



Happy New Year
2013

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Connecticut Granger



Vol. 53, No. 4

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

JANUARY 2013

What's your story?



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

I had to recently read a sales book for work New Sales. Simplified, by Mike Weinberg, one of the best books that I have read in a long time and many of the details the author outlines in the book are valuable to us as we grow our membership.

First, know your story! Your story is who you are and why you exist. Your message should cover specific details of your recent and current activities, especially your community service. Please refrain from getting into too much detail on what you used to do. Our history is important, but we must continually build toward our future.

Second, Targets, who are you going to ask to join? Maybe a three tiered target list. Your first list is those prospect you are confident will join (your close targets); your close target list should be of those prospects you know have the time and are readily willing to support your effort. This group is usually family, friends and co-workers. Your second list is those prospects that

The CSG Story

The Connecticut State Grange works to improve the quality of life for all residents of our state, through legislation, community service projects, and any other applicable means available to us. The Grange offers opportunities for personal growth and leadership for all ages!

are willing to join but need to understand the value of our organization and their contribution (your moderate targets). This group will be hardest to get to join, and would include business owners and associates from other groups or organizations. The third list is those prospects you REALLY want to join due to their talents, profession or contacts (your high targets). This group will be the hardest to get to join and should include local and state officials, teachers and business professionals that

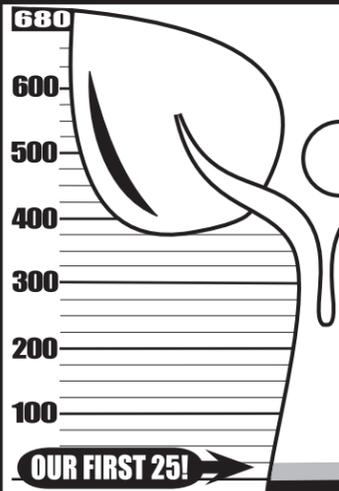
fit your mission. You need to create value for this group to see a benefit to joining.

Third, develop a plan. Your plan needs to be different for each target list and needs to always start with your story. Your plan also needs to address your target needs. Get to know your targets and tailor your story to their needs. Don't focus on youth activities to a prospect over 65 years old for example. Make sure you plan the following, an initial contact with the prospect, a face to face meeting with the prospect and continual follow up.

Execute the plan. The plan execution needs to include a clear timeline. When do we do each of the above and by whom? Your story needs to be developed before you undertake any of the additional steps. At each meeting go around the hall and ask members to give you names to add to the three lists, the longer the lists the best chance of success. Next develop a plan for each list, you should be able to address the close target list quickly and begin to grow quickly.

As I said last month, growth is not an option, it is a necessity. Your State Grange is here to assist every Grange in developing a comprehensive Growth Plan, please call on us whenever needed.

OUR MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 680



Ekonk 1st in Nation



Betsy Molodich with her daughter, Katie Molodich, at Betsy's Stand on Rt. 49 in Sterling. Katie is Master of Ekonk Community Grange No. 89, named best in the nation for Community Service by the National Grange. Photo by Aaron Falum of the Norwich Bulletin. Read the complete Bulletin article on page 2.

Jeff & Debbie Barnes, Comm. Service Co-Chairs

Service to the community is the fundamental purpose of the Grange and the Granges in our State and carrying out many projects which benefit their communities.

We received reports from Subordinate Granges who are continuing the Dictionary Project, supporting local food banks and shelters, blood drives, walk-a-thons and help to homeless veterans. New projects reported were giving gardening advice, cleaning grave markers, donating seed potatoes to a local voyage high school, adopting a family at Christmas, donating to a local pet shelter and sending care packages to soldiers overseas in harms' way. We also received an excellent report from Ekonk Community Junior Grange. Many Granges are trying to include other community groups to work with. We suggest contacting your local high school guidance office, as most schools require high school students to complete specific amounts of community service hours prior to graduation.

Our Granges reported a very impressive 78,663 hours of community service for 2012, which is an increase of 4,556 hours over last year. An almost equal number of Grange members/non-Grange members were included in this work. that's a lot of potential new members to recruit.

Continued on page 2

Sandy Hook Angels Fund

December 14, 2012 will forever be known as one of the most senseless and saddest days in Connecticut history. Our thoughts and prayers go to every victim, faculty member, citizen of Newtown, first responder and law enforcement personnel.

The shootings at Sandy

Hook Elementary School took the lives of 20 children and 6 adults for no currently known reason. As time passes and investigations continue there will be answers. Until then, I ask all Grange members in Connecticut and across our Nation to unite in prayer and send our support to the

families and community as they begin the painful process of dealing with the events of Dec. 14 and yet to come. As of the writing of this letter, there has not been any known Grange family affected by these events.

The Connecticut State
Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE...

- Central No. 1 8
- Quinebaug No. 2 9
- East Central No. 3 10
- Mountain County No. 4 3
- New Haven County No. 5 4
- New London County No. 6 5
- Excelsior No. 7 6
- Fairfield County No. 9 7
- Junior Grange 11
- Wolcott Grange Bonfire 6



**Deadline for the
FEBRUARY 2013 issue of the
Connecticut Granger:
JANUARY 5.**



Ekonk Grange 1st in Nation

by Don Bond, Norwich Bulletin

Sterling, Conn. - When it comes to community service, every Grange in America is looking up to the Ekonk Community Grange in Sterling.

Ekonk Grange captured first place in the National Grange's 2012 Community Service competition, placing ahead of the winners from 28 other states across the nation. All told, 589 Granges submitted entries seeking the award, according to Jody Cameron, a member of the executive committee of Ekonk Grange.

"Initially, the entries were judged at the state level, with our entry capturing first place in Connecticut," he said. "Then the 29 state winners were submitted to a national panel, which ranked us as the best."

In recognition of its top ranking, the Ekonk Grange will receive a first place certificate and a \$400 cash prize. The money likely will be put toward the Grange's charitable efforts in 2013, Grange President Kate Molodich said.

Cameron said the scoring in the national competition was close, with the Ekonk Grange winning by the slim margin of four points on a scale of 100. Nearby Richmond, R.I., Grange captured second place in the national judging, a rare sweep by southern New England Granges.

Molodich and Grange Secretary Sue Gray credited Rebecca Gervais, the organization's community service chairperson, with cataloging and preparing Ekonk Grange's entry, which detailed an estimated total of 22,716 hours of volunteer

service provided by the 140 people who are active members.

These activities included support of the American Legion Veterans' housing project in Jewett City. The Grange raised money to help finance construction of 18 housing units for homeless veterans at two suppers. "We were invited honored guests at the dedication and there is a plaque identifying the Grange as a contributor," Gray said.

Molodich said the Grange will continue to raise money for the veterans project.

"They need money to build a parking lot and for the daily operating expenses," vice president Link Cooper said.

Other projects, Gray said, include working closely with Sterling Community School, including providing Christmas gifts for a family the Grange adopts annually and making lap robes and slippers for nursing home residents.

Another of its major projects involves preparing and publishing copies of the Sterling Community Calendar, which lists the access information for all town officials, the meeting dates for all local government boards and commissions and all other organizations in Sterling, as well as a listing of local churches.

Grange member Michael Molodich serves as chairman of the Sterling Family Day Committee, and Kate Molodich and Cooper also volunteer their time on that committee.

Other Grange volunteer endeavors include organizing the Ekonk Grange Fair, an event held each summer at the Grange hall on Route

49; and serving an annual dinner for members and alumni of the Killingly High School Chapter of FFA. Members of both the junior and senior Granges also participate in the town's Memorial Day parade, piling onto one of Molodich Farms' large tractor-drawn hay trailers for the ride through Sterling and Oneco villages.

The Grange will expand its community service efforts in 2013 when it takes over operation of the food booth at the Plainfield Relay for Life. During the 24-hour weekend event, the Grange will serve three meals: lunch and supper on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday.

"The Grange won't make any money. All profits from the meals goes to the American Cancer Society," Molodich said.

The Junior Grangers also recently did their part toward the community service effort when they collected pledges and earned about \$500 for walking laps at the Sterling Park track.

Veteran Grangers like Gray and Cameron credit some of the success of the senior Grange to the continual influx of Junior Grange members once they reach the eligibility age of 14. "Their enthusiasm helps keep us older members going," Cameron said. "Many of them have learned leadership skills in Junior Grange and carry that with them as they join the adults."

Cameron said the willingness of the adult Grange members to allow the younger generation to test its leadership skills has helped strengthen the program.

"Our last four presidents

have been teenagers," numerous Junior Grange offices, including president. Cameron said proudly, "Having an active junior Grange has helped provide new leaders for the adult Grange, and that's a plus for the entire Grange program," she said.

Community Service

continued from page one...

This year we again divided the entries into two categories-Granges with membership of 50 and under and this with 51 and above. The winners on the State level for 50 and under were: 1- Prospect #144; 2- Stonington #168; 3- Old Lyme #162. Granges with membership of 51 and over were: 1- Ekonk Community #89; 2- Cheshire #23 and 3- Lyme #147.

Of all the reports we received, the judges chose that of Ekonk Community Grange to be the very best. They were awarded Best of Show and their report was sent to National Grange for competition on the National level. We understand that the judges out in Boise, Idaho deliberated for two and a half days before making a final decision.

We are very pleased to report that Ekonk Community Grange placed first in the country for their community service work! Their projects included relief efforts after Hurricane Irene struck, serving food at the Relay for Life fundraiser, providing remembrance flags for fallen heroes and completing their Home for Veterans project. They also excel at keeping the public informed as they do these things.

Congratulations to Ekonk Community Grange on their award and to all our Granges for their good works.

Sandy Hook Angels Fund

continued from page one...

Grange Foundation has established a fund to help the families of the victims and students during the most troubling time in their lives. All funds will be forwarded to the Newtown Youth and Family Services and the Newtown Parent Connection. All donations are to be made payable to the Connecticut State Grange Foundation, Inc., earmarked for the Sandy Hook Angels Fund and mailed to:

Connecticut State Grange Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 1393

Glastonbury, CT 06033

As a parent I cannot imagine the pain this community is experiencing, a pain no one should experience. Our Grange family can offer comfort and support through our prayers and thoughts for those who have lost loved ones during these most troubling times.

Fraternally,

Jody A. Cameron

President

Connecticut State Grange

Check your membership list



Edith Schoell
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

A new year! Did you make a resolution for this year? I hope it was one that included sending in reports on time. Have you checked your membership list to see if a member is due a twenty-five or fifty year certificate? This is a good project for a day when you are inside where it is warm and cozy.

Perhaps you might check the list of possible members that have been collected from your members. Is there is an upcoming event that they could be invited to attend? Everyone is looking for something to do in the colder weather and the fellowship at Grange events is always enjoyed.

Placemats with the Grange logo for dinners and refreshments are available through the Central Office. A real bargain at \$2.00 for 100.

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!

(USPS 563-220)

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News is due on the **5th Day** of each month and should be sent to:
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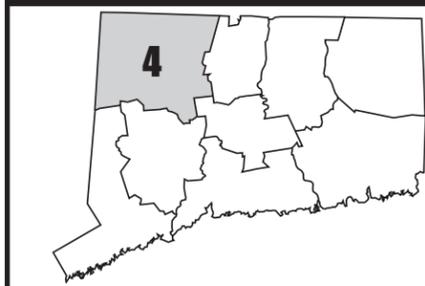
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Vice President Brian Carptenter
Secretary Treasurer. Edith Schoell

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

MISSION STATEMENT

Mountain County Pomona No. 4 has strong leadership, a keen sense of community and many skills and talents which we use to promote and support our local Community Granges through citizenship, legislative and agricultural policies within our Pomona.

MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Feb. 10: Open House at Litchfield Grange, 2:00 P.M. - Featuring the Cherry Brook Chimes

Feb. 11: "Information" at Whigville Grange Hall, 7:30 P.M.

Plans are coming together for Mountain County Pomona's Open House for the revitalization of Litchfield Grange No. 107. We are pleased to announce that Mary Lou Keefe and her group, "The Cherry Brook Chimes" bell choir will perform during the open house that will also feature a presentation by the State Master and, of course, refreshments. Ultimately, our goal is to gather the names of many new potential members for a new Litchfield Grange. Please join us. We need as many members as possible to participate in any way they can, even if it's just stopping by the Open House. We do need people to help in other ways with refreshments, publicity and in many other ways. Please contact Pomona Master George Russell to see how you can help.

The following evening, Feb. 11, will be the first meeting of the Pomona following our Holiday break. The program is entitled "Information" and will be held at Whigville Grange Hall beginning at 7:30 P.M. Please join us!

WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

Corr: Debbie Brown

Whigville Grange has held another successful "Christmas in Whigville." We had disappearing heating oil, a collapsed furnace flue, and our usual crisis. But we did what any good Granger does, we persevered! The new cookie walk was a great addition. It definitely satisfied holiday sweet tooth. Join us on Dec. 12 at 6 P.M. for a potluck supper, and we will also write out Christmas cards to soldiers. We can promise lots of fun, too. From all your brothers and sisters at Whigville Grange, a Merry Christmas, filled with blessings and joy!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Jan. 8: 125th Anniversary Neighbor's Night & Potluck Supper, 6:00 P.M.

Jan. 22: "Winter's Here"

Our next meeting will be held just six days beyond the 125th anniversary of our founding on January 2, 1888. While our official celebration has been scheduled for

Sunday, April 14, we will get things started with a special potluck supper and smaller commemoration at the Jan. 8 meeting. All are welcome!

The following meeting will feature a program

entitled "Winter's Here." Unfortunately winter is here... we just hope that it doesn't stick around for very long!

Love your Grange?



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer
lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Love your Grange? Want others to know about your special projects and friends?

Why not write about it? Our Essay Contest for 2013 is entitled "What I Like About My Grange." All you have to write is 150 words or less. We can then share with others and possibly help another Grange to be as good as yours. The deadline isn't until October 1st, but I will be glad to get them early and start a file. I have been receiving a lot of good program ideas from

around the State. While I share what I can in my newsletter, it would be great if you visited a neighboring Grange. You can get ideas for your program and give their Grange a boost in attendance at the same time. Unfortunately our attendance has been falling over the last few years. Let's do something about this before it is too late.

State Officer Visitation Program

To ensure that each Pomona and Community Grange receives a visit from a State Officer during the year, the State Master has instituted this 2013 CT State Grange Officer Visitation Program.

The officers are required to visit each Grange on their list at least once during the Grange year. They are simply visiting your Granges and not acting in any way like a Deputy.

Eloise Osuch, L.A. Steward

- New London Cty. #6
- Fairfield Cty. #9
- Beacon Valley #103
- Cawasa #34
- Norwich #172

Carol Hnath, Flora

- New Haven County #5
- Excelsior #7
- Granby #5
- Cheshire #23
- Wolcott #173

Barbara Kulisch, Chaplain

- Central #1
- Excelsior #7
- Ekonk Comm. #89
- Eureka #62
- Wolf Den #61

F. Philip Prelli, Ex. Comm.

- Central #1
- E. Central #3
- Redding #15
- Lebanon #21
- Tolland #51

Phil Bergquist, Treasurer

- Central #1
- E. Central #3
- Putnam #97
- Taghannuck #100
- Watertown #122

Gordon Gibson, Ex. Comm.

- New London Cty. #6
- Fairfield Cty. #9
- Manchester #31
- Cannon #152
- Old Lyme #162

Jody Cameron, Master

- Central #1
- E. Central #3
- Southington #25
- Coventry #75
- Pachaug #96

Edith Schoell, Secretary

- New Haven Cty. #5
- Fairfield Cty. #9
- Winchester #74
- Ashford #90
- Bethlehem #121

Ruel Miller, Ex. Comm.

- Excelsior #7
- Central #1
- Glastonbury #26
- N. Haven #35
- Norfield #146

Jeff Barnes, Overseer

- Quinebaug #2
- Mountain County #4
- Enfield #151
- Hillstown #87
- Preston City #110

Robert Buck, Gatekeeper

- Quinebaug #2
- New London Cty. #6
- Killingly #112
- Beacon #118
- Prospect #144

Ross Stands, Ex. Comm.

- Quinebaug #2
- Mountain Cty. #4
- Vernon #52
- Colchester #78
- Harmony #92

Marge Bernhardt, Lecturer

- E. Central #3
- Quinebaug #2
- Higganum #124
- Meriden #29
- N. Stonington Comm. #138

Kim Mele, Ceres

- E. Central #3
- New Haven Cty.
- Bridgewater #153
- Echo #180
- Riverton #169

Bob Sendewicz, Ex. Comm.

- Mountain Cty. #4
- New London Cty. #6
- Tunxis #13
- Wallingford #33
- Greenfield Hill #133

Noel Miller, Steward

- Mountain County #4
- New Haven County #5
- Hemlock #182
- Simsbury #197
- Lyme #147

George Russell, A. Steward

- Quinebaug #2
- Excelsior #7
- Senexet #40
- Whigville #48
- Stonington #168

Debbie Barnes, Pomona

- Mountain County #4
- Fairfield County #9
- Stafford #1
- Oxford #194
- Cherry Brook #210

Granger Shout Out

- All messages should be NO MORE than 140 characters (roughly 20 words)... the max. length of a Twitter Tweet.
- The editor reserves the right to edit all messages
- The editor also reserves the right not to publish any message deemed to be inappropriate.

HOW TO SUBMIT:

Email your "Shout Out" to Granger@CTStateGrange.org (use "Granger Shout Out" in the subject line). They can also be mailed to 170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790.

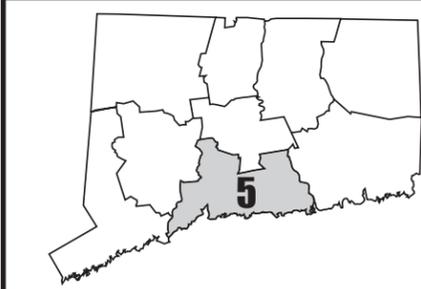
Redding Grange thanks Dennis Rich of Greenfield Hill Grange for his generous donation to assist with repairs to its Grange Hall due to Storm Sandy damage.

A shout out to the members of Wolcott Grange for standing outside their local IGA for an entire Saturday raising over \$1,100 for the Sandy Hook Angels Fund.

Submit your Shout-Outs today!



New Haven County Pomona No. 5



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

MISSION STATEMENT

New Haven County Pomona through the strength of its Community Granges offers collective wisdom and experience to enhance the individual leadership skills, pride in Grange ritual and camaraderie to all citizens in the communities in which we serve!

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Jan. 2: Legislative Program

Jan. 16: Award Night

We held our first Christmas Craft Bazaar fundraiser in early December.

Thanks to the efforts of all our members who worked on our many Monday craft nights, we delivered Christmas remembrances to

a local retirement home and to all of our shut-in Grange members. They were very gracious recipients. We finished up distributing the dictionaries to the four elementary schools in Cheshire in the Words for Thirds program. This is a great project, giving us most favorable visibility in town and it is a lot of fun going to the schools and a very

rewarding experience.

We hope your holidays were enjoyable. Do come and visit us as we meet each month on the first and third Wednesdays.

NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35

Corr: A. Tolette

Jan. 8: Winter Daze - Youth?

Feb. 5: Short & Sweet

Sorry my calendar turned too fast or not at all for the last couple of months.

Hopefully everyone now has their power back and storm debris picked up. The Clintonville section of our town (the Master's area) had the most snow accumulated during the storm. (Even made national TV). Let's hope the worst storms are behind us.

We are enjoying the programs of our Honor Lecturer, Emily Alexander,

she is still pulling great ones out of her briefcase.

Happy Holidays to all and a healthy new year.

OLD LYME GRANGE #162

Corr: Barbara Kulisch

Jan. 11: Soup/Salad/Bread Potluck Supper at 6 P.M., Meeting to follow- National Soup Month

Jan. 25: Snow Date for Jan. 11

Feb. 8: National Canned Food Month- "Bag It"

Feb. 22: Snow Date for Feb. 8

The officers and members of Old Lyme Grange wishes everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Our members rallied around to help a single mom with two children have a better holiday. We have partnered with the Lyme Youth Services Bureau on Lyme Street in Old Lyme. It

is so rewarding to be able to help someone less fortunate than ourselves at the Holiday Season. We also sent them a \$25 donation, money raised through our Country Store on Nov. 9 for their annual appeal.

We donated \$25 from our monthly "Penny Jar March" to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen & Pantries. One dollar will give one person three free meals! Barbara continues to work the monthly soup kitchen in Clinton. It is so rewarding when you see the smiles and the continual "Thank You's" you get from the people you serve! If you haven't served at a local Soup Kitchen, why not add it to your "To Do List" for 2013!

Remember that our door is always open, so come on down for a 7:30 P.M. meeting!



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

A new year ... a new communications strategy

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

Effective communication between your Grange, your members and the public is key to obtaining your Grange goals. Each Grange should have a plan of action - a communications strategy - looking ahead and consisting of the following:

- Setting your goals and objectives, such as growing your membership and retaining existing members, offering more events, or taking on a new community service project;
- Operational imperatives, such as making lists of things you must do as well as things that you would like to do, to achieve your goals;
- Environmental conditions, such as the ideas that you feel the public has about

your Grange and objectives. This is also known as public perception.

Communications strategies help form the big picture through plans supported by a series of specific activities to meet your Grange's goals. Your Grange's plan of action serves as the framework for the future. When creating your communications strategy, be realistic in your approach. Set goals that are achievable, yet ambitious. Look for ways that your Grange can leverage existing projects and activities to achieve your goals. And be sure to focus on preparation and make each activity and event as effective as possible.

Granges hold the key to their future. 2013 is a new year. Bolster your Grange's success by communicating clearly and effectively.

Even silence says something

Amanda Brozana, National Comm. Director

Like gravity in physics, communication has laws.

An essential one that we all should remember is that "One cannot not communicate." Double negative aside, the statement is poignant. No matter if we choose to create flyers, write articles, hang banners, publish newsletters, build websites, create social media profiles or give speeches or not, we are telling a broader public something about our organization.

If we choose not to in some way spread the message of the Grange, we are sending a message that the Grange is not worth our efforts.

Because of this, it is important that every Grange and every Grange member make communicating positively about our organization and your local Granges a priority as we look to 2013.

As of early 2012, every Grange was provided a free website and email by the National Grange. We have also worked to encourage Granges to take advantage of

free social networking sites such as Facebook to create pages (not profiles or groups) that are public and share the images, stories and details about our Granges with the communities in which we are a part.

Taking advantage of these mediums tells the public that the Grange is a place where things happen, people enjoy their interactions and want others to be a part of the fun. Without embracing new technologies, we tell others they are not welcome in our clique.

All Granges should create a communications plan for 2013 as a way to spread your message, our message and as a result, potentially bring in new members.

The Communications Department will offer many outreach sessions this year, in the form of communication weekend workshops in different areas of the country, monthly TeamSpeak meetings and more. We hope you will take the time to provide your ideas, suggestions and comments to the department including how we can best help your Grange. Please send comments and suggestions to abrozana@nationalgrange.org.



One of the many holiday tray favors made by Cheshire members.

Cheshire dictionaries



Cheshire Grange Master A. Ruel Miller (far right) and Lecturer Marge Bernhardt (center) present Dictionaries to the third graders at Highland Elementary School in Cheshire.

Hobo Night in Cheshire



Who says Grangers don't like to have fun? Cheshire Grange members gather for a group shot in their hobo "finery".

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

MISSION STATEMENT

New London County Pomona did not adopt a Mission Statement at their School of Instruction, but plan to work on it in the future.

NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Feb. 9: Movie and Potluck, North Stonington Grange

There are a couple of corrections for the Pomona Handbook. (When in doubt, blame the computer!) The Master's cell phone number should be 401-284-8253. The Lecturer's address should be 137 South Road, Groton 06340.

We are looking forward to our annual potluck and movie night in February. It will take place at North Stonington Grange Hall this year. The date is tentatively set for Saturday, February 9th, barring a blizzard. We will have more about this in our next issue.

The summer is over, the fall's in the past.

If only those yummy, warm seasons could last.

O.K., so right now Old Man Winter is king!

But it won't be long 'till we see Lady Spring.

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Jan. 11: "Random Items"

Jan. 25: "Hodgepodge"

At this time of year it seems even more important to remember those in need. Our Grange made Thanksgiving a little happier for eight North Stonington families with baskets that included a turkey and all the trimmings.

At our November meeting we heard the report of our delegates to State Session and were proud to hear we receive Gold Level Honor Grange. Our CWA chairperson and our Lecturer received accolades as well, with "Sue Pianka taking first place in the best program category.

Our program for the evening was presented by a group called HELO Haiti. The letters stand for Help, Education, Love and Opportunity. The group recently visited the country, which is still suffering greatly from the effects of the devastating earthquake.

The pictures of the children and school there were truly inspiring. This group is dedicated to bringing a better life to the people there.

For our first meeting in January the Lecturer asks you to bring an antique and see if you can stump the audience. Our second meeting is a secret. You have to come to find out what's cookin'.

Several of our members are "under the weather." We send get well wishes to all.

And if Old Man Winter will just take it easy on us this new year, next time I'll tell you all about delicious December.

LYME GRANGE #147

Feb. 7: Show & Tell. Bring your treasures.

Mar. 7: CWA Struts Their Stuff- Bake Off

Apr. 4: Is it too early to think about planting? Agriculture

Our December meeting brought Debbie and Jeff Barnes to visit us. Our meeting was preceded by a delicious potluck supper. Kathy Tefft came with her two grandsons David & Riley. It was so good to see her again. The boys are well behaved. A pleasure.

We took in two new members and Dan Mutchler performed the Obligation Ceremony to perfection, once again. Dan Mutchler and Ron Purinton played several Christmas Carols for us to sing along with. It is such a joy to have such talented people who are willing to help. At our Jan. meeting we will wonder about how much snow we will get this winter.

We love visitors.

NORWICH GRANGE #172

Corr: Susan Kenney

Norwich Grange held its annual Holiday Party and Card Exchange on Wed., Dec. 12. A great time was had by all! The Grangers sang carols and gifts were exchanged. There was a delightful holiday feast! Cranberry Raspberry Cream Cheese provided by

Mary, Baklava provided by Jacqueline, cookies provided by Janice and brownies were among some of the goodies!

Natasja Jurgensen brought her newborn Madeline Elizabeth who was born December 5th. The

Grangers then presented Natasja with a collection of gifts for the new addition to her family.

Dick Tarryk, our Chaplain and Community Service person continues to perform outreach in the community.

He will be delivering his 2nd food basket to the soup kitchen. He is also having the Grangers collect box tops, soup labels, and can tops!

Happy Holidays from the Norwich Grange.

Colchester makes the holidays bright



Colchester Grange No. 78 continues to remember homeless veterans during the holiday season by creating and stuffing stockings. Above left, Master Jeffrey Watson, Bonnie Trecarten, Dorothy Morwka and Joan Toomey stuff the stockings. Above right: Jeffrey and Eve O'Connell show off some of the beautiful stocking and other items that were to be given to homeless vets in their area.

Bourque receives CSG Ag. Award



Colchester Grange Agricultural Committee Chairman Chris Bourque receives a plaque in recognition of being the outstanding Grange in the 2012 Spaghetti Squash growing contest. Colchester was the top Grange with the most squash being donated to local soup kitchens and food pantries. The award is being presented by Connecticut State Grange Pomona Deputy East James Palmer (pictured on right) at a recent meeting of Colchester Grange.

Hamburg Fair honored by IAFE



Hamburg Fair does it again! We are the only fair in Connecticut to bring back awards from the International Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (IAFE) at their recent convention in Las Vegas. This is the third year in a row that the fair has won awards. The fair competes in Division 1 which is fairs up to 100,000 in attendance, there is put to 1,000 or more entries per category. A first in the Green Program, first in the Agricultural Photo Seies, second in non-fair agricultural event or program, third in the Consumer Protection Program, Agricultural Photo, New or Unique Single Class or Competitive Exhibits and Poster. The fair entered 19 categories and placed ten or higher in 17 categories.

President Ted Powell III said the reason for the fair doing so well is the great group of people on the fair board, and the community involvement at the Fair.

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

MISSION STATEMENT

Excelsior Pomona's collective voice is used as an effective tool to further the Grange's good works locally and throughout the state.

EXCELSIOR POMONA #7

Corr: Jean Meehan

On Jan. 16, 2013 Excelsior Pomona is going "Nutty" at Oxford Grange. Lecturer Jean Meehan's program is "It's a Nutty World."

You never know what is going to happen. The General Deputy may be joining us in our Nutty World.

Name that Tune was enjoyed at our last meeting with many getting stumped with some of our ritual songs. Joanne Cipriano's team won it all. The members of Excelsior Pomona hope all our Grange friends had a great holiday and will see a lot of our friends in Oxford.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Another year has come and gone. Let's hope the weatherman is as kind as he was last year and we do not have to cancel any meetings.

Our first meeting will be held on Friday - January 11 and we will be having a "New Year's Party." Harriet Sawczuk will be in charge of the refreshments.

We welcome as a new member Scott Raymond and as an affiliate member, his mother MaryLou. Both have been busy with our activities since joining.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

Jan. 27: Meeting, 2:00 P.M.; Ref. by Buzz & Linda

We have donated Dictionaries to Bethlehem Elementary School and Washington Primary School third graders.

WATERTOWN GRANGE #122

Corr: Diane Barbieri

Jan. 4: Ring in the New Year!

Jan. 18: Stormy Weather

Happy New Year to everyone.

Our first meeting in the new year is Jan. 4. Hope everyone keeps their new year's resolutions. On our second meeting on Jan. 18 is stormy weather. We all are wondering what storms

we are getting? Dec. 7 we just had our Christmas party with grab bag and country store on Dec. 21 everyone shares their Christmas traditions with us. On Dec. 1 we had our winter/Christmas tag sale. Come visit us as we welcome visitors. We are located at the Masonic Temple, 175 Main St., Watertown.

PROSPECT GRANGE #144

Corr: Jean Meehan

Our project Cold Weather has been doing very well. We were able to donate several winter coats, and many sweaters and clothing to the Vincent DePaul Shelter for homeless people. Several cases of food were donated to the Soup Kitchen as well.

Our other project was collecting food for the local food bank. We collected more than 60 lbs. so far. We have more donations yet to be made.

We held our annual Christmas Party with many of our older members being transported to the party to enjoy a Christmas Potluck dinner. Christmas games were played and enjoyed by all.

January 10 is our next meeting. We will also be making snow figures and our refreshment committee will be Mary Lou Raymond and Bella Berdan.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Dean Perry

We had our regular monthly meeting at the Bridgewater Grange Hall on Wednesday, Oct. 10. We made plans for our Roast Beef Dinner coming up and for Halloween.

We had great success with our fourth Roast Beef Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 13. Our hall was filled to capacity. We had a record amount of customers as well as income. A Hootenanny followed the dinner. Jeff Case and friends are attracting a following. They do quite a variety of music. There were good covers of Bob Dylan, Johnny Cash

and the Grateful Dead.

Our hall was opened for Halloween on Wednesday, October 31. Quite a few kids came. Fred, Dorothy and Hazel did a fine job passing out candy.

On November 14 we had a potluck dinner followed by a regular meeting at our Grange Hall. This was the best attended meeting we have had in a while. In addition we had a guest speaker, Steve Case, who is the brother of Jefferey Case, our Lecturer, works with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He talked about resources available to the public and Grange members for information about agriculture and conservation.

The following week we made Thanksgiving baskets filled with fruit. Several of our members visited

members and friends who are home bound or in nursing homes. We planned one more meeting in our hall for December 5 for a Christmas pizza party, a gift swap followed by a regular meeting. On Friday, December 7 we participated in the Bridgewater Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Our hall was opened for cookies and hot chocolate after the ceremony. The Grange Hall will not be used in the winter months due to the cost of heating it. We will meet on the second Sunday of the month at 2 P.M. in January, February and March of 2013.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Phil Rowland

Jan. 4: Program to be announced

Jan. 18: Alternate date for January meeting

Please note in the calendar that our winter schedule calls for only one meeting each month. Why fight Old Man Winter!

The Thanksgiving feast was a delight with plenty of food for all. The 16 pound turkey and fixins proved more than adequate for the many guests present, and there were plenty of dessert choices to top it off. Thanks go to all who contributed.

Some hall improvements are in the works; one being the addition of storage cabinets in the basement by a Scout Troop One member, the other being the replacement of the ancient stage curtain in the main hall. The latter is a difficult project and is currently being evaluated by member Audrey Wellner.

Wolcott holds bonfire; connects community

*Robert Charbonneau,
Public Relations Co-Director*

Joe Ouimet, President and the members of Wolcott Grange held a special event for the public. Wolcott Grange recently started a beautification campaign for their Grange property. This resulted in brush and wood from the past forty years being piled up for a bonfire. Members of the Wolcott Fire Department attended with their brush fire truck and assisted Wolcott Grange for this event.

The event started at 6:30 P.M. with Miss Waterbury singing the "Star Spangled Banner", then a young girl named Makendra Moward who sang "America the Beautiful." State Representative from 80th District Rob Sampson then spoke briefly on the efforts Wolcott Grange is making in the community and concluded by reciting from memory the National Grange Creed, "In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Charity."

Joe Ouimet then invited Rob Sampson to help with lighting the bonfire. Once the fire was started, everyone came into the Grange Hall for the Potluck Supper.

Everyone attending the event was asked to bring dog biscuits as a donation resulting in a table overflowing with them. These donations will be distributed to local animal shelters.

In talking with Joe and Hank Ouimet after the event, they were enthusiastic about the plans Wolcott Grange has for the cleared areas between the Grange Hall and a stone fence bordering their property. These plans are still in the works, but may include additional landscaping, and/or growing vegetables. Other plans include their continued gains in membership and working toward membership goals they feel will help the Connecticut State Grange meet its goals for the end of 2013.



Some of the many dog biscuits donated during the Bonfire for the local animal shelters.

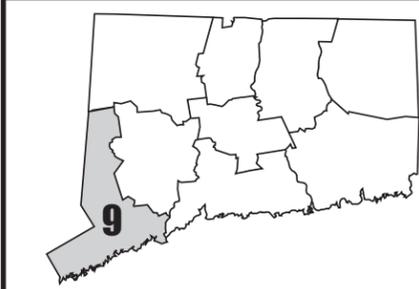


The bonfire.



Makendra Moward sings "America the Beautiful" prior to the lighting of the bonfire.

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



- ✓ Redding No. 15
- ✓ Harmony No. 92
- ✓ Greenfield Hill No. 133
- ✓ Norfield No. 146
- ✓ Cannon No. 152

MISSION STATEMENT

Fairfield County Pomona is made up of Community Granges with a special interest in leadership development, who come together to share information and fellowship and through legislative action addresses the needs of all its members and communities.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Bob Sendewicz

March 6: Wonders of the World

We schedule no meetings in January and February because of snow so you will hear from us again in March.

REDDING GRANGE #15

Corr: Marge Sendewicz

Jan. 14: Health

Jan. 28: Agriculture/ Legislative

For those of you that don't know a large tree crashed through our hall as a result of Hurricane Sandy. We hope the hall will be repaired by our January meetings. The schedule is listed above and if you plan to attend any of these meetings, please call us in advance to see if we are meeting.

HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: Susan Carol Sulier

For Harmony Grange, 2012 was a year met with many challenges; the merger of Trumbull and Harmony Granges and the passing of Gilbert Standley. It was also a year met with celebration for our beloved members: Mary Mazur, who turned 100 years young; and Gertrude Wilson and Nancy Dikovsky for their respective 75 and 25 years as faithful Grangers.

A recent ruling from National disallows any member from holding more than one office in their Grange (with some exceptions). Whereas I served as both Secretary and Lecturer, I was forced to give up a minimum of one post. I resigned as Lecturer, even though it brought me more enjoyment and chose to stay on as Secretary as it is far more complex and time consuming and therefore a more difficult office to fill. Our Master George Ward's wife, Gloria was suggested, voted in, and agreed to serve and is now our Lecturer. As of this writing, Gloria's former position of Chaplain

has yet to be filled.

December was a very busy month at Harmony. Our "Christmas Fair" began with breakfast for the Volunteers, followed by raffles, a Christmas Boutique, a Bake Sale, a Hot Dog & Fixings Luncheon, a Straw Game Table and a Chinese Auction. Special thanks to Marie and Kevin Parker, from Norfield Grange, for helping out. Our Annual "Christmas Party" featured a Pasta Supper, \$1 (gender neutral) Grab Bags, a Sing-a-Long (Christmas Carols) and tons of Holiday Spirit and Good Cheer. Many thanks to all HG'ers who contributed their wares, food, time and talents into making these events successful.

National Grange has announced via email, they will no longer print and mail out the New Grange publication, it will henceforth only be available via the internet.

In 2013, let's pray for restored "harmony" within our Community, State and National Granges.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

Jan. 21: New Year, Last Year", 7 P.M., Meeting

Our November meeting brought us a harvest of new members! Jim and Steve Golias joined via the Welcoming Ceremony. We were assisted by Robert and Marge Sendewicz and Sister Joan Ziegler of Redding Grange. Both new members are enthusiastic and had participated with entries in our September Agricultural Fair. The program consisted of a 17th century Thanksgiving-related questions and answers by our Lecturer.

We will be starting the New Year with planning our activities for Spring. The Lecturer promises a program of interest. We wish all of our Grange friends the very best and extend a welcome to

our meetings and activities!

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

Jan. 8: If We Are Still Here Party

Feb. 12: Valentine's Day Celebration

Mar. 12: St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Twenty-eight of us celebrated Thanksgiving and the reopening of the Farmers' Market at our Open House on Nov. 13. Norfield's chefs cooked up a feast, with turkey and all the trimmings. This month's spotlight falls on Kevin Parker, who roasted a turkey and baked pies, including one of the berets pumpkin pies this correspondent has ever tasted. Congratulations, Kevin!

In the same vein, Marge Sendewicz was presented an award from the CWA for working so hard all year. Marie Parker will take over the job for 2013. We can also boast of the award presented to Norfield for recruiting 22 new members this year! And while we are boasting, our September Fair drew in 400 people. This does not include dogs and other erotica.

Finally, our Grange served as a Water Station to hydrate and cheer on the runners in the Weston Inaugural Kiwanis Reservoir Half-Marathon on Nov. 11. We were Water Station 6. It was a beautiful warm, sunny day, about 60 degrees, and the team was all decked out in marathon crew shirts. They handed out over 50 cups of water and Gatorade (a Race sponsor) to all the runners. Check out our Norfield Grange Facebook page for some wonderful pictures.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

Jan. 17: Business Meeting with Agricultural Program #1

Feb. 7: Business Meeting with Literary Program- What Book(s) have you been reading?

Feb. 21: Business Meeting with Agricultural Program #2- Planning Your Garden

Mar. 7: Business Meeting with CWA Program - Let's Make State Craft Projects
Mar. 16: Silent Movie Night (7:30 P.M.)

We have received and installed our new Automated External Defibrillator (AED)! The AED was purchased with donations from our Fair's Rubber Duck Race and from

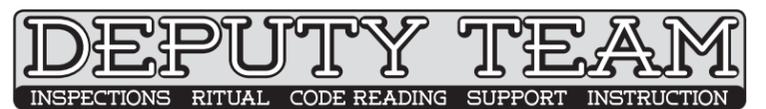
generous donations by some of our members. Having this available in our Hall, we join other facilities in town with an AED that designate Wilton as a "Heart Safe Community." We urge other Granges that own a Hall to look into acquiring one of these life-saving devices. The life that it saves may be yours!

Our hall has been busy over the past two months as the venue of choice for holiday party rentals, in addition to one of our commercial neighbors that has been using our Hall as on-campus seminar & retreat venue for business meetings. This type of activity makes for great community outreach, and

gets non-members into our Hall to see what we're all about.

Please take note of our meeting and program schedule. Our Lecturer, Doug Shepherd, has some very interesting programs planned and we would enjoy having your join us. A special coming event is our Silent Movie Night on March 16th. Our member, John Mucci will be providing the silent movies and the live piano accompaniment. The movie nights are highly anticipated each year, and we happily fill up the Hall to standing-room only. Tickets at the door.

Visiting Patrons are always welcome - won't you join us?



2013 Deputy Challenge

During the last two years the Deputies have scored Granges based on their ability to present the Flag and to Open and Close the Grange using the traditional Manual. For 2013 we are going in a very different direction. The Deputies Ritual Challenge will now be known as the Deputies Challenge. Rather than have a structured score sheet with specific points that each Grange must achieve, the new Challenge will be based on nominations generated by each of the Deputies and inspecting officers.

From the group of Granges inspected by each Deputy, the Deputy will select one Grange to nominate for the Deputies Challenge award based on any criteria they feel distinguishes the nominee from the rest. Their nomination could be based on an outstanding community outreach program, dramatic improvement in Grange procedure, exceptional membership development efforts, community service projects and more.

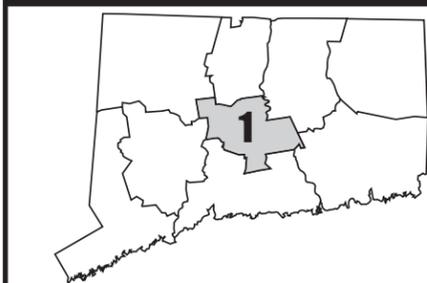
The group of nominees will then be placed on a secure section of the Connecticut State Grange website where the Deputies, inspecting officers and other invited voters will go online to vote for their choice for the 2013 Deputies Challenge award winner.

What do you have to do? The individual Granges do not have to fill out forms, or do anything to enter the 2013 Deputies Challenge. All Granges are in the running for the prize. You do, however, have to stand out enough for the Deputy to take notice and nominate you for the award. Take this opportunity to look at your Grange's programs and activities and set goals that will take your Grange to the next level. By doing so, your Grange could be the next Deputies' Challenge winner!

All Granges nominated will be recognized at State Session and the winner will also receive a website free for one year from the State Grange website development program.

On another subject, THANK YOU to all of the Granges who have already submitted their 2012 Executive Committee reports to me. Nearly all of the reports received at the time of this writing are balanced and complete. We remind all Granges that these reports should be filed with the General Deputy by December 31 or March 31 (depending on when your books close). Some reports have been sent to the Central Office or have been given to one of the Deputies. They are not considered filed until received by the General Deputy. Please make sure you also have a copy to give to the Deputy on the night of inspection.

Central Pomona No. 1



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

MISSION STATEMENT

Central Pomona No. 1 will support its Subordinate/Community Granges through programs and activities by actively contributing its talents and resources. Central Pomona supports local, State and National charities; educational and youth programs.

CENTRAL POMONA #1

Central Pomona No. 1 held its Christmas meeting at Hemlock Grange Hall in Portland. The festivities began with a potluck supper at 6 P.M. with Grange members from other Pomona Granges also attending from as far west as Fairfield County and as far east as East Central Pomona. During the Central Pomona business meeting the count of Granges was 14 Central Pomona members along with 24 guests and dignitaries from around the State. For dessert 95 year old Mildred Bell was presented with a special

birthdaycake, with a picture collage of photographs of Grange events she was a part of included on top of the cake. Mildred Bell was later presented during New Business by the Secretary of the National Grange Executive Committee, F. Philip Prelli with an 80 year anniversary certificate from Central Pomona.

HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: Barbara R. Smith

Higganum Grange #124 made fruit baskets and holiday arrangements for members who are shut-ins. Afterwards we held a potluck dinner in the Grange hall. We wish

everyone a safe, Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year in 2013.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Jan. 11: Safety First. Portland firefighter will explain safety in the house.

Jan. 25: Omit (Unless first meeting of the month

is cancelled) Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Mildred Bell honored by several Granges



Above left: Mildred Bell receives a special certificate in recognition of 80 years continuous membership from Past State Master Bob Sendewicz at Meriden Grange. The certificate was presented by both Meriden and Southington Granges. Above right: The birthday cake presented to Mildred in honor of her 95th birthday at the December meeting of Central Pomona No. 1 at Hemlock. Left: National Exec. Comm. Secretary F. Philip Prelli, presents Mildred with an 80 year certificate on behalf of Central Pomona No.1.



Do You Remember?

RALPH INGALLS

by Betty Jane Gardiner

We have enjoyed another holiday season and all the treasured memories which go along with it. Each Christmas when I see plots of land filled with fragrant pine trees to be sold, I think of the man from Brooklyn, Connecticut who owned and operated a huge Christmas tree farm. It was a popular business known far and wide as was his business of taking the large stones he found in the fields and turning them into beautiful markers. That was Ralph Ingalls. He was chosen as "Christmas Tree Grower of the Year" and was president of the growers association for many years.

An active Granger, Ralph was Master of Brooklyn Grange and of Quinebaug Pomona and a member of the State Grange Agricultural Committee.

He was a nice looking gentleman, quiet and unassuming – but when he sat down to his honky-tonk piano- watch out - everything went crazy!

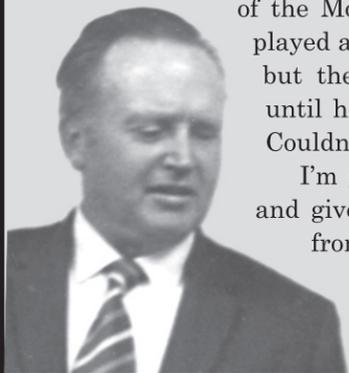
At one time he had come across an old music book - World War I vintage containing songs that were a little bit nice/ a little bit naughty! He learned the songs and they became his trademark!

The Pomona put on a lot of minstrel shows in those days with Ralph, his brother James and Bob Payne being star performers. Everyone had a favorite. State President, Jody Cameron tells me his was "The Seven Little Old Ladies Stuck in the Lavatory."

Ralph often took part in the spring/fall concerts of the Mountain County Choristers. He played and sang in his own special style- but the audience wouldn't let him go until he gave his own rendition of "He Couldn't Get to It!!"

I'm glad I've been able to "get to it" and give you this reminder of the man from Brooklyn who kept people laughing - many of them right off their chairs!

Do remember Ralph Ingalls.



And it's oh, dear, what can the matter be?
Seven old ladies got stuck in the lavatory;
They were there from Sunday till Saturday,
Nobody knew they were there.

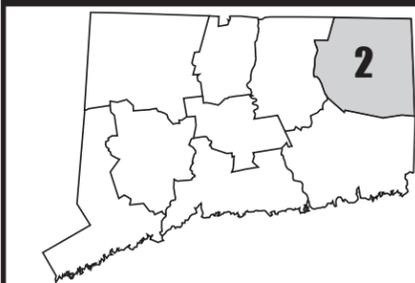
Now the first old lady was Margaret Flynn,
She went inside on a personal whim;
But she somehow got stuck between
the bowl and the rim,
And nobody knew she was there.

And it's, oh, dear, what can the matter be?
Seven old ladies got stuck in the lavatory;
They were there from Sunday till Saturday,
Nobody knew they were there.

Now the second old lady was Elizabeth
Humphrey,
She went inside and she made herself comfy;
When she tried to get up, ah, she couldn't
get her bum free,
And nobody knew she was there.

And it's, oh, dear, what can the matter be?
Seven old ladies got stuck in the lavatory;
They were there from Sunday till Saturday,
Nobody knew they were there.

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



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

MISSION STATEMENT

Quinebaug Pomona supports and assists the communities within its jurisdiction through a financial and physical presence. We offer the Community Granges assistance and support for their programs and activities.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Elsie M. Johnson

Jan. 9: Resolutions, Ref. Cocoa Cookies

I like this kind of weather! Well the holidays are coming fast. Halloween was not very good, but the Carter Farm was open a couple of unsettled nights. Now it's time to settle in for winter. Christmas shopping has begun. The State Session is over and a lot of resolutions were made. Tabs and labels are still coming in. The dictionaries will go to school this week. Hope everyone has had their flu shots. Careful of wood stoves. Glad elections are over and signs are being picked up. Feed the birds. Dues are due.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Coming up for January 25 is our annual Casino Night. This is a fun night for the whole family. We play games for one hour and then with the pretend money you make you can participate in the auction. Everyone is asked to bring an auction item.

We delivered three full baskets to needy families in Sterling for Thanksgiving. Katie and Michael Molodich presented a check to the Jewett City Veterans Home. This was the profits from our last Roast Beef Supper.

We want to give a big thank you to Marion Emmons for the donations for the many hall improvement projects and to Link Cooper for the outstanding job he is doing as Facility Improvement Chairman. We also want to wish Sue Gray a speedy recovery after having ankle surgery.

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

Our regular meetings are usually attended by all members. Sue Dupre has been on the sick list, as has Mildred Briggs and Genevieve Shippee. Gen is still at Westview Convalescent Home recuperating from a fall.

We held our Square Dance on the second Saturday of

the month. Attendance was low. Hope for larger group as time goes on- may have been because of the storms lately.

A craft show and luncheon was held on Nov. 10th with good attendance. There were lots of knitted goods and jewelry and other homemade goodies.

At our sat meeting we voted to purchase more, new light tables. Eleanor Davis, our Lecturer, received four awards, Lecturer's Appreciation, Supporting Our Troops, Should Auld Acquaintance and won third place for an essay- "How I would change our Grange."

Bernadette who has been on the recuperating list volunteered to send postcards to service members as our Community Service which includes bringing non-perishable foods for our Thanksgiving basket.

If I'm reading my notes correctly, we will have movies for Thanksgiving and Christmas during our next meetings or at another meeting night.

Safety tips for the coming winter months. Keep extra gas in your car along with flashlights, batteries, shovels, and a warm blanket. A bucket of sand can also be useful. Make sure your windshield wipers work, drive carefully and watch out for the other drivers.

Take time to help others along your path and support our troops, those far away and those at home.

ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

Jan. 8: Safety

Jan. 22: Omit

We have had our Annual Tag and Bake Sale and it was a success. Now it is time to start working on our contests for the year. Our theme this year is "Over, Under & Around the Sea." Let's see what we can come up with. We hope everyone had a nice holiday and a happy new year.

We are meeting downstairs for the winter, which makes it easier for those who have trouble with the stairs.

General Assembly ready to convene



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

The Connecticut General Assembly convenes on January 9th in Hartford. The Connecticut State Grange Legislative Committee will be monitoring bills and presenting testimony when warranted. Gordon Gibson will again be our voice in Hartford. His political connections are a valuable asset to the Connecticut State Grange. He will be talking to Senators and Representatives conveying our opinions on the different bills. By now bill requests to be brought up during the session have been presented to the legislature by Assembly members. These will be assigned to various legislative committees for review and action. Legislative Committees also can present committee bills as the session progresses.

As the bills progress we would hope that Granges would lend their support or objection to the different bills. The State Grange testimonies at committee hearings are one of the tools with which we convey Grange opinions. The State Grange Legislative Policy Guide is another tool we use. This guide will be sent to all of the General Assembly members and Granges. But, having the individual Community and Pomona Granges add their voices to the different bills really can enforce Grange influence. This can be done by the Grange itself pending a communication on behalf of their members or by individual members.

You do not have to feel that you need to go to Hartford to voice your opinion. Writing or contacting your local Senator and Representative can have just as much of an influence. For some bills we also recommend that you contact the committee chairman and/or members of the committee that is hearing the bill. When you contact them, please be sure that you clearly communicate which bill you are referring to and then state your opinion. Incorporate your reasons for your opinions as well.

On the Federal level, we

are still waiting on the Farm Bill. (I am assuming that the Federal Legislators did not act on this before the end of December). If this bill was not acted on by the end of December, milk and dairy product subsidies will have to come to an end. This sets a minimum wholesale price for milk. Several conservation programs will be frozen. The extension passed before the end of December, but we still need to have the farm bills finalized so farmers can determine their crops for the next growing season. Remember that the farm

bill is the Farm and Food Nutrition Bill. Only about 20 percent is for the farm side. The rest is for food nutritional programs such as the school lunch program and SNAP, which was previously known as Food Stamps.

If you would like to be more involved with the activity in the General Assembly, email me at legislative@CTStateGrange.org and ask to be placed on our legislative action list. We will send out emails to concerned members when issues arise that need immediate action.

Apathy not allowed!

Grace Boatright, National Legislative Director

I'm very happy to announce that the National Grange Legislative Department has unveiled its new youth legislative program: Apathy Not Allowed. The program is designed to help our Grange Youth understand the importance of not only voting, but being involved in the policy development of one's community.

After becoming Director in July, I knew I wanted to start a program for the Legislative Department and the Youth Department to engage in together. Following some research, I discovered that among the world's developed countries; the United States ranks second from the bottom in regards to voter turnout; a position that is entirely unacceptable if we are to grow as a nation and fix the problems we are currently facing. More importantly, I discovered that political apathy is significantly higher among teens and young adults, who see little relation between government action and their daily lives. Thus, Apathy Not Allowed will work to engage our Grange Youth and get them involved as responsible citizens with a firm grasp on their civic duties as members of a free society.

As part of the program, I want to engage in a monthly teleconference with participating youth to discuss current events going on at the local, state and federal levels and how we as a group can get involved. More than anything, I want to teach them that it's worth their time and effort to take an interest in government and politics. I also want to help them coordinate trips to their state capitals and possibly even a trip here to Washington, D.C.

Participants of Apathy Not Allowed will also be encouraged to compete for the Grange Grassroots Activism Award, oriented towards legislative activities and advocacy work. First place winners of the Activism Award will be invited to attend the annual Legislative Fly-In in DC and have all of their expenses paid. Second and third place winners will receive scholarships and free registration to the next National Grange Convention.

To be clear, I absolutely did not begin Apathy Not Allowed to lead young people in one political direction or another. In fact, I have worked very hard to keep the program in line with the Grange's stance as a nonpartisan organization. Rather, I want Apathy Not Allowed to reveal to youth all of the ways in which government impacts their daily lives and explain to them their important role in shaping public policy. Once they can see the influence that government has in their daily lives, from public school curriculum all the way to taxes, they will begin to take an interest on a personal level.

I developed Apathy Not Allowed to ensure that our Grange Youth "take a proper interest in the politics of one's country," just as our Grange's Declaration of Purposes suggests. We need them to become the informed and involved citizens our country requires to move both America and the Grange forward and guarantee a better society for future generations. I'm very excited about the program and am looking forward to working with all of our Grange Youth to make *Apathy Not Allowed* a success.

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

MISSION STATEMENT

East Central Pomona supports the Community Granges by helping one another; through legislative advocacy and by supporting community service efforts.

E. CENTRAL POMONA #3

Corr: Noel Miller

No Meetings in Jan. & Feb.

Hope you had a wonderful holiday season, Irene Percoski is holding a game "when it hits 0 degrees at Bradley for a buck pick a day and hope you win, our snow buried duck quackers has flown the coop. Good luck. Next meeting is March 2, Pomona School of Instruction, hope to see you then.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #25

Corr: Katherine Ruff

Jan. 3: Meeting, 7:30 P.M. "Welcome the New Year"

Jan. 12: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7:00 P.M.

Feb. 7: Meeting, 7:30 P.M. "Be My Valentine"

Glastonbury Grange had a nice Christmas Party at Olympic Pizza Restaurant on Dec. 6. On Jan. 3 we will have our regular monthly meeting at 7:30 P.M. The Lecturer's Program is "Welcome the New Year."

The Focus Group has been meeting to come up with some new ideas of ways we can raise some extra income. They have come up with around 8 to 10 ideas and are focusing on 3 of them. We will be discussing these ideas at our next meeting and vote on what we will plan to work on.

We are continuing to hold our monthly card parties. Do join us on Jan. 12 for a fun evening with local folks and delicious refreshments. Hope you all had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Leona Wilson

Jan. 15: Snow

On December 4, Sister Gail Aylmer is in charge of the program. The members are asked to bring a gift from the dollar store. On December 14 the Manchester members will meet for a holiday luncheon. In January Manchester Grange

will hold only one meeting on January 15 as our first meeting would fall on Jan. 1st. The program will be in the charge of Sister Leona Wilson. This program will be about Snow and a New Year's party. Come and visit us.

TOLLAND GRANGE #51

Corr: J. Jordan

Jan. 15: Presidents 11-15

Tolland Grange will meet on the third Tuesday for the month of January. Our meeting will be held at St. Matthew's Church on the green in Tolland. Continuing with presidents we will be talking about numbers 11-15. Join us if you can.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

Jan. 11: 7:00 P.M.- What's Your Money I.Q.?

Vernon Grange had a fun holiday party, as always, with the delicious refreshments by the Congers and a silly/useless gift exchange. We always get a

laugh out of what shows up. One member was thinking of wrapping her husband! Our January meeting is changed to the second Friday- if the weather cooperates! It will be an informative meeting on money and investments from the AARP magazine.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

Jan. 17: DATE CHANGE - Happy 125th Birthday #75

Yes, we are celebrating our 125th birthday, probably huddled around our kitchen stoveroastingmarshmallows and keeping warm but I'm in charge and will have something planned. We have draped our Charter for the loss of Brother William A. Miller, a 59 year member who died on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22. A strong worker and supporter of Grange from Coventry to State Legislative Director his actions will be long lived in the Grange. God bless true and faithful.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

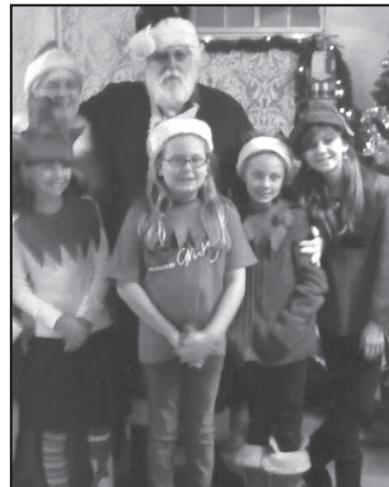
Corr: Irene Percoski

Jan. 12: Happy New Year- Don't forget Food Shelf donations

Feb. 8: Winter Olympics

Happy New Year to one and all. Instead of making resolutions we need to make challenges to ourselves. Challenge to make more meetings and be on time. Challenge to ask someone to join the Grange every month (or every week would be a bigger challenge). Challenge to enter a Grange contest, any contest. Challenge to visit a member who can't come to Grange anymore. When you make that challenge you are actually daring yourself to do something that might be a little out of your comfort zone. We all need to get out of our comfort zone and shed the old way of doing things. So I not only ask everyone to accept a new challenge... I double-dare you.

The absolute deadline to get your recipes in is Feb. 1.



Hillstown Holiday Brunch

Hillstown Grange recently held a Sunday Brunch and Grandma's Attic Tag Sale to benefit their roof fund. Hillstown Juniors dressed as elves while Santa stopped by.

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 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.

This month...

67th Annual Session of the CT State Grange
Hotel Bond, Hartford, Oct. 17, 1951



Answers to Previous Photos: **RUTH HICKCOX** -- As I think more about my photo (Nov. photo), I think it was taken back in Boise, because that's also a picture of the CWA chairman at the time. I forget her name, but she was really warm and friendly. On December's photo (from Facebook) - **KIM MELE** -- Wish I knew--she looks like she would've been a neat lady to know! **JOANNE PAGE** -- I don't recognize her. **SUE ADDISON** -- That backdrop is on the stage at Cheshire Grange. Maybe she was in a fashion show for the Sewing Contest?



JUNIOR GRANGE

Contact:
Jody Cameron, State Master
president@ctstategrange.org

EKONK JR. GRANGE #101

Rebecca Gervais, Leader

We joined the Youth and over 30 of us went on a hike to Mt. Misery, and a round-about walk out of the woods for a total of about 3 miles. It was an enjoyable hike and we all appreciated the hot dogs and hamburgers back at the Grange. So nice to come back to a hot meal. A

fun hike, a nice meal, and great friends makes for a pretty nice way to spend a few hours.

We have been pretty busy. A group of us "walked" for St. Jude on "Black Friday." A great way to spend the day after Thanksgiving. We raised \$441.00. Hooray to Emily for being in charge of this event, she did an awesome job.

About 22 of us ate a quick lunch at the Grange and went to see the "Indian Calendar" stones that are close by. It was very fun and informative. George Molodich met us on his family's land to show us the many rocks and to explain them to us. It is amazing the treasures that are close

by!

We have been practicing for our Christmas play, which is on the 14th. We will be performing "The Littlest Reindeer." I will report on our play in next month's column.

We "adopted" a family from Sterling, with the Subordinates, and grabbed a few extra tags off the tree for local kids. We have a generous bunch!

The Christmas Bazaar was held on the 8th. We had a bake sale table and raised \$66.25! Ho, ho hope you all had a Merry Christmas and the New Year is a happy and healthy one. Feel free to join in on our fun, ANYTIME!



Top photo: A group of 22 Ekonk youth and Juniors visited the Indian Calendar Rocks that are near the Grange Hall in Sterling. Center Photo: A group of Ekonk Comm. and Jr. members walked for St. Jude on "Black Friday" raising \$441.00 for the charity. Bottom photo: On the summit of Mt. Misery, 30 members pose for a group photo.

In Memoriam

- William A. Miller, G.S. Coventry Grange #75
- Jean Lundeen, G.S. Taghannuck Grange #100
- Eugene Bromley, G.S. N. Stonington Grange #138
- Florence Miner, G.S. N. Stonington Grange #138

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

Chaplain's Message



Barbara C. Kulisch
 State Chaplain

chaplain@ctstategrange.org

"Heaven's Grocery Store"
 by Ron DeMarco

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago. One day I saw a sign that read, "Heaven's Grocery Store." As I got a little closer the door came open wide and when I came to myself I was standing inside. I saw a host of Angels, they were standing everywhere. One

handed me a blanket and said, "My child shop with care." Everything a Christian needs is in that grocery store, and all you can't carry, come back the next day for more. First, I got Patience, Love was in the same row. Further down was Understanding, needed everywhere you go. I got a box or two of Wisdom, a bag or two of Faith. I just couldn't miss the Holy Spirit, it was all over the place. I stopped to get some Strength and Courage to help me run this place, but then my blanket was getting full, and I remembered I needed Grace. I didn't forget Salvation, which like the others was free, so I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me. Then I started to the counter to pay my grocery bill, for I thought I had everything to do my master's will. As I went up the aisle, I saw Prayer and had to put it in, for I knew when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin. Peace and Joy were plentiful; they were on the last shelf. Song and Praises were hanging near, so I just helped myself. Then I said to the Angel, "How much do I owe?" The Angel smiled and said, "Just take them everywhere you go." Again, I politely asked "How much do I really owe?" The Angel smiled again and said, "My Child, Jesus Paid Your Bill A Long Time Ago."

As we all go into 2013, let us do as the Angel said, "Just take them everywhere you go!" Amen.

Thank you from Sue

Thank you so much for the numerous cards sent to me as I recuperate from what was supposed to be a simple out-patient surgery. When the surgeon opened my ankle, according to Russell, if 5 things could be wrong, 5 things were wrong! As a result, I, as of this writing, am still in a wheelchair and to top it off (law, according to Murphy), I am allergic to the pain medicines. I look forward to being in a walking boot before Christmas, but I have been assured that this will indeed be a long, painful convalescence! Oh, joy! Sue Gray

New Members

We do not have a list of new members to print in this issue of the Granger. We do know that 25 new members joined our ranks during the last month. Unfortunately, we do not know who they are unless it is reported to the editor or if we wait until the next quarterly report is submitted to the State Secretary. It is now especially important as we work towards our goal of 680 and try to fill in the chart on page 1.

Give your new members the recognition they deserve and report their name and Grange name and number to the editor of the Granger as soon as possible:
Granger@CTStateGrange.org or **(860) 307-1522**

Membership Highlights

Michael J. Martin

National Leadership/Memb. Dev. Director

At the 146th Annual Session of the National Grange in Boise, Idaho, I shared membership highlights with the delegate body. I want to share this information with each of you in this newsletter.

Hearty thanks and kudos for the hard, steady work of our State Masters and Membership Directors. As a result of their efforts, nine states realized net gains in membership this year! Oklahoma topped the list with a net gain of 272 new members and a percentage growth of 15.9 percent. Idaho, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia also had net gains in membership.

We have 2,048 local Granges as of the second quarter of 2011. Of that total, 461 local Granges realized net gains in membership. Another 489 Granges held steady; that is, they neither gained nor lost

members last year. Of our local Granges, 46 percent are holding steady or are growing.

We have 75,320 Fraternal Members, 86,135 Supportive Members, 2,193 Associate Members and 45 E-members for a total membership of 163,693 as of the second quarter of 2012.

At the local level, kudos to Feather River No. 440 in California with the highest net gain in the nation of 85 new members. Their Grange grew from 48 to 133 members in the past year. Springfield Grange No. 523 in California had the highest percentage gain at 222 percent. They grew from 37 to 119 members. Chester Royal Grange No. 2181 in Iowa had a 218 percent percentage gain. They grew from 11 to 35 members. Nationally, 461 Granges had net gains in membership totaling 2,979 new new members, and we know many more members joined our 2,048 Community Granges.

Join the 13 Second Campaign

Michael J. Martin

National Leadership/Memb. Dev. Director

In the Grange, 13 is a special number. Each Grange must have at least 13 members, and every Grange has 13 officers (plus Executive Committee).

As we look forward to 2013, a year in which growing our membership must be a priority of every

Grange and every Grange member, we are commencing on a social media marketing and membership campaign. This grass roots campaign will draw attention to the positive personal impact the Grange has made on our members' lives.

I ask that members across the country (that means you personally) take time—about 13 seconds—on the 13th of each month, starting in December 2012 to post to their social networks a kind of social media elevator post. These posts should tell a brief anecdote about the Grange's importance indoor community and in your life, and they should encourage your social media friends

to ask you more about our Order.

Over the next 13 months, if, together, we bring in 100 net new members each month, we will achieve a net gain in membership for the Grange as a whole.

I challenge you to do your part by actively participating in this campaign. Actively tell people about your positive

Grange experience and ask 13 people to join the Grange between now and December 13, 2013.

When you see success with this program, please email me at: mmartin@nationalgrange.org with your name and Grange name and number. Include the post that prompted the new member to join and the new member's name and Grange. We will recognize everyone who reports success as part of this campaign during the 2013 Annual National Grange Convention in New Hampshire.

Together, in these next 13 months, we will grow the Grange.



13second campaign

Southern CT Past Masters



The Past Masters honored Mildred Bell for 80 years of continuous Grange membership.

Marge Sendewicz passes out candy canes at the Christmas meeting of the Past Masters.

The January meeting of the Past Masters will be held at Redding Grange on Saturday, January 12. The program is entitled "Snow Flakes." Let's hope that is not the case. As the weatherman is not always cooperative, if you have a doubt about the meeting call the President Robert Sendewicz.



By Amanda Leigh Brozana, abrozana@nationalgrange.org
National Grange Communications Director

Due to budgetary constraints, the National Grange has announced that it will not produce a printed edition of the New Grange in 2013.

The decision was made by the National Grange Board of Directors and approved by the delegate body as part of the passage of the 2013 National Grange Budget during the 146th Annual Convention in Boise, Idaho, held Nov. 11-17 for delegates.

National Grange Communications Director Amanda Leigh Brozana said the department is committed to providing information to all members through a regularly scheduled e-newsletter service, but said dissemination of that information will require the assistance of each member in this effort.

"If you know members who do not have email or the internet, please volunteer or find someone in your Grange who will print and distribute the e-newsletter editions to members," Brozana said. "Every member who has an email address should be encouraged to sign up for our mailing list. Members can choose what products they want to receive, such as Grange news, benefits information and fraternal concerns."

Newsletters include many pieces of helpful information, including new programs, benefits, sales and legislative briefings. "Members who are unable to receive this information miss out on much of what their dues were meant to cover," Brozana said.

Brozana said the National Grange will adhere to the following publication schedule for 2013, producing e-newsletter editions during the following weeks: Jan. 7 & 22, Feb. 4 & 25; Mar. 11 & 25; Apr. 8 & 22; May 6 & 20; June 3 & 17; July 1 & 22; Aug. 12 & 26; Sept. 9 & 23; Oct. 7 & 21. November will include a convention round-up featuring daily newsletters from the 147th Annual Convention.

Brozana asked that all members receiving communications currently from the National Grange spread the word about e-newsletters and encourage their Grange Brothers and Sisters to subscribe in order to get on the mailing list.

Brozana also encouraged members to submit articles or story tips for the e-newsletter online at www.nationalgrange.com/news/submitsubscribe or by sending the information directly to abrozana@nationalgrange.org.

National Grange seeks interns

The National Grange is seeking interns at its headquarters in Washington, D.C., located just one block from the White House.

Communications Director Amanda Leigh Brozana said the National Grange is in the process of several large-scale projects and seeks an organized, reliable, confident individual to become a part of the team for the spring, summer or fall.

"While there will be days of endless scanning, data entry and general organizational work, the intern will also help to produce material for our legislative, communications, events, trademark/brand management, membership and sales departments," Brozana said. "The intern will get to interact with some of the best people in the country – our members – and learn more about the legislative and lobbying process, public relations, programs planning, fundraising, graphic communications, event planning and marketing."

Internships are open to all student levels and all majors, interns must be at least 18 years old, eligible to work in the U.S. and willing to submit to a background check, as is the policy of our organization, Brozana said.

This is an unpaid internship, though MetroBenefits – compensation for commuting to and from work – may be available. Additional scholarship opportunities may also be available for interns. Interns with a research interest may also submit ideas for projects that could garner support.

Those interested should reply by email at abrozana@nationalgrange.org with a resume and contact information as well as your prospective start and end date. More information will be provided during a follow-up interview.