



Happy New Year!

Address Service Requested, Periodicals Postage Paid in Winsted, CT 06098



Connecticut Granger



Vol. 55, No. 4

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

JANUARY 2015

Happy New Year to All!



Noel T. Miller
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

Happy New Year to all, may all our resolves be kept and our wishes come true. I know 2015 will be better than last year, only because there is no election in the Nation's capital.

It is a great honor to welcome Litchfield Grange No. 107 back as a reorganized Grange. My special thanks to those 13 members who have committed themselves in the reorganization of this Grange. Now it's time for all of us to go and visit these Grangers and help in any way to help them grow and feel welcomed. I wish to thank Todd Gelineau for helping them with the reorganization process and as staying on as Mentor and to Overseer George Russell for presenting Litchfield Grange their Charter. Good luck Litchfield Grange!

It has been a pleasure to visit with our Community Granges since becoming State Master, I have been invited to give fifty year certificates and seals to our Grangers. It is an honor to visit and talk to these members about their experiences with the Grange, even if they no longer attend meetings, their knowledge and retention of Grange ritual are amazing. These members have invaluable lessons to teach newer members, whether about the Grange itself or

local history, even about local people within the community. This is what makes the Grange vital to our State, just the local history our members can tell, something historian Ken Burns should look into.

By the time this issue is out we will have come back from the Northeast Leaders Conference in New Hampshire. I hope that our team will be involved and informed as to the activities in the Northeast.

Our Pink Sash Family is almost completed. I wish to thank those new members that have joined us and hope that we all will work hard to represent the Connecticut State Grange forward and upward.

Just a note, there are some pink sashes that have not been returned to the State Office since October. If you have a sash or a Deputy Handbook, please call to make arrangements to get these items back to us. Thank you.

These past few years new members have received the Welcome Ceremony or the Obligation Ceremony. It is imperative that you must witness the first four degrees, so that you may observe the ritual and lessons that these degrees offer to better understand the works of the Grange. East Central Pomona #3 and New London County Pomona #6 are committing themselves to presenting a Degree Day in March and April. Please contact the Masters to make arrangements to witness these degrees. It is not painful and might be fun, they may even feed you! But now I challenge other Pomona Granges to pool your resources and put on a Degree Day in your

area or offer help to others. Without the lessons of the lower Degrees we cannot be effective in our works as Husbandmen and Matrons.

On December 14th East Central Pomona gave Marcia and me a reception at Glastonbury Grange Hall. I was honored by the turnout of people to express their good will to Marcia and me, from family and close friends to Grangers throughout the State to wish us well. It proved to me that there is harmony in the Grange. So I thank all that attended and gave us token gifts of good luck. And I wish to thank all that contributed to the feast, I'm still eating cake.

Lastly, people have been asking about a Pink Sash meeting. Yes, we will schedule a Pink Sash Meeting for Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015. The Deputy meeting will be at Noon and the Committees, Chairmen and members' meeting will be at 2:00 P.M. I hope that all can attend.

This is just a reminder that the National Digest states that a Subordinate Grange will hold on regular meeting a MONTH. With winter weather I hope that every attempt will be made to meet this requirement. Member safety is our primary concern so please take the appropriate actions to meet this goal. Have a safe winter. Noel.

LITCHFIELD GRANGE CHARTER RESTORED



State Overseer George Russell presents the Charter to the 13 new members of Litchfield Grange No. 107. After a six month campaign, Litchfield Grange is reopened after being closed for nearly three years.

By John McKenna, Waterbury Republican-American

After being dormant for more than two years, the Litchfield Grange is back in business with 14 new members eager to restore the organization as a key part of the community.

A recruiting drive that began during the summer concluded in late November with the new members receiving the Grange's charter — which had been suspended — from Connecticut State Grange Vice President George Russell.

The new members are James Fischer, Andrew Graves, Lynne Alexander, Karl Ebner, Barbara Putnam and Jonathan Wilson, all of Litchfield; Joan Spear of Bantam; Deneen Bernier of Northfield; Richard Grinvalsky of Morris; Jessica Falwell of Warren; Carol Prescott and Richard Prescott of Thomaston; Alicia North of Cornwall; and Deborah Laws of Winsted.

Several of the members are well-known locally for their community involvement. Fischer is a wildlife biologist and researcher at the White Memorial Conservation Center; Alexander is the president of the Litchfield-Morris Rotary Club; Putnam and Grinvalsky are organic farmers, and Wilson is a business leader in the center of town.

Thirteen new members were needed for the Grange's charter to be reinstated by the state Grange, which assumed management of the Grange's hall on Bantam Road after the Grange closed.

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Next Issue...

February



Articles and Photos for the next issue are due on Jan. 5.



A part of the National Grange
*American Values,
Hometown Roots*

Scan this QR Code and join us on the web!



LITCHFIELD GRANGE CHARTER RESTORED

Continued from page one...

The state Grange is providing resources and a mentor to help the organization grow. Todd Gelineau, secretary of the state Grange and a member of Winchester Grange, is serving as mentor. Gelineau led the summer recruitment effort.

The Litchfield Grange was established in 1889 as a support organization for local farmers. It evolved into an organization focusing on community service and held an annual agricultural fair and other events to raise money for its scholarship fund.

A meeting of the new Grange will be held Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. at the hall. Officers will be elected and there will be a discussion about fundraising, community service projects and the idea of establishing a buyers club within the Grange. Several of the new members were part of the former Litchfield Corner Co-Op that sold the products of local growers. Since the Grange has had a long tradition of supporting cooperatives, incorporating a co-op into the structure of the new Grange would be a natural, Gelineau said.

Anyone interested in joining the Grange is welcome to attend the Jan. 8 meeting.

Legislatively Speaking



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

Happy New Year to all. We are off to another Connecticut Legislative Session which starts on January 7, 2015. Gordon Gibson will again be in Hartford communicating our views on the different issues. Our Legislative Guide should be out soon. We will be sending a copy to all of the State General Assembly members and the Governors and Lt. Governors offices. Connecticut Granges will also be receiving a copy. I encourage you all to review a copy when it is received. We all need to be become aware of issues that members of the Grange have brought forward to the State Grange and have been set as Grange policy.

I spotted an interesting topic in my local newspaper. The article was originally printed in the Republic-American newspaper. Todd also saw the same article and it was re-printed in the December Granger as well. The topic was on possible regulations concerning 'local' or 'locally-grown' farm produce sold in farm stands. Farm stands have been increasing in popularity in the past few years with more consumers concerned about the quality and freshness of

the food they eat.

Some citizens have been expressing concern about products that are being sold at local farm stands. In order to operate a Local farm stand the farmer must obtain a \$90.00 local zoning permit. They usually are selling produce from their own farm. Many are also adding products from neighboring farms. These farm stands are not subject to the Connecticut farmer's market rules which require farmers to only sell what they grow. It is legal to sell produce grown by other farmers in their local farm stand.

This article brought up the subject of what is the definition of 'local'. The article did not have a definition of 'local' and there were a wide variety of discussions on what 'local' meant. One thought it was within a 75 mile radius. There is a Connecticut Statute that addresses the definition. Sec. 22-38 addresses 'local' and 'locally-grown'. Section (b) states that "Farm products grown or produced within a ten-mile radius of the point of sale for such farm products may be advertised or sold in Connecticut as 'Native', 'Native-Grown', 'Local', or 'Locally-Grown.'" The statute also defines 'Connecticut-Grown' as only those farm products that have been grown in the State of Connecticut. If you have a farm on the border of the state and sell locally-grown items from a farm right over the state line you cannot advertise those products at 'Connecticut-

Grown' but they could be considered 'locally-grown' if they are grown within a 10 mile radius.

Some residents have expressed concerns that they have not been made aware that the produce they are purchasing from

local farm stands have not been grown on the farm where the stand is located. There is a suggestion that farm stands be required to label those products which are grown by neighboring farms with the name of the farm where the product

originated. The state Department of Agriculture supports legislation requiring labeling of products from neighboring farms. According to the article, farm stand operators are not opposed to such a suggestion.



The dates and host states for this year's regional youth conferences have been announced:

Eastern: April 10-12, 2015 – Hosted by Ohio

Great Plains: June 19-21, 2015 – Hosted by Colorado

Midwest: July 17-19, 2015 – Hosted by Illinois

Northeast: July 10-12, 2015 – Hosted by New Hampshire

Southeastern: June 26-28, 2015 – Hosted by Tennessee

Western: July 31-Aug. 2, 2015 – Hosted by Idaho

Specifics about the Northeast Conference are not yet available, but we suspect much more information will become available following the Northeast Leaders Conference in January... and as the Conference dates come closer.

A few simple steps

Jody Cameron, State Membership Dir.

Our new State Master has charged me, Maggie Buck and Ted Beebe with Membership Growth in Connecticut. It is our goal to offer thought provoking articles and tips that will have you thinking differently about your Grange and how together we grow.

The State Grange cannot change the makeup of the membership in your Grange, sorry, there is no magic wand to be waved or pill that can be taken, but what we can do to help change your course from stagnation and complacency to excitement and growth is to offer a few very simple steps to consider using at one of your next Grange meeting, perhaps as a Lecturer's Program. Make sure your membership is ready to do a little work, though.

Step One: Dream, dream like you did when you were a child; dream larger than life dreams for your Grange. It may seem silly at first, and a bit ridiculous, but it can be fun when you just close your eyes and see what you want to see, what your heart wants to see for your Grange. As you are doing this exercise, write those dreams down, because we will need them for step two. Remember dream **BIG**.

Step Two: Take your dreams you have recorded and put them in bucket/categories, some example can be:

- Grange Hall
- Have a disco ball installed for ambiance
- Make hall handicapped accessible
- Programs
- Bring in exotic animals from a zoo for a Lecturers Program (really go crazy with these ideas; I am sure the State lecturer will love you for it.)
- Fun/Adventure
- White Water Rafting (can you see this OMG!)
- Community Outreach
- Build a park for all citizens can enjoy!
- Membership Growth

- 100 new members this year!
- Leadership Growth
- Well, you knew I couldn't write an article and not mention this category, after all if we don't develop better leadership skills how will we recruit, mentor and develop our 100 new members into Grange Members?

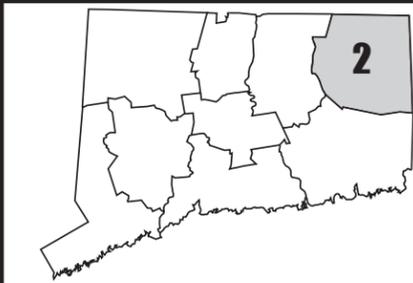
Step Three: Go over your list for feasibility. A disco ball would be cool, but disco died a long time ago. A goal of 100 new members may not be realistic, but 5 or 10 this year is. Set goals your current membership can obtain and be careful to not choose too many. Two or three goals should be good for almost every Grange; after all we want to set ourselves up for success.

Step Four: Set up teams of energetic and enthusiastic members that can see these dreams becoming reality. Set a time line for each to develop and execute their plan(s). Have each team report at each meeting on their results to date. Make sure you celebrate the successes of each team every month. If a team has made no progress discuss how, as a group, you can get the "plan" back on track. Encourage each member to be part of the process, NEVER, NEVER, NEVER scold, reprimand, criticize or "take over" the plan or team members because it is not going the way you think it should. That is counterproductive and in a complete opposite mindset of collective participation. Constructive input can be a gift to the team and the process, negative input only builds higher walls and discourages future participation.

Step Five: Enjoy your results, have fun at your new activities, enjoy your new members and your Granges renewed positive energy.

If any Grange would like to have any member of the Membership Team come and discuss membership growth opportunities, we are only a phone call or email away.

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.

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Jan. 14: Did we stick to our resolutions? 7 P.M.

We held a very successful Thanksgiving Pie Sale. Our recent meeting was a discussion of holiday traditions. We continue to work on getting the hall in order for events and meetings.

We have an application for membership from a young person who helped us during a community service project. We have our meetings at 7 P.M. during the winter months.

Members continue to do community service work in and outside the Grange Hall. Visit us anytime.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Elsie Johnson

Jan. 14: Who's Who?, Ref. Desserts

Feb. 14: Groundhog – Valentines, Ref. Heart Cookies

Happy New Year to all. It's only 3 months until Spring! Check out the catalogs for gardens and hope for a nice spring. Our meetings are at 7 P.M. until April. It's been so windy it seems the wood is going fast. Already with the rain, wet too. Although we can't complain about not shoveling snow yet.

We made a \$250 donation to the Pomfret Food Pantry. Don't forget to visit the shut-ins. Stay well.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Jan. 5: Warm Apple Crisp 7:30 mtg/prog

Jan. 23: Annual Family Casion/Family Night (special guests Richmond, RI) 6pm

Feb. 2: George Washington's Cherry Pie! 7:30 mtg/prog

The Christmas Bazaar was a great success thanks to the efforts of Verna Cole and her assistants. We all missed Jan Cooper, with her wonderful hand painted items She brought Link HOME that very day so naturally Link took precedence. We held a supper prior to our Dec. meeting and welcomed State Master, Noel and First Lady, Marcia Miller to our Grange. Several Juniors joined us, which is always nice. Brother Miller presented our President, Katie Molodich, with the first place (National) Community Service plaque and a check for \$400.00 (which gave our treasury a much needed boost) Russell Gray delivered three generous baskets (boxes) to Sterling homes just in time to help them celebrate Thanksgiving. He delivered another three just before Christmas. Our Grange and Junior Grange each adopted a separate family for Christmas. This is a tradition that not only fills the needs for a family, but warms our hearts as well. Several attended the annual tree lighting in memory of Nancy Jordan Hopkins

(daughter of Ekonk's Bob Jordan)-it was a cold, rainy afternoon so hearty souls prevailed to honor her memory and watch as the lights went on throughout the park. Of course Santa came too! Then Grangers attended the annual Sterling Hospice Tree Lighting and the Wreath Across America, both in Oneco. Some Grangers volunteered to help fill sandbags to create the first annual Sterling Ice Skating Rink--it is sure to get lots of use by thankful families! The Juniors did their usual exemplary performance this Christmas with several children sharing their musical talents as well. We have several future Grange pianists among their ranks! We donated a HUGE bag of pancake mix to the Plainfield Lions Club for use at their breakfasts, We are a busy, happy bunch here on the Hill-come visit and we will greet you with a SMILE!

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Julie Jussaume

We have been hosting the Killingly Grange Witner Farmers Market (1st – 3rd Saturdays 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.) November through April 2015. The market has been busy and doing well but looking for crafters and vendors for the Jan.-Apr. dates.

Bluegrass show featuring Nick Anderson and Shady Creek and dinner on the 4th Saturday of the month (Jan. through April).

ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

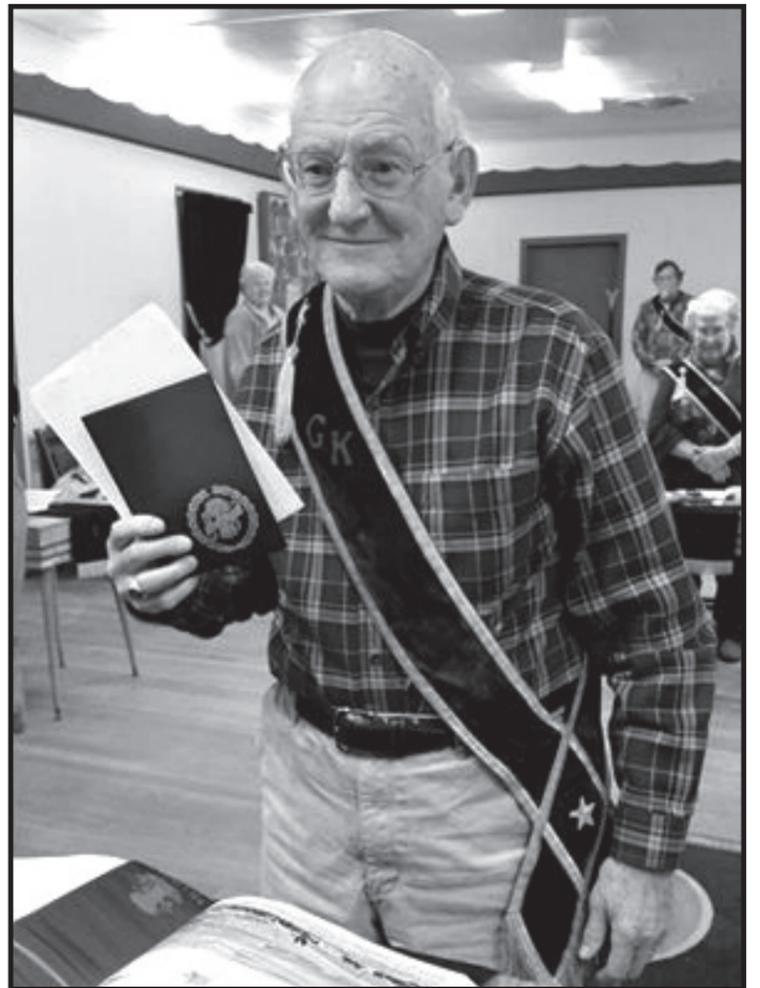
Jan. 13: Overseer/ Stewards

Jan. 27: Omit

We hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and Christmas. We held our annual Tag Sale on Nov. 22nd which was a success.

We are now meeting downstairs which will save on oil. We are still donating funds to "From the Heart" organization.

Cranston Briggs



Cranston Brigs of Killingly Grange No. 112 receives his Golden Sheaf for 50 years of continuous service at a recent meeting of Killingly.

Ekonk Christmas Bazaar



Ekonk Community Grange held a successful Christmas Bazaar.

Quinebaug Party



Quinebaug Pomona's annual Christmas party was held in early December at Ekonk Community Grange.



Donations to the Tommy Toy Fund at Quinebaug Pomona

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)

"Connecticut Granger"

is published monthly except combined July-August issue for \$3.00/yr. by:

Connecticut Granger, Inc..

100 Newfield Road, Winchester Center, CT 06094
(Do not send mail to this address)

Second Class postage paid at Winsted, CT 06098

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Connecticut Granger,
P.O. Box 127, Winsted, CT 06098-0127

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the **5th Day** of each month and should be sent to:
Connecticut State Grange
P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033

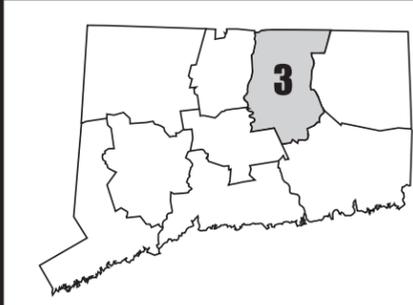
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Vice President
Secretary Treasurer. Edith Schoell

East Central Pomona No. 3



Stafford No. 1
 Granby No. 5
 Glastonbury No. 26
 ✓ Manchester No. 31
 ✓ Vernon No. 52
 ✓ Coventry No. 75
 Hillstown No. 87
 ✓ Enfield No. 151
 Simsbury No. 197

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

Jan. 3: Special Meeting at Vernon Grange (Snow Date Feb. 7)

East Central Pomona is planning a degree day on March 21, TBA. We have many new members asking to see the degrees so we hope they can all make it.

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Leona Wilson

Jan. 6: Winter Sports

Jan. 20: Colors Galore

Feb. 3: Chuckles Goes to Grange

On January 6 we will be learning about "Winter Sports" presented by Sister Edith. We have had some illness in our ranks but we are hoping that all our members will be feeling better. On Jan. 20th we will be presented with "Colors Galore" presented by Sister Maryanne. "Chuckles" our Manchester resident groundhog "Goes to Grange." The program on Feb. 3 will be in the charge of Sister Paula. On Dec. 2 we presented our "Thanksgiving Fare and Fun" program which had been canceled on November 17 due to illness.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

Jan. 9: Hope You Are Not Allergic to Peanuts!

This meeting will be all about peanuts. We had a wonderful December program with our new members from Tolland Grange joining us and the wonderful cookies and breads supplied by Pat Conger. We hope everyone had a good holiday season and wishing you a healthy

and happy new year!

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

Jan. 15: New Years – Ref. N. Messino

This meeting will be a by-laws change in dues due to the increase from National Grange. We continue to challenge the Town Assessor over the value of our Grange Hall. Our hopes for a cell tower in our bell tower seems to have gone up the hill and on a barn, too bad for us. We will be working to improve the hall and landscape to get rid of dangerous trees from falling onto the hall. So we pray for a wet winter, so far good.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Jan. 10: Comforting Seniors – Ref. Judy & Denise

Feb: Cards for the Military – Ref. Irene & Elaine

As I am writing this I'm looking at all the snow outside and thinking how we're planning our Grange garden for the spring. We all need to bring our ideas about what kind of vegetables to grow and any seed catalogs if you have them. We will be writing more letters and cards for our service members in February, think Valentines. We are also collecting cans for the food bank. Tuna and peanut butter are always appreciated. It was good to hear our own Florence LeFrancois is back from the nursing home after her physical therapy. Get well soon Florence.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

A New Year - A New Approach

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

2015 is a new year - and a new opportunity to get your Grange into the eyes of the community. Here's a few tips to keep in mind when planning out your upcoming Grange year.

- **Make your community aware that the Grange exists - tell your Grange story.**

Granges have a number of avenues available at their fingertips to promote their events and activities - such as press releases to the local media, social media outlets like Facebook, and more traditional methods like posters, signage, and even face-to-face and telephone communications. But when promoting your Grange, are you telling its story? How many years has your Grange been organized? Are there specific projects/events that your Grange is known for (like your Fair, Bazaar, Community Service projects, etc.)? Be sure to take every opportunity to tell your Grange story. It can be as easy as a paragraph at the end of a press release, a "throw-back Thursday photo posted to Facebook, or a line at the bottom of poster.

- **Be proactive. Don't wait for publicity to come to you.**

Media outlets are busy places. They have hundreds of organizations just like the Grange vying for space and airtime. Chances are, they will not just stumble upon your Grange and promote it - you have to initiate the contact. Invite the media to a Grange meeting or event. Send a quick e-mail to your local newspaper promoting your upcoming activities - just be sure to give them at minimum 2-3 weeks notice. Even a quick phone call can be the difference between press coverage vs. no press coverage.

- **Simplify your approach and weed through the clutter.**

Promoting your Grange can be overwhelming when you don't know what

direction to turn first. You have a list of newspapers, a Facebook Page you are not comfortable using, and no real computer skills to speak of - so where do you start? Begin by taking a step back, and selecting one path on which to concentrate your efforts. Once you feel confident in writing press releases, then move on to adding Facebook to the mix. Try taking a computer class to learn the basics. Most towns offer beginner computer classes either for free or for a small fee through adult ed or the senior centers. Look into your options, take it one step at a time, and eliminate the frustration.

- **Be organized and prepared.**

In order to go the extra mile when promoting your Grange, you need to be knowledgeable of the organization, ready to answer any questions that may arise, and be armed with the details. When writing your press releases and announcements, try to include as much relevant information as available. This includes writing your Grange column for the Connecticut Granger. We've all read the reports that announce the Grange's latest fun event, but leave out important details, like time and cost. Don't let the reader guess - tell them everything they need to know upfront.

Staying organized is the key to success. Keep a log of when you submit press releases, and set reminders in your calendar for follow-up. Schedule your Facebook posts in advance, so that your page is updated consistently. Create a folder in your e-mail to save important messages avoiding accidental deletion. Keep print-outs in a 3-ring binder of your publicity efforts for each event. No matter the method(s) you choose, effective organization efficiently creates results.

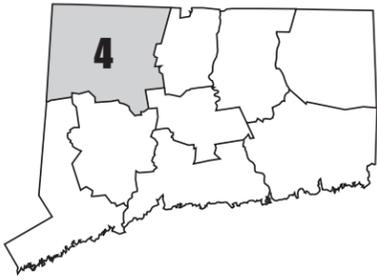
Public Relations can play an integral part in your Grange's journey. Be sure to utilize available resources and most importantly, set achievable goals to build toward.

Coventry Christmas meeting



Marcia Miller (foreground) and Noel Miller at the Christmas meeting of Coventry Grange #75.

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

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.

MT. COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Feb. 9: Meeting at Eureka

The weather was kind to Mountain County this year, allowing us to hold our December meeting (a rarity in recent years). The program was presented by Winchester Grange Lecturer Ramona Fassio and featured the annual \$5 gift exchange.

We take our winter break during January and resume our meeting schedule in February for our Feb. 9 meeting to be held at Eureka Grange Hall.

Until next time, have a Happy New Year from Mountain County Pomona #4.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Jan. 13: Happy New Year, Potluck Supper at 6 P.M.

Jan. 27: Are You Cold Enough? – Ref. Marie Steiner & Bonnie Farrell

It was a cold rainy night, but we were able to hold our December Christmas meeting. Like Pomona, this is not always possible. A holiday program was enjoyed along with the annual grab bag gift exchange.

The second vote was held at this meeting to amend our by-laws to allow our dues to increase correspondingly whenever dues at State or National Grange increase. A \$2.00 dues increase was passed by National Grange this past November, meaning our dues payments will increase 50 cents per member each quarter next year. Our finances are already thin, so \$2 per member would be impossible for us to absorb without an increase. We hope all of our members understand that Winchester Grange has not increased the amount of dues money

staying with Winchester Grange since the boiler needed replacement several years ago. All dues increases since then have been required by and paid to National Grange—completely out of our control. We appreciate the support and understanding of all of our members. It takes a great deal of money to maintain our beautiful hall and your support through dues payments and donations are greatly appreciated.

LITCHFIELD GRANGE #107

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Jan. 8: First Meeting as a Grange

As you may have read in other places in this issue, Litchfield Grange No. 107 has rejoined the ranks of active Granges in the State of Connecticut. They finally reached the magic number of 13 newly obligated members at this meeting and received the Charter from Organizing Deputy Todd Gelineau and State Grange Overseer George Russell.

Now the work of becoming a Grange again begins. The first meeting of the Grange will be on January 8, 2015 beginning at 7:00 P.M. It will be time to elect officers and begin working on by-laws, policies and goals for this new Grange. It's an exciting time for them and for the Connecticut State Grange to be able to reclaim a Grange that almost ceased to exist.

This effort alone proves that it is never too late for any Grange to go out and re-invent and re-energize themselves. It may take a lot of work but the end result is always worth the effort.



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

At the end of November, the annual Bonding letters went out to each of the Pomona and Community Granges. For some unknown reason, there have been a couple reporting that they haven't received their letters. If your Grange has not received it, please let me know as soon as possible. The rates have remained unchanged from last year and I have included the full list of available coverages should your Grange decide you need something greater than the minimum coverage or the coverage you had previously. We would like to receive all payments from the Community and Pomona Granges as soon as possible so that we are able to make our payment

State Secretary

to National Grange as soon as possible. We do this with one check so prompt payment is important as we would like to have this completed by the beginning of the new year.

We remind all Granges and members that the Central Office is a resource for all. Let us know if you need any information, supplies or assistance. We are here to help.

Quarterly Reports for the fourth quarter of 2014 are already coming in and we remind all Granges that your Grange will not receive the Key and Cipher for the 2015 Annual Word until your report and payment is received at the Central Office.

Need chairs? Need Songbooks? Need to replace worn or broken pieces of your regalia? We have many items available at NO CHARGE to Granges that need them. We have a good number of wooden "Insurance Contest Chairs" that would love to find a new Grange home. We have

many Grange Songbooks and copies of the Patron available to any who need or want them. We have gone through boxes and boxes of sashes and would be happy to replace your worn out sashes with ones we have here in our supply at the office. Just let us know. Is your ballot box broken? We have replacements. Getting the idea? Let us know what you need or want and we'll let you know what we have. Especially on items like the songbooks and chairs, pick-up at the office by you will be appreciated.

The beginning of the New Year means that the transition period for the Central Office is wrapping up. My most sincere appreciation and gratitude to Sister Edith Schoell for her time and understanding during this process. We certainly have different working styles but we have worked well together and had a lot of fun along the way. Thank you, Edith!

CONNECTICUT GRANGE STORE

Each month we will feature various items available in the Central Office for sale to members and Granges. If you would like to order anything you see (or don't see) here, please email the State Secretary at Secretary@CTStateGrange.org or call 860-633-7550 to place your order.



Golden Sheaf - 50 Year Pin
\$15.00 each



60 Year Pin
\$10.00 each



65 Year Pin
\$10.00 each



Large 1" 4th Degree Pin
\$6.50 Each



Small 4th Degree Pin
\$3.00 Each



Small 5th Degree Pin
\$3.00 Each



Grange/US Flag Pin - \$1.00



Large 1" 4th Degree Pin
\$14.00 Each

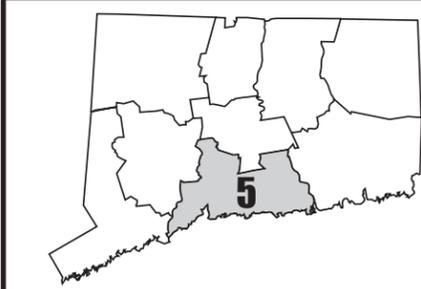


Past Lecturer Pin
\$15.00 Each



Past Secretary Pin
\$15.00 Each

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- ✓ Cheshire No. 23
- Wallingford No. 33
- North Haven No. 35

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!

NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

Corr: Wesle Dymoke

On December 7 we had an open meeting at Cheshire Grange. The program was "It's Christmastime" with a \$3.00 gift exchange and a potluck supper that was in the charge of the CWA.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

Jan. 7: Across the Deep Blue Sea

Jan. 21: Legislative Night

Our annual pre-Thanksgiving turkey dinner was enjoyed by all with good attendance. Our thanks to Marge Bernhardt and her

committee for taking charge of the dinner once again this year. We donated very generously to the Cheshire Food Bank in November.

We are planning on a successful Third Annual Craft Show at our hall in early December and for our Open Christmas Meeting on December 17th which we all look forward to.

In January we will once again start meetings to plan for our 2015 Cheshire Grange Community Fair. We hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and we now look ahead to 2015 in our Grange journey.

Social Connection



Joanne Cipriano
Social Connection Director
Social@ctstategrange.org

Having been re-appointed to this committee by State Master Noel Miller, our committee has come up with two (we hope) fun activities. Our first will be a fun fair titled "Hi! Ho! Come to the Fair!" This will be held at the Prospect Senior Center on Saturday, May 16th. Please mark this date in your appointment book. We need your help as we have a

minimum count.

Supper will be a catered affair and I guarantee the best hot dogs you have ever tasted. We have many items on the menu.

Fair premium books will be available shortly.



So. CT Past Masters

Our first meeting of the new year will be held at Meriden Grange on Jan. 17. The theme of the program is "Let's Create a Snowman." Let's hope there is none falling outside. The program will be presented by Vice President Cindy Charbonneau.

This meeting starts with a potluck supper served promptly at 6:30. This is followed by a short meeting presided by President Cindy Legg. We always end with a country store.

All Grangers welcome. Come and enjoy a delicious supper, participate in the meeting and then be entertained with the program and lastly you might be lucky winning something from the country store.



The TotalProtect® Enhanced Home Warranty helps protect National Grange Members from the high costs associated with home repair and replacement of their major appliances and key internal mechanical systems. It has been designed to increase homeowner peace of mind while significantly decreasing expenses when things go wrong with their systems and appliances.

TotalProtect® Enhanced covers many items that other home warranty companies

don't even think of covering. From unknown pre-existing conditions, rust and corrosion to plumbing stoppages, water heater sediment build-up and more. Members will have a true peace of mind, one-stop shopping, and expert service from a network of over 40,000 pre-screened service professionals, all while receiving National Grange exclusive member discounts. Now that's what Complete Coverage is all about!

Cheshire, A Grange on the Go!



A. Ruel Miller, Master of Cheshire Grange #23, talks with third graders from Highland School in Cheshire about the Words for Thirds Dictionary Program. Along with staff from the school, Jane Miller of Cheshire (far left) is also pictured.



A few of the many vendors on hand for the Cheshire Grange Craft Sale on 12/13/14.



Members of Cheshire's Monday Night Craft group package up the many gifts they have made over the year for members of the Grange and the community. Just as the 2014 gifts go out to the recipients... planning for the 2015 craft projects begin in January.

New London County Pomona No. 6



MISSION STATEMENT

To cultivate and nurture the flock while encouraging their advancement to the degree of Pomona.

NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

Feb. 14: Movie Night – Norwich Grange

The winter is quiet, the snow softly falls.

We shovel it off the front steps of our halls.

But soon the small snowbird will take to his wing,

And before we can blink we will say “Look! It’s spring.”

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Bonnie Trecarten

Colchester Grange welcomed two guests at our December 8th meeting. Lois Evankow, Flora, East Central Pomona, and Lecturer, Lyme Grange and Ted Beebe, State Membership, and Master, Norwich Grange. We also welcomed visitor and potential new member Charles Csere.

Our Veterans project is in full swing with many donations of clothing, bedding, towels and gift cards going to the Veterans for the Holidays. Other community organizations are assisting us in this worthwhile project. All donations will be delivered before the Christmas Holiday.

Lois Evankow presented all members with blank cards to write holiday wishes and thanks to our Veterans currently in service. Notes were written by all and they were given back to Lois to be sent to veterans for the Holidays.

We continue with our food bank provisioning donations and volunteering at Harrington Court facility for cooking projects with the residents.

We have included a picture of the Haitian family receiving the goat that has been donated to the Haitian Health Foundation Goat Project by our Grange. We have named the Goat “Watson” in honor of our Master, Jeff Watson. We received a thank you letter from the Haitian Foundation in appreciation for our donation.

For all the travelers out there Cathy Russi our CWA committee Chair has put together two more great vacation options for 2015. The first is “American Cities” which will include Nashville, Tennessee, Memphis Tennessee, and New Orleans, Louisiana. All famous music destinations. October 16 thru Oct 23rd, 2015.

The second trip is to the Panama Canal for March 2016, details will follow as soon as all is arranged. Hoping all have a happy Holiday Season and a healthy new year!

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

Jan. 9: “Bolt from the Blue”

Jan. 23: “Bombshell!”

On November 14 we learned a great deal about the emerald ash borer and the winter moth. Katherine Dugas, from the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey, told us how these pests have infiltrated our state and are causing significant damage to our trees.

Our January programs look very interesting. On the 9th Wally Nerberger from First Physical Therapy will advise us on fall prevention and impart other helpful information for seniors. On the 23rd Jeff Schneider will tell us of his experiences as a senior pyrotechnician with Grucci Fireworks. Hope to see good crowds at these meetings. And if that pesky black cat that keeps prowling around my bird feeders will just learn to stay home, next time I’ll tell you all about delicious December.

LYME GRANGE #147

Feb. 5: Hearts – a – Fire CWA struts their stuff

Mar. Juniors are hot tonight – wearing of the green. Junior committee in charge of program.

Apr. 2: Meeting Omitted – Maundy Thursday

Apr. 9: Look what the March winds blew in! Invite your equal – neighbor’s night.

On a lovely evening in

December we had the most delicious potluck supper with 18 in attendance. A discussion was held about our first and second degrees in May. Many of our new members have never witnessed them. It’s going to mean a few rehearsals to get our act together.

Invitations have been sent out to 10 people who will be receiving certificates and seals at our Jan. meeting. They range from 70 to 25 years.

We elected a new steward to replace Cindy Fogle who passed in November. Now he will need to be installed. Norman Stitham was our Steward in Old Lyme and he comes to us very knowledgeable.

Lots of rain lately- at least in Lyme. Old vines tails – “Winter will not set in till the wells are full.”

16 notes have been written to several people- and will be sent via Frank

Forest to them.

NORWICH GRANGE #172

Corr: Susan Kenney

The Norwich Grange hosted Pomona this month. We had our annual holiday card exchange. It was a festive time, there was a smorgasbord of holiday food at the end of the meeting. The newly-elected State Master Noel Miller and First Lady Marcia Miller attended. A great time was had by all.

Old Fashioned Neighbor's Night



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Want to get more people out to your meetings? Why not try an old-fashioned Neighbors Night? Not only will you see some new faces at your Grange, but you can make new friends. I’m sure a lot of you can remember when we use to fill our halls to overflowing on a Neighbors Night. When sending out invitations

we had to limit how many we sent or we couldn’t fit everyone in. Many times there would be 15 or 20 Pink Sashes in the hall. Unfortunately this is no longer the case.

But, we need to keep trying. In fact, we need to try harder than ever. Sent out the invitations to as many nearby Granges as you can. But, the job doesn’t end there. Have a good program planned. Get everyone involved. If someone is involved in a program they usually think it was a good program. Make sure you hall is clean and welcoming. I have been to Granges that have a greeter stationed at the door welcoming people. All Grangers like to eat.

Be sure your refreshment committee is on board and serve up something special. We had a member who joined later in life. At one of our annual picnics he told me that if he had realized what good cooks Grangers were he would have joined the Grange a long time ago.

If you get an invitation... Be sure and read it at your meeting and respond to the inviting Grange. They need to have a good idea of how many to expect.

We all need to do our part to rebuild our Granges and the Lecturers play a big part in this.

Good Luck!

See you around the State.

Colchester's Watson the Goat



“Watson” the Goat, named in honor of Colchester Grange Master Jeff Watson was recently presented to a family in Haiti through the Haitian Health Foundation Goat Project.

Bridgewater Grange #153



Bridgewater Grange shows off some of the fruit baskets prepared for the community homebound.

Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 121
- 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.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

The holidays being over it's time to get back to work and to make plans for the remainder of the year. One thing we know is that it costs money to maintain the Grange Hall. We are coming up with a few money-making activities. One is to have a tag sale on Saturday, May 2. To our members that are unable to attend meetings, this is a way you can help us. As you do your spring cleaning, put those items that you no longer need away for us. They will be appreciated. More about this in the next Granger.

Another fundraiser I'm sure Ron Fischer will be planning another "Open Mic." Date to be announced.

For our meetings, we will meet on Friday, Jan. 9th. The program is titled "Northern Exposure." As the song says "Baby It's Cold Outside." It might be cold outside but it's always warm in the hall and the members always give everyone a warm welcome. Refreshments will be in the charge of Harriet Sawczuk and Gloria Meholik. These

two sisters are sure to have something good to eat.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Albert Maddox

Jan. 25: Meeting, 2 P.M., Ref. Ed Whitehead and Barbara Robert

Our Thanksgiving Dinner was very well attended and membership awards were given to the following: 65 yrs – William Honnegger; 60 yrs. – Barbara Gannino; 55 yrs. – John Osuch, Andy Roden, John Roden, Ed Whitehead, William Keidel, Donald Curtis; 50 yrs. – Fred Anderson.

A large collection of canned goods was collected for the Bethlehem Food Bank.

A Christmas party with grab bag was held followed by dinner at the Painted Pony.

Our January meeting will be held Saturday, Jan. 25 at 2 P.M.

We will be hosting the Pomona meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 7:30 P.M.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Maggie Buck

Oxford Grange is planning another fundraiser, this one is our "keeping the heat on" event. On February 28, 2015 we will be holding a chilli taste

testing night. Like to make chilli, bring some and enter our contest. There is a \$5.00 entry fee and there will be prizes for the top three entries. Please note that this writer makes a great pot of chilli and it has so many ingredients its not likely to be duplicated.

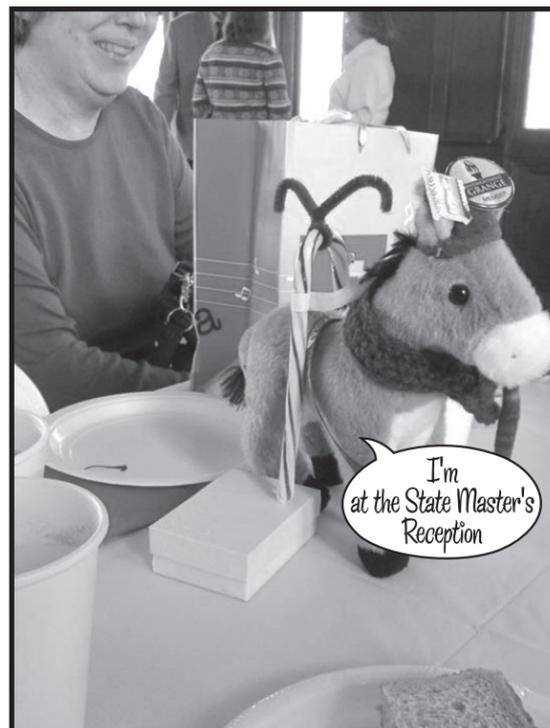
If you like to eat chilli

plan to come to our event. The tickets will be \$7.00 and if you do not run into one of our members, feel free to call the Bucks for tickets. In addition to the chilli, we will be having salad, corn bread, drinks and dessert. The DJ who played music at our last fundraiser is planning on playing for us again. Hope

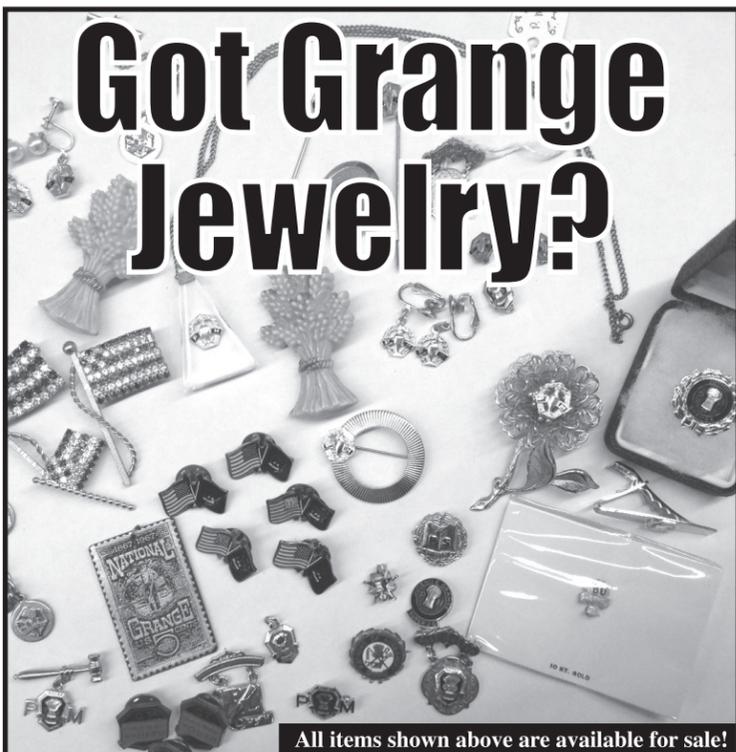
to see you all there.

In addition to our fundraisers, Oxford Grange is planning an agricultural symposium for May and we are lining up some great speakers. More information to come.

Hope you all are enjoyed the holidays.



Got Grange Jewelry?



All items shown above are available for sale!

We are now accepting donations of Grange jewelry, buttons, and other similar items to be sold to benefit the general fund of the State Grange. If you have items, they can be sent to the Central Office, P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury 06033 or you can contact Secretary Todd Gelineau or Sister Edith Schoell to make arrangements. We thank you for your help!

by Hank the Burro

Greetings Grange friends!

Hard to believe that 2015 is here! In December I had the opportunity to go to Hillstown Grange for their yummy Pancake Breakfast and spent the morning with Mrs. Claus, Anna and Elsa.

I also went to Cheshire Grange for their neighbor's night and visited with my long-time friends. They are a fun and dedicated group in Cheshire!

I had a prime seat at the reception for CT State Grange President Noel Miller and his family in Glastonbury. It was fun seeing all my Grange friends, and a nice day for my new host family

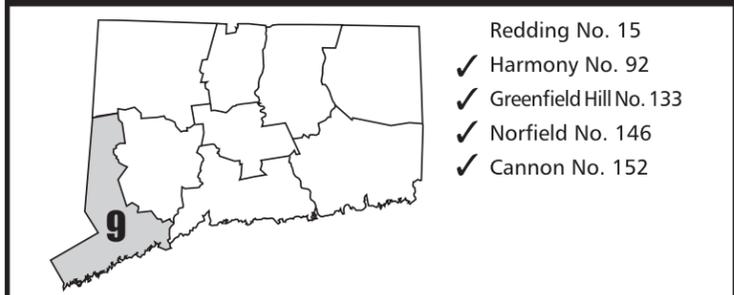
too!

The holidays are always a fine time for this Burro – I watched my favorite holiday movie "Nestor the Long Eared Christmas Donkey" and of course listened to my favorite Christmas song "Dominick the Christmas Donkey."

I love to visit and make new friends! Invite me to your Grange meeting or event in 2015! I want to meet as many of you as I can! Send me an invitation to my email: HanktheBurrow@ctstategrange.org.

Keep an eye out for me as I travel around the state, and be sure to say hello!

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.

HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: George Ward

Jan. 9: Ringing in the New Year

Our Christmas Boutique was held December 6 at the Grange Hall. This was one of four events held in Monroe on this date in the general vicinity so we had traffic by the hall from the other events. The Catholic Church up the street had a Christmas event, the Boy Scouts sold wreaths at two locations, and the Monroe Historical Society had their event. Many hours were spent in securing and tagging items for the silent auction, in setting up Christmas articles on tables for the attic sale, getting the hall ready for the event, baking for the bake table, and securing and cooking food for the lunches. More time was spent during the day to tend to the needs of the people attending. Many thanks are owed to the members and others for making the event successful.

For our November meeting, we had as our guest speaker, Guy Beadsley, who is a registered organic farmer from Shelton and he spoke on "Organic Gardening". He participates in the Farmers Market each summer in Shelton. His discussion covered such items as the chemicals used in organic fertilizers and how each effects the plants, soil testing, plants resistant to blight, and the type of fertilizer to use and how it should be used for various plants to be grown in the garden. Organic fertilizer is available from a company in Monroe and is sold by the pound.

Harmony Grange will have special meetings to cover to important areas, membership and our 125th anniversary. We will have a membership to campaign to get new members from Monroe and surrounding towns to keep Harmony Grange active in the community as an agricultural society. There is active farming in Monroe

and in surrounding towns of Shelton and Trumbull. The next area will be our 125th anniversary which we rescheduled to the Spring of 2015.

Our 70+ year member, Gertrude Wilson, continues to improve at Lord Chamberlain Rehabilitation Center. On Thanksgiving Day, a cousin of Gertrude and her sister, Ruth, drove Ruth to the Center and the sisters had Thanksgiving dinner together in the dining room. A very enjoyable time as both were in wheelchairs.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

Jan. 17: "Frozen" Junior Activity, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Jan. 17: "Dixie Diner", 6 P.M., Doors Open at 5:30 P.M.

Jan. 19: New Year, Last Year, 7 P.M. Meeting

We had a very busy November with a planning meeting, a Thanksgiving theme dinner and meeting, and a Junior Grange activity. Our members enjoyed a turkey and fixings. The program continued from October's with pumpkins to the role of Native Americans and their agriculture in the survival of the Pilgrims. On the last Saturday, our future Junior Grangers decorated a Christmas tree for the hall and had a "make and take" cookie baking and decorating session. This took place in connection with our midday Winter Farmer's Market.

The Junior Committee is working on a late-morning program for the 17th. Depending on weather conditions, appropriate activities will be worked out. For more on Junior Grange, contact greenfield133@gmail.com.

In the evening of the same day, we are having plans for a "Dixie Diner", a fund raiser. Contact Diane or Paul Lytwyn at (203) 913-5055 for details.

Finally we need volunteers to coordinate for a St. Valentine's Day dance (Feb. 14th) and a St. Patrick's salute (Mar. 21st). Bring your ideas!

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

Jan. 13: Meeting to discuss Jan. 31 Dance Event

Jan. 31: Contra/Square Dance and Chili Supper

Christmas is coming fast! By the time this Granger is out we will have had a cookie exchange, grab bag exchange, and a crafts fair/wine and cheese party! That's just in December. For our January 13 meeting, please be sure to bring along canned and non-perishable food items for the Weston Food Pantry. At the end of the month we will repeat our popular Square Dance and Chili Supper on Saturday the 31st.

Just for fun, we sifted through the history of Norfield Grange and discovered that it was born on January 6, 1896. That was 118 years ago. Dancing, food and good company were plentiful, as they are at our meetings today. Some wonderful blessings never change.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

Jan. 15: Program on Making Cheese at home – 7 P.M.

Feb. 5: Program on Keeping Backyard Chickens – 7 P.M.

Feb. 19: Program on Beekeeping – 7 P.M.

Mar. 5: Program on Cardiac Health – CPR, AEDs and living heart-healthy – 7 P.M.

What a terrific Holiday Market that took place in our hall in early December! Many thanks to Billiesue Hollingsworth for organizing all the vendors and market layout, and to Bil Mikulewicz and Doug Shepherd for preparing all the large signs that were set up around town to advertise the event. The Holiday Market was very similar to those found in Europe with beautiful handmade crafts, unique gift items, candles and baked goods, plus refreshments and music.

A good crowd attended our program on GMOs, and a lively discussion ensued. GMOs present in important topic regarding global production of food. Thanks to John Kriz, our Lecturer for organizing this seminar.

We have some extraordinary and informative programs slated for the January, February, and March meetings. Please mark your calendars, as these will be really interesting programs to attend. These programs will be public forums, and will be held in the Cannon

Grange Learning Center. always welcome – won't you Visiting Patrons are join us?



Loaded Deviled Eggs

New Year's celebrations call for finger foods – just like we find at refreshments at Grange meetings! Deviled eggs are easy – and this recipe from Food.com adds a nice twist!

Hank's "Loaded" Deviled Eggs

- 12 large eggs (hard-boiled, cooled and halved)
- 6 slices of bacon (cooked crisp & crumbled)
- 2 teaspoons fresh chives
- 2 teaspoons white vinegar
- 2 tablespoons finely shredded mild cheddar cheese
- ¼ cup sour cream or ¼ cup buttermilk
- Paprika

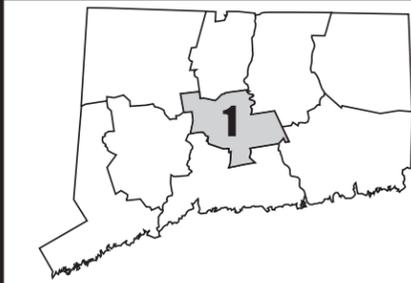
Transfer egg yolks from halves to mixing bowl and combine with remaining ingredients. Add the sour cream or buttermilk last & use more as needed to reach desired smoothness. Spoon yolk mixture into halves. The bulk will have grown substantially, so pile it high and "dust" with a sprinkle of paprika.

National First Prize



Alma Graham, State Legislative Director and member of Echo Grange No. 180 recently received her first place ribbon from the recent National Grange Convention in Sandusky, OH. Alma earned first place for her Quilted Table Runner in the National Needlework Contest. Here it is proudly displayed on the Graham family Christmas tree.

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

Corr: Cindy Charbonneau

Our meeting on December 11 was our Christmas program.

From Martha Trask: The canned goods from our Grange donation contest (the Grange that brings in the most canned goods will receive another 6 canned goods from me, if there is a tie, the cans will be shared.

CWA Country Store will be accepting sweets and raffle tickets will be 4 for \$1.00.

CWA State project Foster Care gift cards ... I will be collecting gift cards or cash for this project... I am accepting any donation of gift cards or cash ... (I will buy the gift cards from the money received). All who give no matter how much will receive a raffle ticket to be drawn for a gift that I am donating.

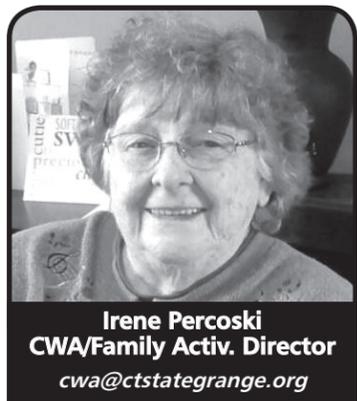
The December Lecturer's program is being shared by Cindy Charbonneau and yours truly... my part of the program is an activity where everyone receives a ????

Hope to see you on December 11.

MERIDEN GRANGE #29

Corr: M. Harrison

Family Activities



Irene Percoski
CWA/Family Activ. Director
cwa@ctstategrange.org

bake them again for the state finals in June at "Celebrate" in Cheshire. Winter months are a good time to work on those needlework entries and as always a few extra items to make for the Grange store at the Big E.

We at Meriden Grange are happy to have our furnace up and running in this cold weather. Thanks to Bob for his repair work. I hope everyone is enjoying the Christmas season and not just running around getting mauled at the mall.

We hope to be up Bethlehem way to mail our Christmas cards, a tradition that goes back to my Grandma. In keeping with the idea of Small Business Saturday, I have been finding some alternatives to the box stores.

Now is the time for hobbies as we are shut in due to the weather. Our Jan. program is about Hobby Time. Please come and share yours on Jan. 9, weather permitting. They say that everybody needs a hobby.

Grab a cup of hot chocolate and settle into the winter.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Jan. 9: Winter

Jan. 23: Omit (Unless first meeting of the month is canceled)

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

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 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.



Response to December Photo — We had only one answer submitted — From Anita Bailey — I think that's either George Ward or Bob Sendewicz playing Santa.



Strawberry Cupcakes with Strawberry Icing

2015 CWA Baking Contest Recipe

Ingredients:

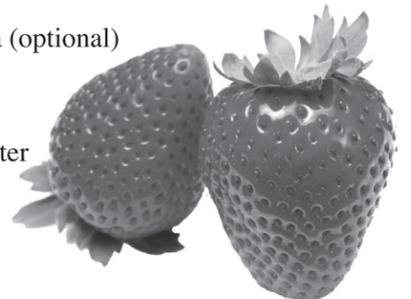
3/4 Cup strawberries, sliced in half
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 Cup milk
1 Cup sugar
2 large egg whites

1-1/2 Cups flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 Cup unsalted butter
1 large egg
1 tsp. vanilla (optional)

For Frosting:

2 Tablespoons strawberries, pureed
2 Cups powdered sugar
dash salt

1/2 Cup unsalted butter
1/4 teaspoon vanilla



Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°. Line muffin pan with 12 paper liners. In medium bowl combine flour, baking powder & salt, set aside. In a food processor or blender add the strawberries and process until pureed. Put 1/3 cup of strawberries into measuring cup and set aside. Add rest of strawberries to a small bowl to be used in frosting. In mixer, cream butter until light and fluffy. Gradually add sugar and mix till well blended. Reduce speed and slowly add egg & egg whites. Blend well. Add vanilla. Mix milk and 1/3 cup of puree. Alternate flour and milk mixture to mixer slowly ending with flour. Scrape bowl often and continue to blend. Pour batter evenly into prepared muffin cups. Bake 20-25 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool completely before frosting.

FROSTING: Soften butter in bowl, add salt and then beat in mixer until very fluffy. Reduce speed and add powdered sugar and blend well. Add vanilla and 2 tablespoons of puree. Mix thoroughly. Ice the cupcakes. For judging, submit three on a paper plate. Put your name and Grange number on the back of the plate.

Be Inspired: 2014 Community Service Awards

Take inspiration from this year's National Grange Community Service Award Winners. As we mentioned last issue, our own Ekonk Community Grange No. 89 in Sterling placed first in the Nation. Following are summaries of the projects each of the winners worked on during the contest year.

1ST Place - Ekonk Community Grange #89 - Sterling/Moosup, Connecticut

Master: Lincoln A. Cooper
151 Grange Members

The National Grange is happy to announce that Ekonk Community Grange #89 took first place in this year's Community Service Contest! Fifty-two participating members of the Ekonk Community Grange contributed 21,001 hours to their community service projects, along with the help of 197 community citizens who themselves contributed over 800 hours!

New projects for Ekonk this year included: a Grange pavilion; Sterling Town Halloween Party; and a fundraiser for Kenneth Phaiah an EMT who is fighting a very serious intestinal disease he inherited while working. Ekonk along with others raised more than \$3,000 for Kenneth. They work closely with the town library and Sterling Recreation Dept. A special project dear to their hearts is letter writing and boxed gifts to the military, whom are former Junior Grangers. Ongoing projects for Ekonk: Sterling Family Day participation; entertaining out of state Grangers; the American Legion Veterans Housing, Inc.; annual Meet the Candidates Night; Earth Day Contest; the Dictionary Project; Farm Tour participation; and adopt families just to name a few. They are using the internet to promote their projects which includes an active Facebook page. The Ekonk Community Grange has a long history of charitable community service, and does not refuse assistant to any requests for help. We at the National Grange commend the Ekonk Community Grange for their unyielding devotion to helping others in need.

2ND Place - Stanford Grange #808 -

Stanfordville, New York

Master: Margaret Plantier
93 Grange Members

Well done Stanford Grange #808 for being this year's 2nd place winner of the National Grange Community Service Award. Not only are we celebrating them in the National Community Service category, but they have also been recognized this year for the 5th consecutive year as a Distinguished Grange.

Stanford Grange worked on several projects this year. A new project was for Creative Crossroads, which is dedicated to all aspects of art. Creative Crossroads was headed by their own active Grange member Martine Vermeulen, who set up the project to make sure artists in all disciplines had space to reach local audiences. Other projects included: 55th Annual Stanford Community Day; FFA Fall Agricultural Festival; Meet the Candidates forum; Election Day Spaghetti Dinner, Pine Plains Community Food Locker; fundraised for the John Flood Family who was left homeless after a fire. These are only a few of the community activities Stanford Grange is involved in. Thank you to everyone in the Stanford Grange for all your hard work!

3RD Place - Clear Lake Grange #692 - Aitkin, Minnesota

Master: Vern Peterson
26 Grange Members

Good job Clear Lake Grange #692 for taking third in this year's Community Service Contest! We are so excited to include them on this list. The members of Clear Lake Grange have put in over 2,100 hours into their community service projects.

Clear Lake Grange chooses community service projects that will have the most impact on their community as a whole. This year they worked on more than 20 different projects. They sponsored classes with AARP for the Mature Driving Classes and they have assisted victims of domestic abuse. Clear Lake collected food and money for the Aitkin Area Food Shelf, helped the Aitkin County Historical Society, Aitkin Health Services,

Aitkin TRIAD, and Aitkin Women of today. They also support the Ronald McDonald House, the Bell Ringers of the Salvation Army, and Servicemen Projects for military at home and abroad. Thank you to everyone in the Clear Lake Grange #692 for all your hard work!

4TH Place - Maple Grove Grange #148 - Sebago, Maine

Master: Norma Haines
20 Grange Members

Well done Maple Grove Grange #148 for taking fourth place in this year's Community

Service Contest! Eighteen participating members of the Maple Grove Grange contributed more than 100 hours to their community service projects, along with the help of non-Grange members in their community.

The Maple Grove Grange focused on a new project this year, collecting and donating new books to the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital (BBCH). All members of the Grange participated and allowed them to help BBCH's library with the new books for rotation. They also continued with providing one meal per

month for the Community Meal project, along with the town of Sebago, the food pantry, and the Nazarene Church. They placed flags on all Veterans graves in Sebago. Maple Grove also worked with the Sebago Lions Club and SES PTC to sponsor breakfast with Santa, project Linus for the Center for Grieving Children, the Dictionary Project, and the Main Grange Store. We at the National Grange commend the Maple Grove Grange for their unyielding devotion to helping others in need.



Granger Shout Out



John Kriz for organizing a great program, "Unraveling the Mysteries of GMOs"



BillieSue Hollingsworth for organizing a successful Holiday Market at Cannon Grange.



Bil Mikulewicz and Doug Shepherd for making the huge signs that advertised the Holiday Market, and Julie Wanamaker for creating the artwork for the newspaper advertisement.



To Emily and John Alexander from North Haven Grange. They are "Mr. and Mrs. Grange" here. Emily has been our honored Lecturer for many years. We always look forward to her programs to learn what she will do to teach and entertain us. John is truly her right hand man, always ready to help her and everyone else. Three cheers for Emily and John.



Jody Cameron+team-GREAT meal at Quinebaug Christmas gathering!



Link Cooper-we miss YOU-may your surgery recovery go smoothly!



Verna Cole-Christmas Bazaar a rousing success-Thank You!

Submit your Shout-Outs today!
Granger@CTStateGrange.org
 They can also be mailed to 170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790.

CSG Past Deputies Association

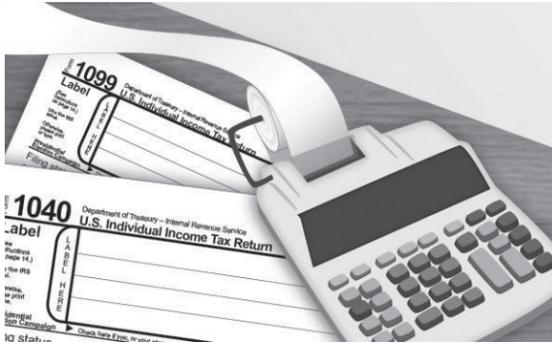
The next meeting of the Past Deputies Association of the Connecticut State Grange will be held on Sunday, Jan. 4 at Beacon Valley Grange in Naugatuck. We will start with a social hour at 2:00 followed by the meeting at 3:00. Bob Sendewicz, President will preside.

The title of the program is "Hats and

Mittens" and members are requested to wear or bring their favorite hat. The Country Store theme is "potluck."

Following the meeting we will have a potluck supper. Members are requested to bring a dish to share. All Past Deputies and their spouses are invited to join our group.

Act Quickly on Tax Extenders



The United States Senate, on a bipartisan vote of 76-16, extended about 50 expired tax code provisions. President Obama is expected to quickly sign the extender package. These extenders are retroactive for 2014 only and taxpayers have 15 days to decide if and how to use these tax breaks. The retroactive extension means tax payers will be operating under an expired tax code again in 2015. Grangers should consult their accountants and tax preparers immediately to determine how to best take advantage of these extenders for 2014.

Here are a few of the tax breaks you may be most interested in:

- Section 179 - Allows a higher deduction (up to \$500,000) on capital expenditures like machinery and equipment.
- Bonus depreciation - Extends the faster rate of depreciation for agriculture producers

- Biodiesel - Continues the \$1/gallon tax credit for biodiesel production
- Wind energy - Continues the wind energy tax credit
- Research and Development - Continues popular credits for research and development
- Distressed areas - Includes an incentive for businesses to invest in economically depressed areas
- The disabled - People with disabilities may now open tax-free savings accounts (new provision)
- Sales taxes - Allows a sales tax deduction for residents of states that have no income tax
- Charitable contributions - Senior citizens may exclude from their income up to \$100,000 in charitable donations from their retirement accounts
- "Pork" - Several special preferences to entities important to certain members of Congress

The 113th Congress, one of the most unproductive and least popular in history, is now over. Only about 280 bills have become law the last two years, the lowest number in 20 years. The 114th Congress begins January 6, 2015.

Reception for State Master Miller

On December 14, the members of East Central Pomona No. 3 held a reception in honor of new State Master Noel Miller and wife Marcia. The event was held at the meeting place of Glastonbury Grange No. 26 in South Glastonbury.



In Memoriam

Mildred Barshaw
Winchester Grange #74

Ann Smyk
Colchester Grange #78

Jim Tucker
Bethlehem Grange #121

Joanna Petrone
Stonington Grange #168

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

Charles Dimmick, State Chaplain

The month of January gets its name from the Roman god Janus, who had two faces, one looking forward and one looking back. In our Grange ritual the Overseer in the fourth degree gives the charge, "Cultivate the habit of looking for better and brighter days, instead of mourning over the past." Notice the use of the word "habit".



Janus

This is the time of year when many of us make New Year's resolutions, in many cases resolving to correct imperfections in our behavior or habits, such as resolving to lose weight or quit smoking, or finally to get around to cleaning out the garage [I resolved to do this five years in a row before I finally got around to doing it].

But just as important as trying to change those habits which affect our physical well-being is trying to change those habits which affect those with whom we come in contact. Do other people find you to be someone who is enjoyable to be around, or do they find you morose or argumentative or constantly complaining? Scattered throughout our Grange ritual are reminders about how we should interact with other people. In the same Overseer's charge which I mentioned at the beginning of this article is the further instruction, "While you strive to make labor honorable, exert yourself to make it pleasant and cheerful for all around you."

But are my life-long habits unbreakable? Can I change? Can I resist the temptation to return to my old habits? St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians says: "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."

And in Paul's letter to the Ephesians: "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

So let us resolve, in this coming year, not only to shed our old bad habits but also to cultivate new and better habits, especially in the attitudes we use when we interact with other people.

CWA Meetings

The remaining dates for CWA Regional Meetings are the following:

December 28 at Riverton Grange Hall

January 4 at Cheshire Grange Hall

January 25 at Hillstown Grange Hall

All meetings will begin at 2 P.M.