feb. 12.

On March 11 we had our meeting on Sunday 2 PM at Chestnut Grove, New Milford. Mary Roberts worked hard at getting the facility and providing refreshment. She did not realize that she was the guest of honor!

A Golden Sheath award was given to her for 50 plus years as a Grange member. Bob and Marge Sendewicz gave her the award. Nancy Mascio and Cynthia Finch talked about Mary and gave us some nice stories about her.

It was a mild winter and we managed to have all our scheduled activities. We are looking forward to being even more active in the spring.

Our meetings are the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM from April to November at the Grange Hall off the Bridgewater Town Green. We meet the 1st Wed. in December there. The Hall is closed from the 2nd week of December until April. All our meetings are in members' home during the winter. All are on the second Sunday in the afternoon.

Our biggest events and best attended are the Roast Beef Dinners. We have two in the Spring and two in the Fall.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Phil Rowland

Apr. 6: Speaker

Apr. 20: Agriculture Committee Program

Apr. 28: Excelsior Pomona Tag Sale

This month promises some surprises for us. On April 6 we're promised a speaker, whose topic is yet unknown. On Apr. 20 the Ag. Committee

will lead the program in unknown directions.

And on Saturday, the 28th, the Pomona Tag Sale that's

to be held at our Grange is currently utterly unorganized.

So it should be an interesting month here in Oxford. If you

like surprises, come and join us.

Happy Easter to all.

Norfield Farmer's Market extended



(Left) Lyn Kimberly talking with a reporter from the Westport News. Lyn Kimberly and her family are in charge of the Farmer's Market. The market will run every Saturday until the first part of June. The types of items for sale among the various farmers and businesses there included: baked items, fresh produce, woolen goods, jewelry and snack items. (below left) The woman with the goats are from Butterfield Farm Company of East Granby, CT. She's selling goat related soaps and other wares.



Social Connection



Joanne Cipriano
Social Connection Director
social@ctstategrange.org

This is a busy time for our committee. Members from most of the state are collecting items for our tag sale being held on Saturday – April 28th. Presently sales are scheduled for Southington Grange in Central Pomona; Senexet Grange in Quinebaug Pomona; Litchfield Grange in Mountain County Pomona, Wallingford Grange in New Haven County Pomona and Oxford Grange in Excelsior Pomona. We sincerely thank these Pomonas for their help.

Proceeds from the sale will be donated to the American Liver Foundation. In talking to the people for the Liver Foundation they are most appreciative of our efforts and have offered to help if needed. One liver recipient from Naugatuck

will be assisting at Oxford Grange.

Our next activity will be the Phil Prelli Roast. We will be serving a Roast Pork Dinner at 6 O'clock followed by the Roast and door prizes. This is being held at Cheshire Grange on Saturday May 19th. Tickets can be obtained in Central Pomona from Cindy Charbonneau; Quinebaug Pomona from Jody Cameron; East Central Pomona from Edith Schoell; Mountain County Pomona

from Todd Gelineau; New Haven County Pomona Marge Bernhardt; New London County Pomona Debbie Barnes; Excelsior Pomona Barbara Robert and Fairfield County Pomona Marge Sendewicz. Get your tickets early – our last dinner was a sell-out.

We thank Phil most sincerely for being such a good sport.

Don't forget our "Granger of the Year" Contests. Applications will be sent to each Grange shortly.

Tag Sale Locations

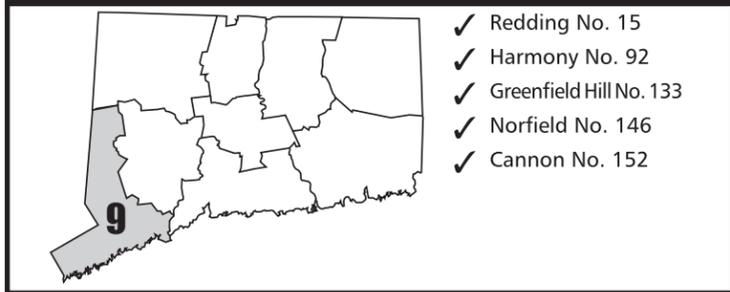
- Central Pomona Southington Grange
Corner of Summit & Knowles Ave., Plantsville (Southington)
- Quinebaug Pomoma. Senexet Grange
628 Route 169, Woodstock
- Mountain County Pomona Litchfield Grange
435 Bantam Rd. (opposite Bantam Inn), Litchfield
- New Haven County Pomona Wallingford Grange
586 Center St., Wallingford
- Excelsior Pomona Oxford Grange
482 Oxford Rd. (Route 67), Oxford



Get your Roast Tickets Early!

Saturday,
May 19, 2012
Cheshire Grange Hall
Roast Pork Dinner, 6PM
Phil is roasted immediately after!

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



FAIRFIELD COUNTY POMONA #9

Corr: Bob Sendewicz

Apr. 4: Inspection, Conferral of the Fifth Degree

May 12: Tag Sale

Our April meeting is our inspection at which time we will confer the Fifth Degree. Anyone wishing to bring candidates may do so. Please contact our Secretary and let him know.

We will have a tag sale in May at Greenfield Hill Grange Hall. There will also be baked goods and plants for sale. For those who wish to make a day of it there will be a snack bar.

REDDING GRANGE #15

Corr: Marge Sendewicz

Apr. 9: State Grange

Apr. 23: Inspection

May 5: Spring Festival, 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

On April 9 the officers and committees of the Connecticut State Grange will conduct our meeting, supply refreshments and present a program at our Grange hall. This is the reward for our Grange winning last year's ritual contest. This will be a great night for Redding Grange and anyone that wishes to join us may.

We will be inspected by the Excelsior Pomona Deputy on April 23. We always enjoy a visit from Eloise Osuch.

On May 5 we will hold our annual Spring Festival and Fair. Our program book has it listed as May 12 but that is the date of our Pomona tag sale. We will have our usual great items for sale along with baked goods, plants, books and needlework. Come join us for a great day as spring is beautiful in Fairfield County.

HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: Sue Sulier

Hi fellow Grangers and welcome to April, the month associated with Easter and the onset of Spring.

Well, this month I am going to break from tradition and instead of relaying the usual Grange happenings, I am going to share with you 5 personal experiences of Grangers helping Grangers.

For years, my family has vacationed, in our motor home, at Point Folly, overlooking picturesque Bantam Lake. This brings us tranquility from our hectic world. We always pre-book, which ensures getting our

site of choice. Once, while my husband Tom and son Tommy were fishing, I heard someone yelling and pounding on the door. A very aggressive and belligerent man demanded that I either move from the camp site or he would push me off with his much larger motor home, which he parked behind ours. I tried in vain to explain that I was registered and showed him the proof through the window, he said in very vulgar terms that he liked that site and was going to take it one way or another. The mean spirited man hopped back into his unit and apparently had full intentions of pushing my unit off the site. I was frantic! Out of the blue, a man appeared, stood between the 2 motor homes, reasoned with the enraged man and got him to leave. The kind man, who gallantly intervened, and his wife were fellow Grangers.

For years my husband and I hosted "The Annual Scottish Rite Awards Presentation" (Masonic), a program created by husband to acknowledge extraordinary acts of community service and/or heroism. Three people were selected annually to be honored at a gala event, including music, dinner, speeches, a plaque and a monetary gift, etc. Grangers, Mary Mazur, Helen Carroll and Pat Gerken were past recipients. One year our soloist became ill, we needed a replacement. I asked fellow Granger Geno Piacentini to fill in, he graciously accepted and was incredible.

During a Christmas season, a husband, wife and their young children who I care deeply about, watched in horror as the home they just moved into went up in flames. They escaped safely. However many of their possessions, including their Christmas tree, presents, etc. were gone and they were displaced. When I informed George Ward (the Dad was a new member of George's Masonic lodge), he asked what the family needed and I told him, money for daily living expenses, clothes, and toys for the kids. George immediately sprang into action. My dear friends were provided with everything they needed.

Last year someone I near and dear to my heart was in

desperate need of household items. Pat Gerken, former Overseer of Trumbull Grange, rallied "her crew" into action and collectively they provided all the bathroom, bedding and kitchen essentials needed to run a home.

Recently, my husband Tom saw Harmony's newest members, Lou and Linda Moran in a tool store. Tom mentioned we were having an issue relating to a woefully inadequate amount of hot water in our home. Low and behold - Lou was a retired plumber! Lou verbally guided Tom, in great detail, how to correct the problem.

In closing, these are just a few examples of my personal experiences with Grangers helping Grangers.

From my family to yours, we wish you a very blessed and joyous Easter.

Hoping your life is deplete of turmoil and replete with "harmony".

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

Apr. 6: "Salute to the Grange", Meeting, 7 P.M.

Our February program featured, in part, the American presidents. Later in the month, we have been in contact with the Fairfield Town tree warden regarding obtaining community garden space, that could be available to members. Eric Frisk is helping to coordinate this effort.

In April, we will be saluting the Grange's heritage, activities, current directions, and potential. Looking ahead, May will highlight agriculture; and our Grange will be inspected at our June meeting.

All of our Grange friends are welcome to our meetings and activities!

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

Apr. 10: Open House Neighbors' Night, 6:30, Planners: Randy Miller and Steve Porter

May 5: Kentucky Derby Viewing Party, Co-Hosts: Weston Newcomers and Neighbor's Club

May 8: Blooming of Spring, The Garden Talent Evening

Norfield Grange has a new secret weapon: the Internet! Thanks to a heavy output of e-mail messages, we drew about 35 members to our Valentine's Day Party, hosted by Julia Braden and Lisa Savage. The hall was decorated in pink and white, and there were plenty of appetizers, desserts and a festive punch. Bob Sendewicz won the gift basket raffle, and we all went home with hand-wrapped fruitcakes! You can see it all on Facebook.

At our business meeting before the party, Master Randy Miller asked us to try a streamlined opening and closing for future meetings, using the Alternative Manual. The purpose would be to shorten meetings so that members with young children (of whom we now have many) could get home in time to be with their families. Among the changes, we would mention only stations with absent, excused, or pro-tem officers for Roll Call; hand out printed minutes to meetings; put out baskets for collections and community service hours; print out Standing Committees articles as well as printed Bills and Accounts; and simultaneously close with a song while putting away implements and closing the Bible.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

Apr. 5: Business Meeting

Apr. 14: Scrabble Night (6 PM - midnight)

Apr. 19: Business Meeting

Apr. 26: Special Program "Promoting Kids' Healthy Weight" by Norwalk Hospital (7:30 PM)

May 3: Celebrating our 113th year (1899-2012)

We hope everyone who came to our Silent Movie Night on March 24th enjoyed themselves and the hilarity of Buster Keaton. Thank you

to our very own John Mucci for providing the movies and the piano accompaniment! Looking ahead, we are hosting a dynamic and interactive program on childhood (and adult) obesity that will be presented by Norwalk Hospital on April 26th. Obesity, especially in kids, is a national priority and we're taking action to help the public solve this. We are making this our Grange Month project, and invite Grangers and the public to attend.

Thank you to Peggy Garrity for coordinating our Inspection Night program back in March when we all participated in the "Decorate a Basket" project for Family Activities. Two baskets were whipped up, one with a seaside theme, and another with an agricultural theme, and they turned out quite nicely, too!

We're sending wishes for continued improved health to three of our members: Betty Johnson who was in an automobile accident; Mary Offinger who is recuperating from issues with a broken ankle and CHF; and Doug Shepherd who has had recent knee injury problems. All three are doing better and are on the mend.

Please note our program and meeting schedule. Visiting Patrons are always welcome -- won't you join us?



Connecticut State Grange

Online Chat

Wed., April 11 • 7:00 PM

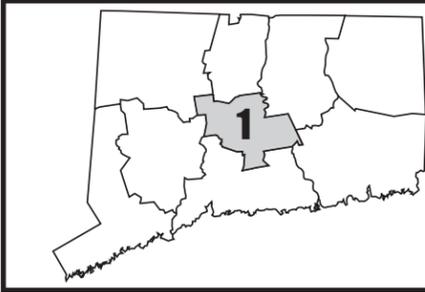
All aspects of the Grange will be discussed including: membership, agricultural and legislative initiatives, Grange events, community interaction and more.

State President Jody Cameron, Gen. Deputy Todd Gelineau and committee representatives will be there to answer all of your questions.

www.CTStateGrange.org/GrangeChat
Guests can sign-in using their real names or anonymously.



Central Pomona No. 1



- ✓ Southington No. 25
- Meriden No. 29
- ✓ Higganum No. 124
- ✓ Hemlock No. 182

CENTRAL POMONA #1

Corr: Robert Charbonneau

I'm happy to announce Maryanne and Larry Harrison have volunteered to head the Tag Sale for April 28th, for Central Pomona. This is the fundraiser put forward by the CT State Grange Social Committee. I'm asking all the Community Granges in Central Pomona to rally for this event. We will be using Meriden Grange Hall for this event. The other Pomona Granges will also have their tag sale event on the same day. Maryanne and Larry have also suggested having a chili cook-off on that day – open to Grange members only. I will also be asking for volunteers for this event to help our tag sale committee for the event and to also help sell refreshments.

If we pull this off, this will be a fantastic event.

HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: Barbara Smith

Higganum Grange #124 members have been sprucing up their grange hall and painting the stairwells as our next meeting will be inspection. Plans are in the making for participation in Haddam River Days with our town's 350th anniversary with a vegetable, arts and crafts contest. In October we are planning a scarecrow contest throughout the town. Our next meeting will be on April 13th and refreshments will be served.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Apr. 13: April Showers

Apr. 27: Safety

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

SOUTHINGTON GRANGE #25

Southington Grange #25's members have been busy these past few months. Members recently gave their hall a fresh coat of paint, new homemade curtains, and a reception desk with guest book and gardening library. A local business has donated a dozen light fixtures; an electrician has graciously agreed to install them at no charge.

Both old and new members (12 new members sworn in

since September), have held successful Belgian waffle and pancake breakfasts, a sweetheart dinner dance, as well as pet photos with Santa at Christmas time.

A colorful, new business card has been created by one member. "Let's Get Growing!", their push to grow, buy and eat locally grown foods, features two hands cradling a seedling with Grange contact information.

Southington has been partnering with Southington High School's Vocational Agriculture students and members of Future Farmers of America. These incredible young adults have brought to the Grange fresh energy and enthusiasm. They volunteer their time at our events, and are forthcoming with ideas for future events and activities geared towards children and families.

The most exciting venture this year has been Southington Grange's booth at the Healthy Family Fun Fest on March 3, sponsored by the YMCA and the Hospital of Central CT. Held at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington, the health fair drew about 2,000 attendees who took advantage of about 100 exhibits. People of all ages learned about various health screenings and smart eating. The YMCA kept kids jumping with a room full of fun, get-moving games.

The Grange distributed hundreds of membership brochures, seed embedded paper hearts, as well as their calendar of events for 2012. Members at the booth helped children create over 200 birdseed bells to feed their feathered friends. Future Farmers members showed up with two live chickens and plenty of educational information, to the delight of many.

Southington is currently planning their spring dinner dance, plant sale and summer festival and chicken barbecue. Floats in two local parades are also planned.

The excitement is building at the Southington Grange. The goal for now is to spread the word, increase awareness and boost membership. So far, it seems to be working.

CT Agriscience Schools



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

Jody, our state president, sent me a copy of the report by the Connecticut Science and Technology Education State Consulting Committee. It is a report on how current policies hinder Connecticut's Agriscience schools. You may recognize the term vocational agricultural schools or VO-AG schools. The term was recently updated to Agricultural Science and Technology or Agriscience to reflect Connecticut's agricultural demands.

Presently there are 19 Agriscience schools scattered around the state. Most are attached to local high schools or 'host schools'. Two centers, in Bridgeport and New Haven, have their own facilities and specialize in aquaculture. These high school level schools were started in 1920 to train and encourage youths to enter careers in agriculture.

The report states that these "schools portray public education at its best." The schools have a balanced mix of parent, community and industry involvement. They bring in farm producers and other agricultural industry leaders speak at the schools. Through involvement with the FFA students acquire leadership and public speaking skills. Anyone who has attended the State Grange agricultural program has met many of the FFA leaders and heard them speak. The report also mentions that the state's ag centers have achievement test scores meeting or exceeding the proficient levels in math, science, reading and writing. 53% of Agriscience students go on to earn college degrees.

There are not enough

trained students graduating from our Ag schools each year to meet the growing needs of Connecticut's farms and agricultural businesses. Agricultural businesses are forced to hire undocumented or untrained workers and many positions go unfilled. Presently there are approximately 3,200 students enrolled in the Agriscience program in Connecticut. None of the ag centers are filled to capacity.

A root of this problem has to do with state funding that is allocated to Agriscience programs. Connecticut has reduced state contributions to these facilities by 15 percent this past year. These funds help schools maintain and acquire up-to-date equipment. There is also a staffing shortage. Total staffing of the Agriscience program, including administration and teachers combined, is about 125 for the 19 centers. This has resulted in the schools not able to enroll as many students as the facilities can handle.

Per-student funding has been reduced to a point so it is not cost effective for towns to fund students who wish to attend these schools. Towns have to pay about \$8,000 per student and provide transportation to the ag school. Some towns actually discourage students from attending

Agriscience schools. At one time the state reimbursed the sending district 50% of the cost, this was later reduced to 25% then eliminated altogether. State funding for Technical (Vo-tech) schools for 2011-2012 was over \$12,000 per student while the Agriscience schools received only \$1,417 per student.

The report makes recommendations such as increasing per pupil grants to hosting towns to cover the cost between the tuition received from the sending towns and actual costs and to restore the state reimbursement grants given to host schools districts. Also to assist in adequate teacher recruitment and training ag-science teachers, and to address restrictive state and federal labor laws to allow student internships.

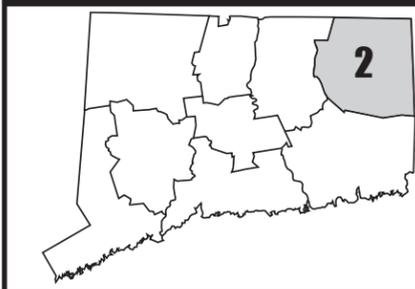
Governor Malloy has shown that he is a strong supporter of the agricultural community. This year he is addressing education as his main focus of his budget. The Governor and state legislature has to acknowledge the success of the Agriscience program. Underfunding and lack of support of Agriscience schools is something that must be addressed.

If anyone would like a copy of this report, email me at legislative@ctstategrange.org and I will send one out to you.



Jody and J. Allen Cameron assemble the new Connecticut State Grange promotional booth during Ag Day at the State Capitol on March 21. The new booth had its first "outing" at the Northeast Organic Farmers Assoc. (NOFA) event at Manchester Comm. College earlier in March.

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- ✓ Senexet No. 40
- ✓ Brooklyn No. 43
- ✓ Wolf Den No. 61
- ✓ Ekonk No. 89
- Ashford No. 90
- Putnam No. 97
- Killingly No. 112
- ✓ Echo No. 180

QUINEBAUG POMONA #2

Corr: Carol Hnath

Quinebaug Pomona Grange will once again have a booth at Brooklyn Fair and this year's co-chairmen, Jodi Ann Cameron and Shelley Racine, are requesting assistance. The profits from this booth allow us to fund the many things that the Pomona does each year. Without this booth, the Pomona dues would have to be raised, and many donations and projects would cease to be funded. After last year's tropical storm and the loss we suffered, it is especially important that the booth is a success this year. To do so, we need volunteers to man the booth during the four days of Brooklyn Fair, August 23-26, 2012 and to help with set up and clean up. It takes 15-20 people per day to operate the booth during the fair. If anyone is able to help for a few hours on any day, please contact Jodi Ann Cameron at 860-564-7614 or jodianncameron@yahoo.com. Remember to save the date of May 20th for the 125th Anniversary of Quinebaug Pomona. An afternoon of entertainment and fellowship will be held at Echo Grange Hall at 2 p.m. that afternoon

BROOKLYN GRANGE #43

Corr: Louise Salmon

Nov. 8: We had a sing-a-long of patriotic songs in honor of all our Veterans. We were accompanied by our talented musician, Peg Seguire, at the piano.

Dec. 13: The Plainfield Senior Chorus entertained us with an hour of beautiful Christmas music.

Jan. 10: At our Dinnr Outing, Louise Salmon received recognition for being nominated as a Granger of the Year.

Mar. 13: We will be having an Irish Sing-a-long.

We look forward to an early spring so we can plant our spaghetti squash.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

April 2: "Who Made The Mountains.." Mtg/Program

April 6: Chowder N Clam cakes 5pm-

April 14: Roast Beef Supper 5pm-

April 20: Square & Round Dance 7:30pm-

May 12: Roast Beef Supper

In March we presented our

Complete Program, "When he was President". We took in to Richmond Grange in nearby RI on Friday, March 16th. Jake Gervais portrayed the infamous Al Capone and his brother, Clifford played the part of Eliot Ness. Carly and Christopher Sebastian were Lucille Ball and Charlie Chaplin; Mason Gray represented Henry Ford and Jaimie Cameron was the "Barnstormer", Amelia Earhart! If you haven't all ready guessed, our program was on the 1920's: we had a wonderful time doing this!

Jodi Ann Cameron brought to our attention the help needed for 6 year old Alexander LeSage of Central Village. This young man is has autism and is in need of a specially trained dog to keep him safe: cost \$10,000.00! We voted to hold a prize give away fundraiser at our Corn Beef supper with all proceeds to help with the cost. We also voted to have prize giveaways at our three Chowder N Clam cake suppers to benefit the Sterling United Protestant Church, who suffered tremendous water damage in the floods that hit Sterling. We gave \$100.00 in Scholastic books to the winning class at Voluntown School during Dr. Seuss Week: 32 4th graders will benefit from the books because they were the winners!

Thanks to Jim & Verna Cole; Janet Hawkins; Russell & Sue Gray and Jack and Patty Cottrell (Richmond Grange, RI) for the excellent supper they prepared for the ravenous group of 42 who returned from the Norman Sugar Shack Tour. They were treated to pancakes, french toast, home fries, bacon, sausage, orange juice & coffee and of course, lots of real maple syrup! We voted to pay for tablecloths for the Junior Granges "Coffee House" (Talent Show + goodies to eat)!

We welcomed Lincoln Cooper into membership at our March meeting; we know he will make a wonderful addition to our group!

Special thought go to Shelley Racine, Avis Barr and Linc and Jan Cooper.

Visit us anytime-we are known as the friendly Grange on the hill.

ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

Apr. 10: Community Dervice

Apr. 24: Inspection

Alma Graham has donated 7 pillowcases to Limo's for Kids. I am sure the kids appreciate them. Last meeting

we all made Valentines and they were donated to the "No Freeze Shelter" in Willimantic. We have lost one of our long time members. David Hall passed away on Feb 14th. He was a resident at the

Mansfield Center for Nursing Rehabilitation. His Mother is still a resident there. She is 100 years old. We will sstart meeting 2 times a month in April.

News from the Lecturer's Dept.



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

lecturer@ctstategrange.org

I received a message from our National Lecturer, Pete Pompper. Grange Month Packets were mailed the beginning of March to each Grange Secretary. There are several items in the packet which are for the Lecturer. I hope every Grange Secretary has given their Lecturer the proper information. If not, please do it today.

Your Pomona Lecturers

met on February 26th to discuss our State programs and projects. The importance of a quality program at every meeting was discussed in detail. All programs should be between 30 and 60 minutes long. A five or ten minute program does not qualify. We need more than a reading or a song for a program. Don't forget the Lecturers Program is part of the order of business and should not be omitted. As Lecturers we need to make people want to come to our meetings. And, don't forget, your Deputy will once again be asking for your records the night of inspection.

The following should be included in your program – Music, Information,

Participation of Members, Inspiration and Humor. The only exception to this would be a guest speaker or other special event.

The Lecturer has a hard job. They need to be creative and constantly come up with new ideas. Why not offer to do a number for your Lecturer. She or he would be delighted.

Grange Sunday and Let's Celebrate are coming up quickly. Do you have a Talent entry and an "A Number" to enter. Every Grange should have an "A Number". You have them every meeting. Check your Blue Book, call your Pomona Lecturer or myself for details.

See You Around the State...

Ekonk visits Richmond Grange (RI)



3-16-12 -- Ekonk Grange presented an exchange program with Richmond Grange in RI. Pics from the Richmond Grange Facebook Page.

Wolf Den supports food pantry



Master John Carter of Wolf Den Grange #61 presents Gary Brown of Pomfret Food Pantry with a check. Elsie M. Johnson looks on.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Major changes at Facebook

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

Amid much controversy, Facebook has recently introduced "Timeline" for personal profiles, and now has made it mandatory for

all Brand and Business Pages to institute on their pages before April 1st. With this change comes excitement for the change along with the fear of the change but then opportunity for the future. If

your Grange has a Facebook Page, here's a few tips to make the most of your new profile view.

- The large photo across the top of the page is one of the most noticeable changes. This

is called the Cover Photo. The size of the photo is 851 x 315 pixels. That's a lot of real estate. Take advantage and share your creativity with a stunning photo. The one caveat is that you cannot have a "call to action" in your cover photo - such as words saying "Join the Grange," "like us" or "tell your friends." That would go against Facebook's Terms of Service.

- Does it appear that posts by visitors on your page are

disappearing? All the posts that others share on your wall are now all aggregated into one section on the right-hand panel called "Recent Posts By Others." Visitors to your page can now sort the timeline by highlighted stories (any post that has a minimum of 4 comments and/or likes can be made a highlighted post), posts by the page, posts by fans and non-fans, or friend activity, all by utilizing the drop down box on the top of the page under the cover photo.

- The new messaging system replaces the former "Inbox" service which was removed in early 2011. Now visitors can communicate privately with Page Admins, adding another layer of communication for your Grange.

- Admins can now "Pin a Post" to the top of the page. Pinned posts will appear on the top left side of the wall for 7 days. This is a great way to highlight an upcoming Grange event, project or announcement.

- Admins can also "Highlight" a post. In this view, the post spans both columns of the timeline, so that it stands out and makes a statement. This is useful to draw attention to Grange events, special photos, or important messages. Pages can have a Highlighted Post and a Pinned Post at the same time.

- Pages now have the ability to backdate messages/posts and add "milestones" to their timelines. Granges can now tell their story month by month, year by year - such as founding dates and important photos and events. This is such a wonderful way to tell the story of your Grange!

These are just a few of the many new changes Facebook has made. This is a great opportunity to do some spring cleaning on your Grange's Facebook page, so take a look at what's been working and not working and try something new!



The screenshot shows the Facebook profile for the Connecticut State Grange. At the top, there's a search bar and a "Home" link. Below that is a large cover photo featuring a collage of four images: a red barn, a city skyline, a field with pink blossoms, and a lighthouse. The profile name is "Connecticut State Grange" with 207 likes and 24 people talking about it. There are buttons for "Liked" and "Message". Below the cover photo is a "Community Organization" section with a description: "The Connecticut State Grange consists of nearly 60 local chapters supporting programs of service, families, agriculture, legislation and more." There are tabs for "About", "Photos", "Likes", "Map", and "Events". A "Highlights" dropdown menu is visible. On the left, there's a "Write something..." text box with options for "Status", "Photo", "Ask Question", and "Milestone". Below that is a post from "Connecticut State Grange" posted 2 hours ago via HootSuite, mentioning a Facebook page for the Cheshire Grange. On the right, there's a "54 Friends" section showing "54 friends like this" and "1 friend was here". Below that is a post by "Jody Cameron" stating "Jody Cameron was at Connecticut State Grange" on January 7. At the bottom, there's a "Recent Posts by Others on Connecticut State Grange" section with a "See All" link.

News from the Northeast Region

Carol Hnath, CT Coordinator

The Northeast Region (CT, RI, NH, MA, VT, ME, NY) will be hosting the 147th National Grange Convention at the Radisson Hotel, in Manchester, New Hampshire on November 12-16, 2013.

Instead of the decorated Christmas trees, we will be having mitten, hat and scarf trees. Donations of knitted or crocheted mittens, hats and scarves will be given to various charities within the states of the Northeast Region after the convention.

Also Connecticut will be

hosting the hospitality room on Saturday, November 16th. Saturday is a very busy day at the Convention with the Seventh Degree conferral as well as the exemplification of the Sixth Degree and the evening banquet. Volunteers will be needed to man the room so expect to hear more about this as we get closer to the 2013 National Convention.

We still have a supply of tee shirts and sweatshirts that we are selling to help defray the costs associated with hosting the convention. The colors, types and prices

are: burgundy polo shirts with the Grange logo on the upper right front, \$25; sandstone crewneck sweatshirts with the convention logo on the front, \$22; forest green zip front sweatshirts with the convention logo on the back, \$28; and brick tee shirts with the convention logo on the front, \$14. If you are interested in purchasing one of them, please contact Carol Hnath, CT Convention Coordinator by email flora@ctstategrange.org. They will also be available at various activities around the state while they last.

5th Degree Conferrals

- April 4** **Fairfield County Pomona**
at Redding Grange Hall (7:30 PM)
- April 7** **East Central Pomona**
at Good Will Grange Hall (5:00 PM Meeting, 6 PM Potluck, 7 PM Degree)
- April 12** **Central Pomona**
at Meriden Grange Hall (7:30 PM)
- May 5** **Quinebaug Pomona**
at Killingly Grange Hall (8:00 PM)
- May 12** **New London County Pomona**
at N. Stonington Grange Hall (7:30 PM)
- May 14** **Mountain County Pomona**
at Winchester Grange Hall
(6 PM Dinner, 7:30 PM Meeting & Degree)
- May 14** **New Haven County Pomona**
at Wallingford Grange Hall (7:30 PM)
- May 16** **Excelsior Pomona**
at Beacon Valley Grange Hall (7:30 PM)

Youth & Junior



Lisa Lamoureux
State Youth & Junior Director
youth@ctstategrange.org
juniors@ctstategrange.org

The time has come to have some fun so lace up your SHOES! Hope you don't get BOWLED over with what I have to tell you. I know you are saying... "SPARE me the hoopla just give me the details" ... Okay so if you have not guessed it, I am talking about the Youth/Junior Annual Bowl-A-Thon. This great event will take place on Saturday, April 21, 2012 at 11 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at AMF Lanes, 748 Silver Lane, East Hartford, CT for bowling. The fee to bowl is \$10 per person and this includes the cost of the TWO (2) games and shoe rental. Entry blanks and rules are available by

contacting me or by going to the State Grange website, www.CTStateGrange.org. Pledge forms are also available. Come out and show your Grange Spirit and have some fun at the same time. Let's make a STRIKE for the Grange!!!



Please make sure that you get your entry form in by Saturday, April 7, 2012 as there will be no walk-ups on Saturday, April 21, 2012. No Exceptions!

If anyone has any questions, please contact me at youth@ctstategrange.org or 203-238-1510.

EKONK JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Rebecca Gervais

Count total for our March meeting was 24. The boys did a fun program. Russell and Conner had us laughing with their jokes!

On March 24th we are

having "pizza-box-Ping-Pong" and balloon fun afternoon. I'll report on this fun event next month.

In April, we plan on a "coffee-hour" fundraiser. A drink (coffee/tea/cocoa/lemonade/?) and finger desserts. (\$2.-3.00 admission) Kids and any willing adult will provide the entertainment... talent show kind of thing. If you are interested, feel free to call me for the date and time. We need talent AND an audience. (860-564-1139, before 9pm, please)

We went bowling Feb. 19th. All who went had a great time! Andrew loved their pizza. All the kids did magnificent! The two hours flew by.

We went to Norman's sugar shack, in Woodstock, on Feb. 26th. They showed us their evaporators, and explained how sugaring works. Then Mrs. Norman gave us ice cream

sundaes with maple syrup! Yum-Yum! Then we went back to the hall for a super-supper of pancakes, French-toast, sausages, bacon, hash browns, drinks, and REAL maple syrup! Scrumptious! THANKS to the crew who stayed behind to cook for us, we even had Jack and Patty from Rhode Island helping.

About 42 people enjoyed the feast.

A pamphlet has been completed for our Grange, and passed out at local libraries, and other areas of interest. We plan on holding the Welcoming ceremony for Jenna Wesa in May.

Lots going on, feel free to join us, ANYTIME!



Members of Ekonk Community Junior and Ekonk Community Grange visited Norman's Sugarhouse in Woodstock. Katie Molodich, Lillian Sharpe, and Allyson DiNola walking in the woods to see the lines.



Do You Remember?

Ira Wilcox

by Betty Jane Gardiner

Ira Wilcox was Master of the Connecticut State Grange from 1949 through 1953. In a recent "Do You Remember" we told how he was the State Master approached by the Juvenile Deputies who had the idea to organize a Grange camp which led to our present Camp Berger. We used the 4H Camp in Warren - but how we obtained our own facility is material for a future article.

Brother Wilcox and his wife, Helen, were very active in Grange work with Ira being Master of Tolland Grange at three different times and going on to be Secretary. He served East Central Pomona and was Priest Annalist for the National Grange in the 1950s.

He was born in Coventry, Connecticut and operated a grocery store and gas station in Eagleville for years. At one time he had a contract with Colt Firearms in Hartford to make the handles for the Colt 45 gun.

Along with his brother-in-law, he ran a large insurance business and maintained a thirty-six unit mobile home park and operated school buses in the town of Mansfield. He was chairman of the Connecticut Highway User's Conference and of the School Bus Division of the Motor Transport Association, and served on many town boards.

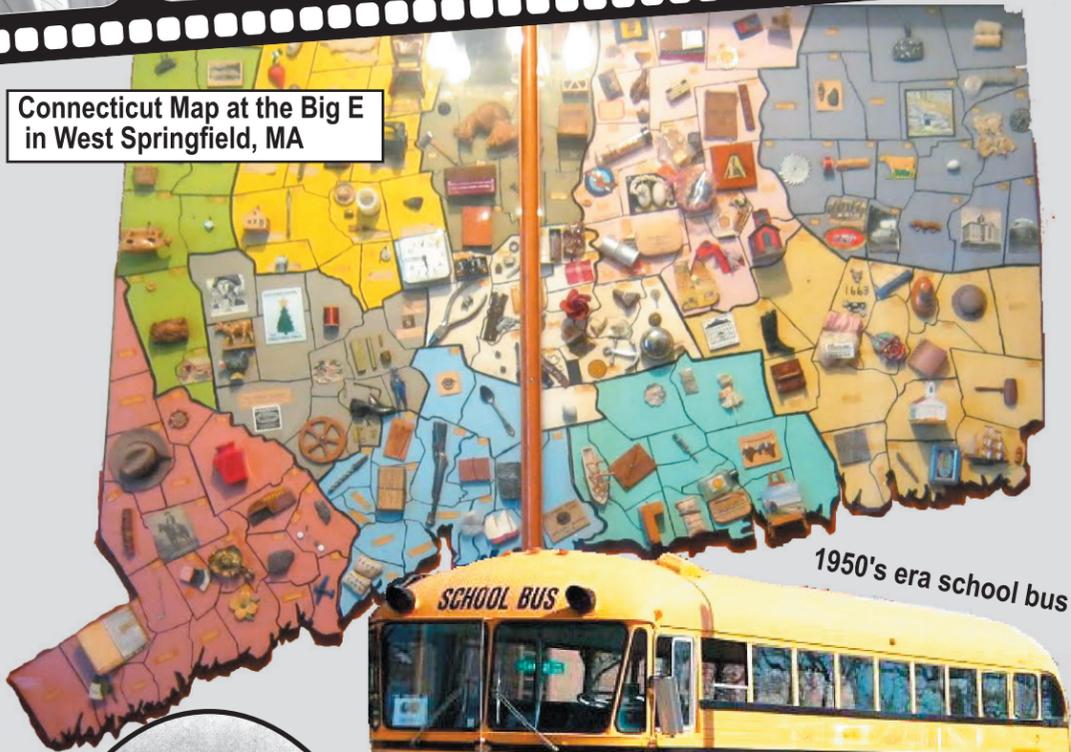
At the time the Blue Cross and C.M.S. plan was offered to the Grange in Connecticut, he was appointed State Agent, a position he held for many years.

Anyone who has visited the Connecticut Room in the Grange Building at the Big E knows of the famous map of our state which is on one wall. It was a project of State Lecturer Alma Brooks of Winchester Grange. If memory serves correctly, Ira played a big part in that endeavor making the cut out pieces of the Pomona areas. As part of a traveling program every Grange affixed a symbol representing each town to their part of the map. The sections were brought to the State Session, the map assembled as part of the Lecturer's Program. When it was completed it was very impressive, but what could be done with it? The suggestion was made to take it to the New England Grange Building, where it has been ever since.

Ira was known throughout the State as a hard-working energetic man accomplishing much to help make our Grange what it is!!

Do remember Ira.

Connecticut Map at the Big E in West Springfield, MA



1950's era school bus



Ira Wilcox

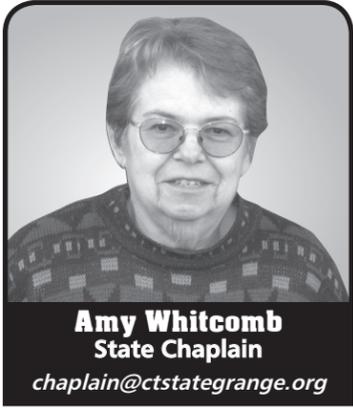


Early Colt 45 made in Hartford, CT



Helen Wilcox

Chaplain's Message



Marvin Wilbur
Past State Chaplain

I was reading a daily devotion the other day from Daily Bread, the February 10, 2012 article by Cindy Hess Kasper, and she was discussing "flawed" characters. I have been thinking about this ever since.

If we look in the Scriptures we find that most of the people that we consider "saints" or great workers for God started out as flawed.

Moses didn't want to go back to Egypt because he was afraid. David looked with lust upon another man's wife. Gideon was not sure it was God that was calling him and twice asked for miracles to prove it was God. Peter, the impetuous one, denied Jesus while he was warming himself around the campfire—not once, but three times. Yet when these men followed

the direction of God they were truly people of God and are remembered for this part of their lives.

When we look around us, and within us, we discover that we are all flawed. Not one of us always does what we know is right. We disappoint God and our friends and family many times and in many ways. But you know what, our friends and family accept us anyway and expect us to do better. God does the same thing. You see, He knows the potential we have and He knows we are better than we ever thought. He is here to help us overcome ourselves. He is here to help us get rid of our ego and replace it with God's grace.

If God sees so much good in the worst of us, should we not also be looking for the good in everyone? I know it is easier to see and remember the bad, but anyone can do that. I think it is time that we started looking for the good in people, and tell them about it.

"You know, I've notice this about you and I admire that." Who wouldn't like to hear that. Perhaps it would be the encouragement they need to keep on. We all have bad days in which we say and do things we know

we shouldn't. We have to start over, and over, and over each time we fail and try to do better.

We need God's help for this, just as those great people in the Bible. Perhaps there is a way to help us remember to ask God for his help. Have you ever heard of "breath prayers"? These are short phrases that we say to ourselves as we breathe. For example, when we discover we do or say something we should not, when we inhale say

"Dear God forgive me" and when we exhale "Father help me do better."

There are all types of prayers like this. Find

some that work for you and try it. It will help you focus on God, and that can never be a bad thing.

In Memoriam

James McLaughlin Brooklyn Grange #43
Paul Pritchett Norwich Grange #172
David D. Hall Echo Grange #180

Please keep us notified of deceased members.
Use the email or the regular mailing address listed in the Granger Staff list in this issue.

Camp Berger now accepting applications for 2012 Season

Camp Maud Isbell Berger, located on scenic Park Pond in Winchester Center, CT is now accepting applications for its 57th camping season. While owned and operated by the Connecticut State Grange, Camp Berger is open to all children ages 7-14.

Campers are given the opportunity to sample a large variety of programs or to concentrate on programs of special interest. The daily program consists of four main program periods that allow campers to participate and receive instruction in such areas as: sailing, canoeing, fishing, rowing, archery, sports, rocketry, arts and crafts, dramatics, swimming and nature. Special event programs offered throughout the summer include: dancing, music and campcraft. The Camp Berger program is designed to give campers a chance to select and participate in programs of their choice away from the pressures of highly organized and strictly scheduled activities. A balanced program is offered with both individual and group participation.

Camp Berger is dedicated to providing an affordable camping experience for all children by keeping its rates among the lowest in the state. Five weekly overnight sessions, and 5 weekly day camp sessions are offered beginning July 8, 2012. The fee is \$350 for each one week overnight session or \$175 for each one week day camp session, with a \$50 deposit required to hold space in each desired weekly session. All fees are payable in full two weeks prior to the start of the camp period.

An Open House will be held on Sunday, June 17th at the Camp on Wahnee Road in Winchester Center. Tours will be provided from 12:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Complete registration information and forms are available by contacting Camp Director Dorian Lockett at (203) 565-1724 or by visiting the Camp Berger website at: www.CampBerger.org.

WINDOW TO THE PAST

Answers for March Pic... We heard from Carl Bernhardt and Janet Haller with the answers to the March 2012 photo.

New Haven County Pomona:

Carl says "Picture was taken after the 5th degree in October 1988 to be used for the 100th Anniversary in December. These are actually the 88-89 officers."

1st row (l-r) - Carl Bernhardt – Exec. Comm.; Pauline Tomlinson – G; Lorayn Hooghkirk – F; Sharyn Wetmore – P; Clara Hodgetts – Ceres; Ruthola Stott - LAS

2nd row - John Arpin – Steward; Elsie Grant – L; Marge Bernhardt – M; Brian Howard – O; Harland Tuttle – Ex. Comm

3rd row - Kenneth Hale – T; Pat Grandy – Sec.; Duane Wetmore – Ex. Comm
Carolyn Maile, Chaplain; Richard Stott, AS

Recognizable in the background are Linda Danacore (between Pat and Duane), Janet Haller (peeking out behind Richard Stott), and Ginny Wetmore (on the end behind Richard Stott).

Thank you to everyone who has been helping us identify the Window photos each and every month. Your assistance is appreciated!!

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 story to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of the 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.

