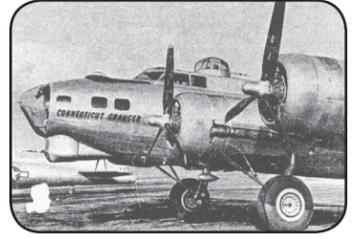


# Happy 2016!

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# Connecticut Granger



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

Vol. 56, No. 4

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

January 2016

## State Master



**Noel T. Miller**  
State Master/President  
[president@ctstategrange.org](mailto:president@ctstategrange.org)

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** 2016 is here already, how time flies. With the holidays over, visitations of friends and families over, the cooking schedule back to normal, the decorations packed away, and awaiting the credit card bills, Oh what fun we had. We now look to get back to our Grange work and plan for the upcoming year's events. Northeast Leader's Conference is January 15-17 in Milford, MA. We will be sharing ideas and planning for the 2018 National Convention, somewhere in New England? Hopefully we will have some answer so we can start fundraising to help pay for it.

We have scheduled a meeting on February 28, 2016 at 2:00 P.M. at Cheshire Grange Hall to discuss the future of Pomona Granges in Connecticut. Everyone is invited to discuss this important issue. The questions we need to discuss are:

- Do we still need Pomona Granges?
- How do we attract Fourth Degree members to attend Pomona Granges?
- How do we divide a Pomona Grange after they close?
- What should the State Grange do to support the Pomona Granges?
- Should we close our Pomona Granges altogether?

These are some of the points I have heard throughout the state and from concerned members. Brother James Tetreault, Past Lecturer of the National

Grange, will be moderator for this event, so come out and speak honestly, civil and open-minded so maybe this Pomona problem can be settled for once. Please join us.

This year we are still challenging our Community Granges to increase membership. Our State Membership Committee is willing and able to supply your Grange with kits for a membership display. Get in touch with anyone on this committee for assistance in getting the Grange message out to the public.

The 2016 National Grange Convention will be in Washington, D.C. in November. The Board of Directors is looking into getting a bus to bring Connecticut Grangers to Washington for the Night Tours, Evening of Excellence, and the Seventh Degree. If you have any ideas for fundraising this project, please contact a board member. They seem to have exciting activities planned for the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration. Don't miss out.

With the winter weather the Farmer's Almanac has predicted for us, I am to remind all that Community Granges must hold one meeting per month. But DO NOT risk members to hazardous conditions. Be safe and play it safe. You all are too valuable to lose to crashes or falls.

It is now time to reflect on the past year as to our strong points or how to change our weak points. Teamwork is the only way to move forward. One member cannot do it all and shouldn't be allowed to take on that burden alone. Leaders delegate and let them work with clear objectives, materials to do the job, praise if they succeed, or encouragement if they stumble, and help if they ask for it. Leaders should work to train their replacements, not keep them down.

This year the 2016 elections are going wild. The language and action of those running for our President are not the American Values of the Grange. They must take

a lesson from our Grange Motto "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things charity." These values can make our country great and our people strong. With the actions of some

of the candidates I would doubt they would be balloted into membership in our Granges. So let's be above the hatred and mudslinging and be good Grangers.



## We want your "G Notes"

This is a new contest the Board of Directors has created asking all Granges and Grange members to participate. We will be collecting "G" NOTE Dollars to offset the National Grange Assessment for next year which goes towards paying for National Grange conventions. The assessment has been paid for in recent years by money held in reserve from funds raised by our State Grange for hosting the 2008 Convention in Cromwell. This fund is now depleted.

WHAT IS A "G"NOTES DOLLAR? If you look at the front of a one dollar bill, to the left of Washington



is a Seal with a letter in it, or the first letter in the serial number. The letter is also the first letter in the serial number located in two places on the front of the bill. We are looking for a "G", for Grange, that denotes a bill from the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank. Start collecting these bills and the Granges

that Donates the most will receive a prize at the 132nd Connecticut State Grange Session.

There will be two winners, Community Grange over 50 members and Community Granges under 50 members.

The contest will start January 1, 2016 and end September 30, 2016. Winners will be announced at the State Grange Celebration Banquet.

This is a team building activity and a chance to avoid billing members for this assessment. So please help and have fun. GO GRANGE NOTES!

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### Next Issue... February 2016!

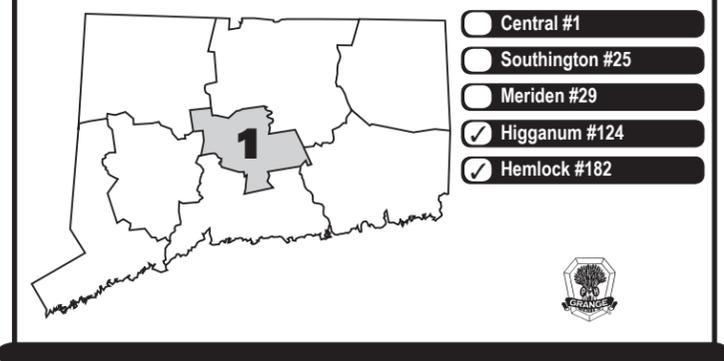


A part of the National Grange  
*American Values,  
Hometown Roots*

Scan this QR Code and join us on the web!



## Central Pomona No. 1



### HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: Barbara R. Smith

We draped our charter due to the passing of our former Master Warren Lee who passed away October 2015. The members made items for our shut-ins for the Christmas season. Our January 8th meeting will be an open meeting for a pot luck dinner and we will be shown how to sew bags that can be used

for shopping. We wish everyone a Healthy New Year 2016.

### HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

**Jan. 8:** Winter Snowball Fight

**Jan. 22:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.



## Healthcare Concierge Service

The National Grange is now offering a new member benefit, "Health Insurance Concierge Service" for 2016 open enrollment.

Dental Insurance: \$16.00/child; \$19.00/adult

Vision Insurance: \$9.00/individual; \$25/family

Gap Medical Insurance: \$7.50/individual

To visit their web page: <http://sales.chesapeakeplus.com/nationalgrange/surebridge.aspx>.

For more information call toll free 855-533-1776 or email: [maryann@nationalaffinity.net](mailto:maryann@nationalaffinity.net)

## Meriden Wins



For a second year in a row, Meriden Grange Fair has won the Premium Book contest sponsored by the Association of Connecticut Fairs. This was under the Local Fairs category.

## Decoding the dollar bill



The United States one dollar note contains a wealth of information about when and where that note was printed. Collectors can use this information to help understand the U.S. system of currency and to make collecting decisions.

There are twelve different Federal Reserve Banks responsible for printing paper money in the United States. On the one dollar bill, the bank can be quickly identified by a letter code in the Federal Reserve Seal to the left of the portrait of George Washington. The letter code is also found in the prefix of the serial number. A corresponding Federal Reserve District Number code is found in four locations. The following table is a handy reference for the bank codes:

Reserve Bank	Letter	Desig.
Boston	A	1
New York	B	2
Philadelphia	C	3
Cleveland	D	4
Richmond	E	5
Atlanta	F	6
Chicago	G	7
St. Louis	H	8
Minneapolis	I	9
Kansas City	J	10
Dallas	K	11
San Francisco	L	12

### Serial Numbers

The serial number of a bill appears twice, once in the lower left hand quadrant and again in the upper right hand quadrant on the front of the bill. The letter which precedes the numbers must be the same number that you saw identifying the Federal Reserve Bank. The last letter of the serial number or suffix letter identifies the number of times that the Bureau of Engraving and Printing used the sequence of serial numbers. A is the first time, B is the second time, C is the third time and so on. With one run for each letter of the alphabet (26) and 32 bills per run, there are a total of 832 bills per serial number.

### Series Date (or Series Year)

In the lower right quadrant between the portrait of George Washington and

signature of the Secretary of the Treasury is the Series Date. This number is presented as the year portion of a date- as in 2004- and sometimes has a letter suffix- as in 2004A. It is important to note that there is not a series for every calendar year. A new series will result from a change in the Secretary of the Treasury, the Treasurer of the United States, and/or a change to the note's appearance such as a new currency design.

- Design Change – New series year (e.g. 1999).
- New Secretary of the Treasury – New series year (e.g. 1999).
- New Treasurer of the United States – A suffix letter is added to the current series year (e.g. 1999A).

### Plate Serial Number

The Plate Serial Number appears twice: once on the front of the bill in the lower right quadrant above the Federal Reserve District Number, and again on the back in the lower right corner. It identifies the plate from which the note was printed.

### Note Number Position

The Note Number Position appears in the upper left quadrant. It is a letter number combination that indicates which position on the plate the note was printed. The number indicates the quadrant and the letter indicates the position within the quadrant.

### The Great Seal of the United States

The front (or obverse) of the seal shows an American bald eagle behind the national shield. The eagle holds an olive branch. The 13-letter motto, "E Pluribus Unum," on the ribbon held in the eagle's beak means "Out of Many, One."

On the reverse of the seal is a pyramid with 1776 in Roman numerals at the base. The pyramid stands for permanence and strength. The 13-letter motto, "Annuit Coeptis" means "He has favored our undertakings." Below the pyramid the motto, "Novus Ordo Seclorum" means "A new order of the ages," standing for the new American era.

## Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- Quinebaug #2
- Senexet #40
- Wolf Den #61
- Ekonk Community #89
- Ashford #90
- Putnam #97
- Killingly #112
- Echo #180

**SENEXET GRANGE #40**

*Corr: Diane Miller*

We had a very successful Thanksgiving Pie Sale and sold out, thanks to our great support from the community.

We are excited to have the local Happy Herdsmen 4H Dairy Club meet at our hall monthly. Big club with 21 members.

We are working on getting the kitchen and hall in good order for the winter season. Let's pray for less snow.

Christmas pie sale was held on December 24.

AARP continues to meet at our hall.

**EKONK COMMUNITY GRANGE #89**

**Jan. 4:** "New Year, New Hopes, New Resolutions"

**Jan. 29:** "Super Sunday and Snow!"

**Feb. 1:** "Super Sunday and Snow!"

**KILLINGLY GRANGE #112**

*Corr: Glenna Bruno*

I am Glenna Bruno, the Killingly Grange #112 correspondent since no one else has applied for the job, I'm volunteering, back with us and me.

Lecturer Eleanor Davis had each one of us tell something of our past Thanksgiving or present Thanksgiving blessings. Many of our older members

were sometimes very thankful we had some food. Other than turkey and potatoes, sometimes it was chicken, rabbit, squirrel or pheasant. Since many of us did not live near town and money was scarce. This is still true here in America. We hear this every day on the radio. We need food for the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. Our Grange is collecting for same.

Past happenings- State Master Noel Miller presented a Golden Sheaf Certificate to this correspondent. A written account was in the September Granger.

We also have a nice photo of other Killingly Grangers who have received 50 year certificates earlier- Josephine Stenback, Eleanor Davis, and Cranston and Mildred Briggs. We all have held some offices in the Grange at one time or the other during our tenure. True Grangers.

Also - I have participated as soloist at Lecturer's Conferences and the Rose Drill. Was on Jody Cameron's Installing Team, all of which I enjoyed. As recent as our last National Grange Convention here in Connecticut I was soloist between the Seventh Degree programs.

On December 12 we held

a Craft Fair.

Our other fifty year members Mike Fiske and wife Alice of Frisco, TX visited family and me for a few hours. So nice to see them and reminisce.

We have a new Treasurer, Penny Harris Bennett. She is John Bennett's new wife as of August. Congratulations to you both.

**ECHO GRANGE #180**

*Corr: Gloria John*

**Jan. 12:** "Happy New Year"

**Jan. 26:** Omit

**Feb. 9:** Youth

We had a successful tag sale. Lots of items for sale. The theme this year is "Everything is Coming

up Roses for the Contests." You can make anything with roses. Needlework or other medium can be used. Baking contest is blueberry muffins. You use your own recipe and include it with your entry.

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

## Ekonk holiday baskets



Our Thanksgiving Basket for a small family in Sterling. You can just about see the ham and 12+ pound turkey. We also included some gift certificates to a grocery store.

## Servicemen receive Ekonk gifts



We bought some goodies for three servicemen as a small token of our appreciation. They were Junior members. One is from Sterling and the other two are from Voluntown. Thanks to all who are, or have, served our Country.

### Do you have yours?



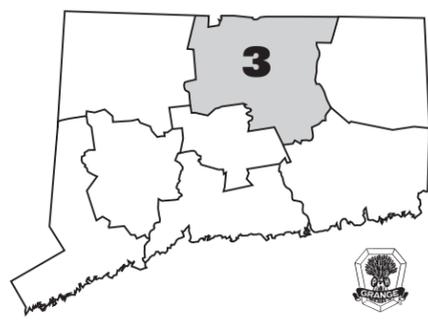
These new Past Master and Lecturer pins are \$10.00 each plus shipping and handling (if applicable). Please call (860) 633-7550 or (860) 307-1522 or email: [Secretary@CTStateGrange.org](mailto:Secretary@CTStateGrange.org) for more information.

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

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**Connecticut Granger Staff**  
 President/Editor . . . . . Todd Gelineau  
 Vice President . . . . .  
 Secretary Treasurer. . . . . Edith Schoell

## East Central Pomona No. 3



- East Central #3
- Granby #5
- Glastonbury #26
- Manchester #31
- Vernon #52
- Coventry #75
- Hillstown #87
- Enfield #151
- Simbury #197

### EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3

Corr: Noel Miller

Closed for the winter. See you in March. Work on those resolutions and the 50 clothespin craft projects that will be judged at the March 5<sup>th</sup> Pomona meeting. To all, stay safe and get to work.

### MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Leona Wilson

**Jan. 5:** Snow and Sleigh Bells

**Jan. 19:** Safety First

**Feb. 2:** Groundhog Day

On Jan. 5 our Program will be in the charge of the Master. The sleigh bells will be ringing, hoping the snow won't be falling. Our next meeting on Jan. 19 will be all about "Safety First" in the charge of Sister Paula. On Feb. 2 we will learn about Groundhog Day with Sister Edith in charge.

### COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

**Jan. 7:** New Year, Ref. Ted Beebe

Happy New Year's, welcome 2016 and may you be good to us this winter! Forgot that another baby has entered our Grange family, Anna Pollansky had

a baby boy on November 6, so now we have two new grandparents in our membership. Just a reminder to all members of the tight driveway if we get a lot of snow and visitors should call before driving here in case our meetings are canceled. Best wishes to all.

### ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

**Jan. 9:** Lions & Tigers & Bears Oh My

**Feb. 13:** Cartoon Characters

Old man winter is still somewhere else as I write this, but I'm sure he will get around to us sooner or later. Our Thanksgiving luncheon was delicious and the autumn bingo games were enjoyed by all. We welcomed two new members – May Allevo and Marian Higgins at our December meeting. We have started to collect items for our next package to our troops, which will go out at the end of January. As always a reminder, that if our meeting is canceled because of bad weather, we meet the following week. Visitors are always welcome, so come see us.



## Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

# Thinking Outside the Box

by Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

When planning events and activities with your Grange, think outside of the box. Be Creative - Be Brave - Be Bold. The following is a list of events, activities and project ideas to put your Grange on the Map.

### New and Fresh Ideas:

Sponsored Walks / Hikes / Runs  
 Monopoly/Scrabble/Clue/Uno Tournament  
 Chocolate Social  
 Cemetery Clean-Up / Park Clean-Up  
 Hot Dog Social  
 Oscars Viewing Party (Red Carpet Event)  
 Cupcake Decorating Workshop  
 Baked Potato Social  
 Gingerbread House Building Workshop  
 Sunday Brunch  
 Pajama Party  
 Apple Picking / Berry Picking Trip  
 Treasure Hunt / Scavenger Hunt  
 Artist Expo  
 Coffeehouse Cafe - Music, coffee and pastries  
 Halloween Vampire Ball  
 Movie Night  
 Children's Book Reading  
 Themed Dinners (Pirates, Princess, Dinosaurs, Circus, French, Italian, etc.)  
 Lego Building Workshop  
 Dinner / Dance  
 Floral Arranging Lecture  
 Tip a Waiter Dinners  
 "Soupstock" - Soup Supper with Music  
 Trivia Bowl

March Madness Celebration

### The Proven Standards:

Crock-Pot Chili Cook-off  
 Lasagna/ Pasta Supper  
 The Dictionary Project  
 Pie Sale  
 Mystery Rides  
 Host a Farmer's Market  
 Cookie Walk / Cake Walk / Cupcake Walk  
 Group Trips / Cruises  
 Boxed Lunches  
 Open House  
 Tag Sales / White Elephant Sales / Flea Markets  
 Holiday Gift Wrapping  
 Donations for Soup Kitchen / Food Bank  
 Bake Sales  
 Gardening Workshop  
 Roast Beef / Ham / Baked Chicken Dinners  
 Craft Sale  
 Ice Cream Social  
 Awards Banquet / Program  
 Bakeless Bake Sale / Non-event Event  
 Fashion Show  
 Holiday Favors for Shut-Ins  
 Travelogue  
 Card Party / Game Night  
 Community Pizza Party  
 Pancake Breakfast  
 Knitting/crocheting lap robes for nursing homes  
 Plant Sale  
 Writing letters to soldiers overseas

## 2016 Legislative Fly-In: New Hampshire



February 4 - 7, 2016  
 Concord, New Hampshire

Come to New Hampshire and participate in a presidential candidate's campaign the weekend prior to the big New Hampshire primary vote the following Tuesday.

Meet Grangers from other states, discuss National Grange legislative and regulatory issues, learn the history behind presidential primaries, tour the New Hampshire Statehouse and visit with the press corps covering the candidates. Then spend a day working on the campaign for the candidate of your choice!

### Schedule:

#### Thursday, February 4

Welcome, itinerary, discussions, fellowship at hotel

#### Friday, February 5

New Hampshire State Capitol, Concord

Morning meeting at the Statehouse with NH Secretary of State Bill Gardner, who will brief us on the First in the Nation Presidential Primary, and the history of presidential primaries in New Hampshire

Afternoon tour of the New Hampshire Statehouse that has been continuously occupied by the legislature longer than any other statehouse in the country

Evening - Dinner together and youth outing

#### Saturday, February 6

Breakfast - New Hampshire State Grange Building with guest James Pindell, Political Reporter for the *Boston Globe*.

Meeting with the on-site press corps to discuss the media's role in presidential campaigns (Radisson Hotel, Manchester)

Grangers go to Manchester campaign headquarters of Presidential candidates of their choice, meet with representatives of the Democratic and Republican Parties to talk about their roles in the process, participate in a campaign event of their choice (i.e. stuffing mailers, phone banks, visibility, canvassing, etc.)

#### Sunday, February 7

Return home

### Travel and Registration

All travel and hotel costs will be a personal expense for Fly-In attendees. Please make your own travel arrangements and book your hotel stay directly. If you plan to attend the Fly-In, please contact Stephanie Tiller by phone at (202) 628-3507 ext. 113 or via email to [stiller@nationalgrange.org](mailto:stiller@nationalgrange.org).

Our hotel is the Comfort Inn, 71 Hall Street, Concord, NH. 03301, phone (603) 226-4100. Group rate is \$199 plus 9% sales tax per night. The cut-off date to make a reservation is January 8, 2016. Availability is limited so reserve your room now.

### Recommended Dress

Casual, warm and neat. It is cold in New Hampshire in February. Layered clothing is good. Be prepared for snow.

### Ground Transportation

The National and New Hampshire Granges will provide ground transportation between the airport in Manchester and our hotel in Concord as well as to our events on Friday and Saturday. We must have your cell phone and email in advance for the drivers.

## Granger Address Changes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grange: \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

### OLD ADDRESS:

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### NEW ADDRESS:

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

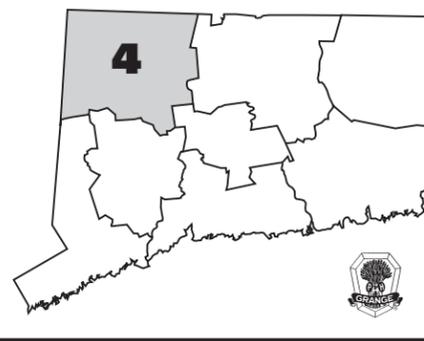
Please clip and mail to:

Connecticut Granger, P.O. Box 1393,

Glastonbury, CT 06033

or email: [Granger@CTStateGrange.org](mailto:Granger@CTStateGrange.org)

## Mountain County Pomona No. 4



- Mountain County #4
- Cawasa #34
- Whigville #48
- Eureka #62
- Winchester #74
- Taghannuck #100
- Litchfield #107
- Beacon #118
- Riverton #169

### MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

*Corr: Todd A. Gelineau*  
 January is a quiet month in Mountain County Pomona. As of this writing, our December meeting has yet to come but the mild weather this late fall indicates that we'll actually get that meeting in this year—not always a given! We take January off and then get back into the swing of things with the February meeting scheduled for the 8<sup>th</sup> at Eureka Grange Hall. Our Lecturer is Lyn Erickson and her programs are great. So, if you are a member and haven't been in a while... why not come out and join us. If you're not a member... we would love to see you visit! Until next time... have a happy new year!

### WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

*Corr: Todd A. Gelineau*  
**Jan. 12:** Bring in the New Year, Ref. Potluck at 6 P.M.  
**Jan. 26:** A Cold Snap, Ref. Sara Bement & Mimi Grustas

Thank you to everyone who donated items, helped with set-up and/or bought tickets for our fall/holiday Super Prize Party. The dining room of the Grange Hall was packed with customers as were the tables

with prizes. We usually hold two prize parties each year—one in the spring and one in the early fall. Due to scheduling conflicts, it was decided to move this one closer to Christmas. What a great decision that was! We had a great turnout and an excellent profit.

In December, we voted to change our meeting time—at least in the winter. Starting Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, Winchester Grange will meet at 7:00 P.M. and will do so until we spring forward to 7:30 P.M. when standard time returns. Next fall we will revert to 7:00 P.M. when Daylight Saving Time returns and we “fall back.” We hope this will be easy to remember and will make traveling easier and the meetings much more enjoyable without having to be out that half hour later!

### TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

*Corr: Barbara Prindle*  
 Last month Taghannuck Grange hosted a group of quilters who met at a music camp in the Catskills (Ashokan Fiddle & Dance). Some of our members, who are in a local Cornwall band, met them there in July 2015 and they decided to meet in Cornwall to finish their group quilt. Each year the quilt is raffled to benefit the Ashokan Foundation.

# Quilters at Taghannuck Grange

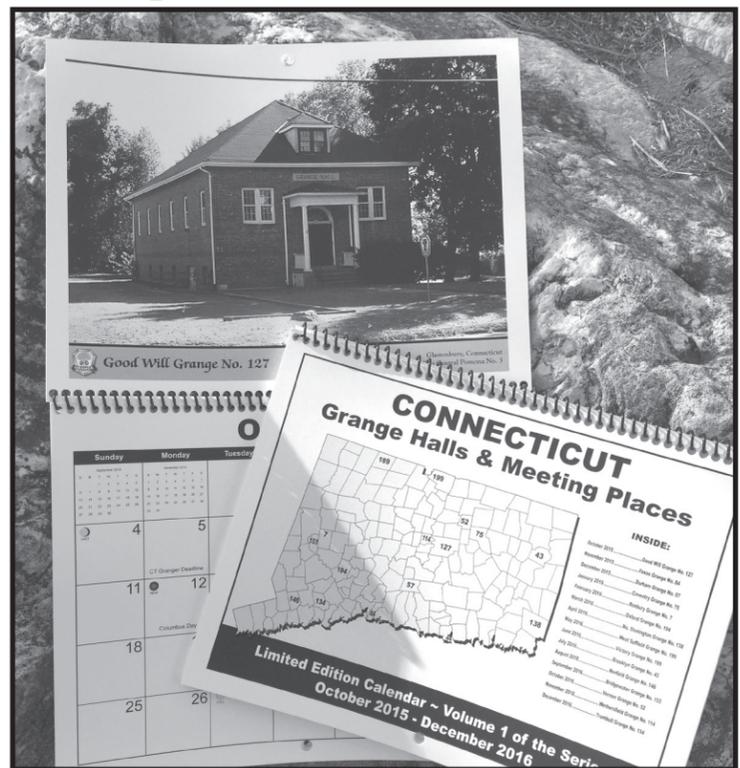


Taghannuck Grange hosted a group of quilters in November who met at a music camp in the Catskills. Some of Taghannuck's members, who are in a local band, met them there and decided to meet in Cornwall to finish their group quilt. The quilt is raffled each year to benefit the Ashokan Foundation.

# Riverton's Festival of Trees



# New year... new calendar



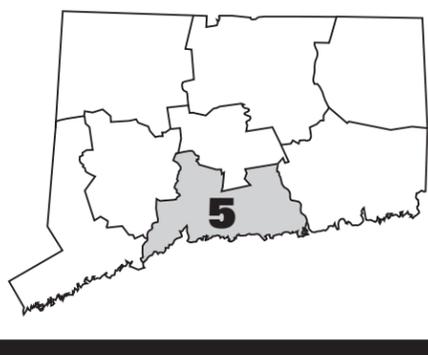
The 2015 - 2016 Connecticut Grange calendars featuring historic pictures of Grange Halls and meeting places across our state are still available. These collectible calendars are \$13.00. Supplies are limited so get your copy soon!

Thank you to everyone who came to the Festival of Trees this weekend. When the food was weighed and the money counted, we collected 160 pounds of food and more than \$400 for our community food bank.

Our big winner, in the youth category was Kevin LeClaire, with his fishing themed tree. He collected over 35 pounds of food. Not far behind was Barkhamsted's Cub Scout Pack 40 with more than 25 pounds of food.

In the adult category, the winner was Riverton Congregational Church and their duck tree, with almost 15 pounds of food. Honorable mention from the adults was Colynn Hodge and the Barkhamsted Historical Society.

# New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- New Haven #5
- Cheshire #23
- Wallingford #33



## NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

*Corr: Wesle Dymoke*  
**Jan. 25:** Regular Meeting at Cheshire (44 Wallingford Rd.) Program: Our Youth

## CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

*Corr: A. Ruel Miller*  
**Jan. 6:** Conflict in the Middle East  
**Jan. 20:** Connecticut Trees

We trust everyone enjoyed the holidays. Once again this year, we distributed Christmas items to our shut-in members and, as always, they were

well received. Thanks to everyone who worked on our Monday night craft nights over the year to make this all happen. Shortly we will start up again for Christmas 2016. Our third annual Craft Fair was held on December 12<sup>th</sup> and was successful in aiding to our treasury. We had our annual open Christmas meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup> with a grab bag, card exchange, and tasty refreshments. Happy New year to all as we move the Grange forward in 2016.

# New Haven County Christmas party



New Haven County Pomona celebrated Christmas with its annual party complete with refreshments and a visit from Santa Claus.

# A busy month at Cheshire Grange



Cheshire Grange visited Doolittle School and presented 66 Dictionaries to Third Graders. This makes a total of 117 so far. Our two biggest schools are yet to come.



On Tuesday Dec 1 Cheshire Grange delivered 69 Dictionaries to Norton School Third Graders. This brings our total this year to 186 with one more school to go.



111 Dictionaries have been presented to Highland School Third Graders. This brings our total this year to 297.

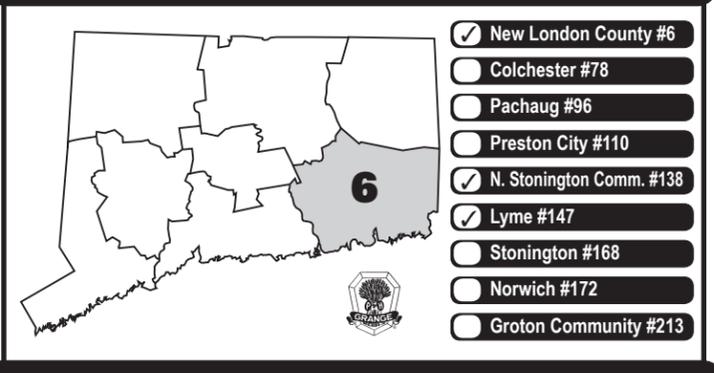


Cookies, Gifts and Tray/Table Favors have been delivered to Marbridge in time for their Christmas Parties.



Three of the "hobos" that stopped in for a Neighbor's Night at Cheshire Grange.

## New London County Pomona No. 6



New London County #6  
 Colchester #78  
 Pachaug #96  
 Preston City #110  
 N. Stonington Comm. #138  
 Lyme #147  
 Stonington #168  
 Norwich #172  
 Groton Community #213

### NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

**Mar. 12:** Talent and A-Number Show – North Stonington

We drew for the winners at North Stonington Grange on November 13<sup>th</sup> and the clock read 8:00 on the dot! Here are the winners and donating Granges.

1<sup>st</sup> – Sound System from Stonington Grange, Richard Roberts

2<sup>nd</sup> – Gift Certificate to Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm from North Stonington Grange, Martha Bowman.

3<sup>rd</sup> – Gift Certificate to Hart's from Norwich Grange, Gladys Chase

4<sup>th</sup> – Gardening Basket from Colchester Grange, Sandy Dart

5<sup>th</sup> – Gift Certificate to Olive Garden from Lyme Grange, Richard Roberts

6<sup>th</sup> – Gift Certificate to Lowe's from Pachaug Grange, Sandy Dart

7<sup>th</sup> – Gift Certificate to LoPresti Farm from Preston City Grange, Clarissa Matthewson.

8<sup>th</sup> – Gift Certificate to WalMart from Groton Grange, Charlotte Locke.

All 1,200 tickets were sold for a profit of \$1,125.85 for our Pomona. (And YES!, we did mix them THOROUGHLY before each drawing!).

The seasons are changing, the snow softly falls,

We find our world bounded by four boring walls.

But the earth keeps on traveling through space, day by day,

Soon spring will arrive and we'll be on our way.

### NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

**Jan. 8:** "Put a Little Strut Into It"

**Jan. 23:** Snow Date for January 8

At our November meeting a very patient therapy dog and his owner, Chaire Bolt, waited through the drawing of the Pomona raffle, and listening to our plans for distributing our Thanksgiving and

Christmas baskets and our Delegates' report, then treated us to a program about their excellent work at area nursing homes. Three-year-old Teddie only complained a little.

The Agricultural and Conservation Committee has the January program. Their program is always enjoyable and interesting. Why not make a New Year's resolution to come to Grange more often. We would really love to see you and the refreshments are always delicious. And if old man winter will just keep the now up there in the sky, next time I'll tell you about delicious December.

### LYME GRANGE #147

**Feb. 4:** Love is what makes the world go round. Youth and young at heart.

**Mar. 3:** Kitchen Klunkers-Kitchen Band and CWA related subjects.

Wow! Have our Juniors been busy. Although we are small in numbers, we are mighty in our accomplishments. Chloe Donihee enlisted the help of her parents and grandparents and put together a Thanksgiving basket for a family. On that same note Riley Tefft, with the help of his leader and a collection from our Grange put together a Thanksgiving basket for a family.

On December 14 cards were written to service people serving overseas. They will be delivered to Frank Forest who will tuck them into boxes of goodies shipped out to service people.

Our Master was under the weather so the Overseer led our meeting.

Our annual donation to "Warm the Children" was made. A shopper accompanies a child to WalMart and each child is allowed to spend \$100. A local bank handles the finances and keeps no money for their service. Every penny goes to children.

We collected \$2.00 or so from each of us and \$36.00 was collected and will be delivered to Shoreline Soup Kitchen.

Hope everyone has enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and the new year will be a happy, healthy one for all.

This year, Lyme Junior Grangers decided to raise money to give two families

a full Thanksgiving. The kids, under the leadership of Jr. Leader David Sanford, raked leaves and other jobs. They got donations from members of Lyme Grange. As Master, I am proud of these Jr. Grangers for their

hard work. They may be small in numbers but big in heart. Thank you Riley Tefft, Chloe Donihee, Violet Donihee for all you do to help.



## CSG Student Loans Available

Did you know the Connecticut State Grange offers Student Loans to Grange members? To be eligible, an applicant must be a member in good standing of a Connecticut Community/Subordinate Grange. All applications must be signed by the Secretary and Master of the applicant's Grange, certifying that the applicant is a member in good standing and is worthy of the loan.

Upon approval of the Board of Trustees, a loan, not to exceed \$1,000 may be made to a Freshman after successfully completing the first semester; a loan not to exceed \$2,500 may be made, upon correct application, to a Sophomore, Junior and Senior. A Graduate Student may receive a loan not to exceed \$2,500 a year. Loans of not over \$2,500 may be made to Patrons desiring to enter training for certain professions.

All notes must be endorsed by two financially responsible persons (not husband and wife), who are acceptable to the Board of Trustees. If the borrower is a minor, the note must be co-signed by the parent or guardian.

Interest will not accrue on any loan while the borrower is attending undergraduate school, Upon graduation or leaving school, interest will be charged at a rate of 5% per annum. Payments will begin immediately after graduation to the Secretary of the State Grange.

For more information contact the Central Office at (860) 633-7550 or Secretary@CTStateGrange.org.



When the cold of winter hits, why not make this easy meal by Better Homes and Gardens in the crock pot. This is also a great addition to Grange potluck suppers too!

### Slow Cooker Chicken Pot Pie



- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves or 1 1/2 teaspoons dried thyme, crushed
- 1-3/4 teaspoons poultry seasoning
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 3 pounds skinless, boneless chicken thighs, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1-1/2 cups sliced carrots (3 medium)
- 1-1/2 cups sliced celery (3 stalks)
- 1 cup chopped leeks (3 medium) or chopped onion (1 large)
- 1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1 cup frozen peas
- 1 cup half-and-half, light cream, or milk
- 1/2 of a 15-ounce package (1 crust) rolled refrigerated unbaked piecrust

### DIRECTIONS

In a large resealable plastic bag combine 1/4 cup of the flour, the thyme, poultry seasoning, salt, and pepper. Add chicken pieces, half at a time, shaking to coat.

In a large nonstick skillet heat 1 tablespoon of the oil over medium-high heat. Add half of the chicken; cook about 5 minutes or until brown, stirring occasionally. Transfer chicken to a 5- to 6-quart slow cooker. Repeat with the remaining 1 tablespoon oil and the remaining chicken. Add broth, carrots, celery, leeks, and mushrooms to chicken in cooker.

Cover and cook on low-heat setting for 6 to 7 hours or on high-heat setting for 3 to 3 1/2 hours.

If using low-heat setting, turn to high-heat setting. Stir in frozen peas. In a small bowl combine the remaining 1/4 cup flour and the half-and-half; stir into mixture in cooker. Cover and cook about 30 minutes more or until thickened.

Meanwhile, preheat oven to 450 degrees F. Unroll piecrust. Press or roll piecrust into an 11-inch circle; cut into eight wedges. Place wedges on an ungreased large baking sheet.

Prick each wedge several times with a fork. Bake for 8 to 9 minutes or until light brown. To serve, top each serving of chicken mixture with a baked piecrust wedge.

**Source:** <http://www.bhg.com/recipe/slow-cooker-chicken-pot-pie/>

## Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- Excelsior #7
- Beacon Valley #103
- Bethlehem #121
- Prospect #144
- Bridgewater #153
- Wolcott #173
- Oxford #194



### BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Cindy Legg

We at Beacon Valley Grange are saddened at the death of our Golden Sheaf member Linnea Behlman. Linnea was a long time member of our Grange and was like by all. She was one of the members who started "The Beacon Valley Quilters" who made many quilts and quilted items that were donated to many places. Linnea will be sadly missed.

Our meeting in January will be January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. (Elvis Presley's birthday). Our program is entitled "Snow White." Bryan, our Assistant Steward, is in charge of refreshments.

We at Beacon Valley Grange hope everyone has a healthy and safe new year.

### BETHELEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

Jan. 24: Meeting, Ed Whitehead and Barbara Robert refreshments.

Memorial Eleanor Burke

## Get your money's worth from Grange

From a decades old National Grange newsletter written by Florida State Master Robert G. Proctor. While it was written a long time ago-- its message is still relevant today!

Are you getting your money's worth as a Grange member?? Are you getting all there is to get, and all you are paying for?? Although our Grange dues are about the price of a carton of cigarettes, do you feel your Grange is worth it?? Patrons often sound horrified when someone mentions a dues increase, therefore we assume they are not receiving "just value." "We will lose our membership if we do not go up with our dues," we are told. Demits are being issued and members are being dropped every day because they claim they are not getting enough out of the Grange. When was the last time you received something from your Grange?? When did you receive a dividend from your dues??

I'll tell you the last time you received something from the Grange. It was the last time you gave it something of yourself. It was the last time you put something into it. The Grange has been called a "do-it-yourself" kit, and the only way it accomplishes anything, and the only way its dividends are received is by doing.

When you do not take part in your Grange, when you do not participate in its meetings, its programs, discussions, projects, contests, its Service benefits, its ritualism, its fraternalism, its community service, legislative policy, its leadership, its social aspect, and all the many personal benefits acquired by being part of mankind, are you being cheated?

If you are not receiving this interest in your investment you are not getting your money's worth out of the Grange. Many today are looking for something for nothing, but in this respect, I guess the Grange is old fashioned for if you are not getting enough out of the Grange, there is only one reason, it's because you are not putting enough into the Grange.

50 plus. We gave a complete Thanksgiving dinner to First Church who gave it to a needy family that they have been taking care of.

Our Holiday Flea Market was a good time.

We mourn the loss of Eleanor Burke who was a 50 year member plus. Our sympathies to the family.

Joe Shapenis of Bethlehem, historian, gave a talk at Thanksgiving on the history of Bethlehem with many guests present.

A canned food collection was held for Bethlehem Food Bank at our Dec. 14 meeting and on Dec. 6 we went to the Painted Pony for Christmas Dinner.

At our January 24 meeting we will plan on having Jeremy Maddox come and talk on his Eagle Scout Project on making Bethlehem a Heart Safe Town by providing a defibrillator in all town buildings and teaching everyone how to use it.



Todd A. Gelineau  
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

The end of the year brings another deadline for all of our Granges. The report for the Fourth Quarter of 2015 became due on December 31<sup>st</sup>. By vote of the delegates at the last State Session, all reports that are not received within thirty days of the close of the quarter will be subject to a flat \$25 fee. The previous 1% fee was often less than a dollar and was difficult and expensive to collect. I know I have mentioned this before but I want all Granges to have fair warning and not be surprised if it is necessary for the State Treasurer to send out an invoice for the new fee.

You should also be aware that the new Annual Word will not be communicated to your Grange until the Central Office has received your Quarterly Report for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter (and any back reports, if applicable).

The new Quarterly Report forms went into effect with the close of the fourth quarter. I had expected many questions about the forms as they are very much different from the previous ones—I have had no questions. So this means one of two things—they are

# State Secretary

self explanatory and there are no problems—or I will not know if there problems until the forms are received at the office! If you have a question or problem, please don't hesitate to call me.

All Granges should have received a mailing regarding the 2016 Bonding Program through the National Grange and Main Street America Group (National Grange Mutual). Unfortunately the materials were received later this year and the deadline has been moved up 30 days. It is very important to hear from all of our Granges by January 15. Your checks should be made payable to the Connecticut State Grange as we then write one check to National Grange for the full amount of coverage for all of our Granges. Bonding coverage is not optional and is required by Section 4.10.9 of the National Digest.

We have had some questions about the program this year which specifically center around who is covered by the program. All officers and members of your Grange are covered by the bonding program.

The National Grange has purchased an insurance policy (Employee Dishonesty Coverage) through National Grange Mutual Insurance Company of Keene, NH. Although participation in the group policy is not required, holding a bond or policy is required. Individual units may purchase their

own policies independent of the National program if so desired.

On the back of your renewal letter is a schedule of coverage limits and premium amounts for you to review. You may renew at the same level as last year or you may opt to increase (or decrease your coverage if already above the minimum coverage).

### What is bonding?

A: Bonding is a type of insurance coverage to protect the financial assets of your Community, Pomona or State Grange.

### How does bonding work?

A: The bond protects the Grange by covering financial losses due to fraudulent activities of an individual or group. Should any unfortunate loss or theft of your Grange's funds occur, you would file a claim. The bond would cover the Grange's financial loss.

### If a loss occurs, how do I file a claim?

A: Should a loss occur, you would contact the National Grange office for instructions and claim forms. You should also call the National Grange office if you have any further questions about bonding. The toll-free phone number is: 1-888-4-GRANGE (1-888-447-2643).

In addition, if you have any questions, you can contact me at the CT State Grange Central Office.

Until next time, have a Happy New Year!



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange Friends!

We have been taking it easy in December, and prepping for the holidays. I hope to see everyone after the New Year.

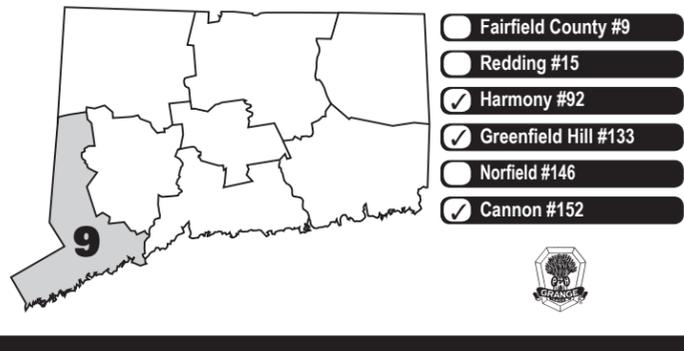
What adventures will 2016 hold? Follow me on Facebook to keep track of all of my adventures. Please take a minute to follow the link and click the "Like" button. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>. I currently have 322 followers. Are you going to be number 333?

Be sure to say Hello if you see me around the State!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from this Burro to you and yours!



## Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



### HARMONY GRANGE #92

happy and healthy New Year and visitors are always welcomed.

*Corr: George Ward*  
 January 8: Regular Meeting, Refreshments at 6:30, Meeting at 7:30. Lecturer's program to be announced.

We all offered sympathy to Barbara Standley on the death of her brother, Lester, in Pennsylvania.

Our Christmas Boutique, held December 5 at the Grange Hall was huge success. The weather was perfect, sunny and warm for a day in December. The attendance at the event was exceptional. There were several other events in the immediate vicinity so the timing of our event was perfect to take advantage of the traffic going by. Also, people were in the area to cut Christmas from local farms and some stopped in as they were passing through. Many thanks go out to members and non-members who worked many hours to prepare for the Boutique in arranging items on the tables and pricing them, repairing antique furniture, cleaning the hall, preparing food, doing other chores in preparation for the event and all worked the day of the event. Kevin Parker, who wore his Santa Clause suit and sat in a sleigh outside the hall, was a big success. He waved to people going by and to those entering the hall. Parents took pictures of him with their children.

We expect to do the welcoming ceremony on three new members at our January meeting.

Our 70 years plus member, Gertrude Wilson, is at the Lord Chamberlain Nursing & Rehabilitation Center and would welcome cards. At my last visit, she was setting at a table in the dining room reading the paper. Her address is 7003 Main Street, Stratford CT. 06614.

Members of Harmony Grange wish you all a

happy and healthy New Year and visitors are always welcomed.

### GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

*Corr: Dennis Rich*  
**Jan. 18:** New Year, Last Year, Meeting 7 P.M.  
**Feb. 15:** Seed & Garden Planning, Meeting 7 P.M.

November featured a Thanksgiving dinner. A planning meeting outlined the next few month's meetings as well as ideas for possible fundraising events and projects.

Preparing for December, the future Junior Grange began decorating for Christmas and anticipated a cookie making session. For the latest on the Junior Grange, contact Cindy Wakeman-D'Andrea at 203-243-01887 or email her at cwak631201@aol.com.

Looking ahead our January meeting will be devoted to mapping out spring activities. Garden planning will be the focus for February. Plan to share your favorite garden experiences and ideas! Those who received their garden/seed catalogs could bring them along for a "show and tell."

This correspondent traveled to Colonial Williamsburg, VA in mid-November, for dual celebration of 25 years of successful breeding of Leicester Long Wool Sheep and 30 years of the reintroduction of heritage breeds of horses, farm animals and poultry respectively. It was a great learning experience and an opportunity to make new friends.

All are welcomed to our meetings and activities.

### CANNON GRANGE #152

*Corr: Don Offinger*  
 Jan 7: Public Forum featuring Wilton's new

Chief of Police  
 Jan 21: The Waldorf approach to childhood education by our neighbor, Apple Blossom School  
 Mar 3: Come learn about Robots and Artificial Intelligence - this will be sensational  
 Mar 19: Silent Movies - 7 PM (Tix at the door)

We're thrilled to welcome four new members: Dearta and Justin Fusaro and Kim and Will Keliehor.

Our members pulled together to host three fabulous events recently that demonstrates our commitment to family values, community service and our program theme of Healthy Living. This year we are concentrating our Healthy Living programs on new things to learn and how to enjoy leisure and downtime.

An informative and enjoyable presentation was given by the Superintendent of Schools attended by many local residents.

Our first ever Acoustic Night was organized by Michele Clark. Three musical acts ensembles performed for over an hour to an enthusiastic audience. Canticle, a men's *a cappella* singing group from Wilton Congregational Church performed three sets of patriotic, popular and religious songs. Their blended sound filled our Hall and it was, well ..... "WOW". We're going to do another Acoustic Night on April 23rd. Mark the calendar.

Our 3rd annual Holiday Market was coordinated by BillieSue Hollingsworth to great acclaim. Over 20 vendors were onsite with beautiful and tasteful crafted gifts from hand printed stationery, to artisanal goat-milk soaps, to pressed flower artworks, boxwood plants, fine jewelry, knitted and stitched garments and original pottery. Even Santa was onsite (thank you Dale Hollingsworth)!

Please note our schedule of learning and leisure events. All our programs are open to the public, and we'd like to see some Grangers, too.

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

## Regionals are complete



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

Our regional meetings ended in November with a total of 23 Granges attending. This is a little less than half the Granges in the state. However, all but 2 CWA packets were picked up at those meetings. I hope that if your Grange was not represented that the packets were delivered

and all the information on the new contests and judging date was also passed on. Now I would like to have your feedback on whether the regionals were worth having. At some time during the next year I hope to hear from as many as possible whether to hold them next year or not. It was my decision to hold the meetings and it will be your decision to do them again or not, next year.

On Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> we had the drawing of our raffle. The winners were \$25.00 gift certificate to Stop & Shop – Cindy Legg; \$25.00 gift certificate to WalMart- Anne-Marie Knochenhauer, Afghan – Riley Tefft, small kitchen basket – Jim Lamoureux, decorated teacup – Cindy Legg. Thank you all for supporting our committee.

## Killingly Golden Girl

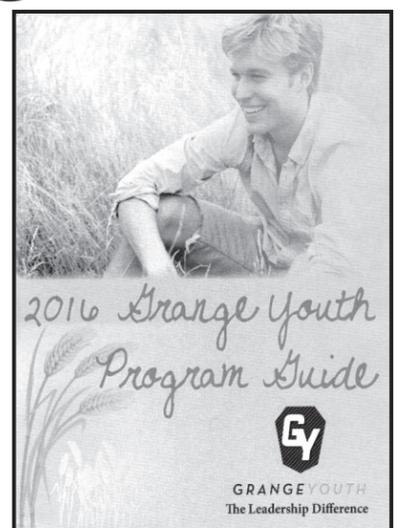


Glenna Bruno of Killingly Grange receives her Golden Sheaf for 50 years of continuous Grange service from State Master Noel Miller and Killingly Master Pat Valys.

## Youth Program Guide

Following the precepts of our order, Grange youth look to grow and develop into the leaders of the Grange for today and tomorrow.

Citizenship is a valuable tool in our communities. Knowing how to make a positive impact, involvement in the legislative process and identifying community problems are legacy activities for Grange members. This year, a new citizenship initiative challenges our members



to engage in their communities to make a difference. The complete 2016 Grange Youth Program Guide is available for download from the National Grange website: [www.NationalGrange.org](http://www.NationalGrange.org).

# National Legislative Update

Burton Eller  
National Grange  
Legislative Director



## Congress Launches End-Of-Year Dash

The more gridlocked Congress becomes, the more predictable lawmakers are. Major issues languish in committee or in the House or Senate for months and months. The federal government spending for FY '16 began October 1 with temporary extensions of existing FY15 authorities. There has been no budget authority or spending allocation for FY'16 in place. Agreement between the House and Senate or between Democrats and Republicans proved elusive all summer and fall. Then time runs out. The nation edges close to crisis mode. Short term extensions of authorization and funding are passed, then extended and extended again. All of a sudden it's Thanksgiving and short term extenders of all kinds start expiring. A full year's workload has piled up for December. If Congress doesn't get a move on, there will be no Santa Clause for constituents back home. Reconciling the federal budget authorizations between the Senate and House is a priority. There's no time now to pass all twelve appropriations bills (that dole out the federal funds) so a omnibus spending package becomes both a vehicle for must-pass legislation and a "Christmas tree" on which to hang various legislation that's been bottled up somewhere. If Congress fails to pass an omnibus bill or if the President vetoes it, the federal government faces a shutdown again.

Several politically hot

policy issues could be folded into an omnibus package as the December debate on Capitol Hill draws to a close. Among these are Syrian refugee resettlement, federal funding for Planned Parenthood, tax extenders, GMO labeling, child nutrition programs, Country of Origin Labeling (COOL), Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) reauthorization, riders blocking funding for the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule, revising the current Visa Waiver Program, revising or repealing ObamaCare and more. To prevent a government shutdown sparked by a presidential veto of the omnibus with controversial "Christmas tree" provisions attached, Congress could pass a series of controversial stand-alone bills to send individually to the White House. As an example, the Senate and House are currently working on major revisions to ObamaCare and a plan to end taxpayer funding for Planned Parenthood that can go forward individually or be folded into the omnibus package.

### Status of Specific Omnibus-Targeted Policy Issues

#### Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS)

The WOTUS rider, which enjoys significant bipartisan support, would block implementation of the rule even if the court stays were lifted. Once enacted, the WOTUS provision could be extended beyond fiscal 2016. Inclusion of this rider seems a sure bet, but President Obama is pushing back hard to save

WOTUS in the omnibus negotiations.

#### GMO Labeling

A proposal to create a voluntary, USDA verified, GMO-Free labeling program has passed the House but is still pending in the Senate. Senator Stabenow of Michigan, the Senate Agriculture Committee's top Democrat, has been working on a compromise plan that would preempt state GMO labeling laws while requiring electronic disclosure of GMO ingredients. During this process, the food industry launched a smartphone-based SmartLabel system to allow consumers to find GMO information on the web through phone-based QR code on package labels. Legislation under development would require USDA to decide what biotech breeding methods would make a product genetically engineered. However, negotiations appear to have broken down in the Senate and several senators now say GMO labeling legislation is dead for the year.

On related topics, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave approval for domestic production of bioengineered salmon that grow twice as fast as salmon in the wild. Also, USDA's Biotechnology Regulatory Services is planning an overhaul to the way it regulates biotechnology. A proposed rule is slated to be available to the public by August.

#### Country of Origin Labeling

The U.S. is nervously awaiting the World Trade Organization

(WTO) announcement by December 7 regarding the amount of retaliatory tariffs Mexico and Canada can impose on U.S. goods in the country-of-origin trade dispute. Actual tariffs could be in place by December 18. The U.S. has floated a voluntary born and raised in the USA label which Canada and Mexico have rejected. If the WTO-announced tariffs are high (\$3 billion), Congress could, 1) create a compromise label acceptable to Canada and Mexico, or 2) repeal COOL in the omnibus package. If the announced tariffs are low (\$500 million), or if Congress doesn't act, tariffs could become an eminent reality.

#### Tax Extenders

End-of-the-year, last-minute renewal of expired tax breaks has become the norm for Congress. The list includes expanded Section 179 business expense allowance, the 50-percent bonus depreciation provision, tax subsidies on biodiesel and wind power, Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income workers, Child Tax Credit, repeal or revision of the so-called "Cadillac Tax" on high-value employer-sponsored healthcare plans and the medical device tax. Extenders are considered must-pass priorities to be included in the omnibus.

#### Actions on Additional Policy Issues Highway Bill

Solid bipartisan support for longer-term highway and infrastructure funding has resulted in a bill's passage through both the House and Senate and a Senate-House conference committee agreement. The five-year \$305 billion bill breezed through final House and Senate passage and is on its way to the President's desk where he is expected to sign it into law. The legislation includes a so-called "bulk milk provision" that allows states to issue bulk haulers permits that classify milk a "non-divisible load" between farms and processing plants thereby exempting milk haulers from the requirement to offload a portion of their load to comply with state truck weight limits. The

bill will be financed by a combination of import taxes, selling oil from the strategic petroleum reserve and withdrawals from the general fund. In an interesting twist, Congress used the highway bill to reverse a \$3 billion cut to crop insurance enacted earlier in a budget agreement. The \$3 billion will be offset through a Federal Reserve dividend cut to big banks.

#### Renewable Fuel Standards

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finally announced its renewal fuel volume obligations for 2016. The target is 18.11 billion gallons, with the potential for approximately 14.5 billion gallons coming from corn ethanol and the remaining 3.61 billion gallons from advanced biofuels. These targets are significantly above the 17.4 billion gallons initially proposed earlier this year but far below the 22.3 billion gallons set by Congress in 2007 legislation. Mixed reactions have come from the renewable fuel industry, corn farmers and the oil industry.

#### Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Task Force Proposes Drone Registration

Recommendations from a FAA task force would require drones weighing more than a half pound to contain an identifying number that can be traced back to an owner. The proliferation of drones has become a safety concern for pilots who share air space with novice drone operators.

#### Stay Tuned

Congress hopes to adjourn the first session of the 114th Congress on December 18. That's just two weeks from now with a year's worth of work to do. Watch for long nights and weekend work on Capitol Hill that could close in on Christmas.

Questions and comments regarding the National Grange Policy Updates and News can be directed to Burton Eller, Legislative Director at [beller@nationalgrange.org](mailto:beller@nationalgrange.org) or (202) 628-3507 extension 114.

# Winter is here



**Marge Bernhardt**  
State Lecturer  
lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Happy New Year. I hope this finds everyone in good health ready to kick-start the Grange in 2016. While I always encourage you to visit other Granges, I would like to suggest that before you go out this winter, you call and make sure the Grange is meeting. As our membership gets older, we tend to cancel more meetings. For a lot of

us, 35, 40 or 50 years ago it was an adventure to go out in a storm. Now, it can be a safety concern. When you can't get out, you can still do your part for the Grange. Why not write a letter to a soldier serving anywhere in harms' way. A good place to start would be a letter to a service man or woman serving in Afghanistan. Don't have an address? No problem. You can go on line to anysoldier.com or you can send the letters to me. Letters that I get are sent to Chaplains or their Assistants who see that they get distributed to personnel who don't get mail from home. It is amazing how many there are serving who never get a letter or a box of goodies from home. If your Grange has never done this before, wouldn't it be great if you could be the one to start a new project and get recognized for it at State Session. This project comes under the Lecturers' Department but you do not have to be a Lecturer to participate.

Has your Grange received an invitation to a Neighbors Night recently. It would be nice if we could all get out and visit other Granges. Not only will you have a good time and renew acquaintances with old friends but you will help the other Grange out. And please be sure and answer these invitations whether or not anyone from your Grange plans to attend. Granges are noted for the good food they serve and they really need to know how many visitors are coming.

Have a safe winter. I can't help but think that we are going to pay in January and February for the good weather we have had in November and December.

**Granger Shout Out**

**A big thank you from the Social Connection to everyone who donated items for our Shoebox project - Social Connection Committee**

**Shout out from Cannon Grange to BillieSue Hollingsworth for organizing our 3rd annual Holiday Market**

**Shout out from Cannon Grange to Doug Shepherd for room set up & sign making for the Holiday Market**

**Shout out from Cannon Grange to Julie Wanamaker & Bill Mikulewicz for creating beautiful posters for the Market**

**Shout out from Cannon Grange to Michele Clark for organizing & MCing our first annual Acoustic Night**

**Submit your Shout-Outs today!**  
 Granger@CTStateGrange.org  
 Mail to: P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, Connecticut 06069

## Thank you from My Sister's Place

Dear Friends,  
 Your generous gift to My Sister's Place means a great deal to us. Your contribution of \$750 is greatly appreciated and will assist us in serving the men, women and children in our care.  
 For over 30 years, My Sister's Place has established itself as a safe haven for mothers and children needing shelter from the storm. When they arrive at My Sister's Place, they bring only the clothes they have on their backs. We provide the warmth of a home, clothing, diapers, formula, and supportive services to help them weather the storm.  
 Thank you again for your generosity. Our mission would be impossible without support from friends such as you.  
 Yours truly,  
 Diane Paige Blondet, Director      Robert Dunbar, Vice President of Development

# WINDOW TO THE PAST

Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a history to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us 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](mailto:submissions@ctstategrange.org).



**Last Month**



We heard from Phyllis Beard who confirmed the November photo — Pictured are Ruthola Stott, Don Beard, Marian Peterson and Winthrop Platt. We also heard from Henry & Nancy Rottman, confirming the November photo information as well.

Don't wait for someone else to send in an answer! Contacting us couldn't be any easier. Call or email your answers even if you're not sure if they are correct. As the paragraph above states, we don't always know the answers ourselves so your thoughts and ideas may lead us to the correct answers. We can't wait to hear from you!

# Social Connection



**Joanne Cipriano**  
Social Connection Director  
Social@ctstategrange.org

I'm back – sorry I haven't communicated with you via the Connecticut Granger for the past two issues. Both my computer and I were on the sick list. Don't know why but for the last couple of years I came home from the State Session with a cold that lasted about 4 weeks. I'm feeling a little bit better than my computer.

By now you know that Nancy Weissmuller of North Stonington Grange was chosen as the "Granger of the Year." A very deserving recipient. We had some very good nominations so we know the Granges are in good hands.

We want to thank everyone who donated items for our "Reach Out" project. 37 shoe boxes of items were put together and delivered to the West Haven Veterans

Hospital by committee member Barbara Robert. Good job, Barbara. We are looking for a project for this year. Any suggestions??

Please save the date May 21, 2016 and plan to attend our next activity. The theme is "Teamwork" and it will be a FUN night being held at Cheshire Grange. The menu is homemade soup and over-stuffed sandwiches plus dessert all for the low price of \$5.00.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone who sent condolences on the passing of my sister-in-law Linnea. My brother Bob and I and our family appreciate your thoughtfulness. Linnea was a golden sheaf member of Beacon Valley Grange.

## Pomona Forum Scheduled

The ongoing discussion about the purpose and viability of Pomona will continue with a Pomona Forum at Cheshire Grange Hall on Sunday, February 28 beginning at 2:00P. M. The meeting will be facilitated by Jim Tetreault, Past National Lecturer and Past Master of the New Hampshire State Grange. It's important that every member has the opportunity to be heard and to discuss the future of Pomona in Connecticut and this forum is being designed to give members that opportunity in a fair and open-minded discussion. Refreshments will be provided.

Please join us on February 28. Cheshire Grange Hall is located at 44 Wallingford Rd. in Cheshire, CT 06410. Please call or email the State Master at President@CTStateGrange.org if you have any questions.

## Grange Name Word Search

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| Beacon Valley | Granby          | North Stonington | Stafford    |
| Bethlehem     | Greenfield Hill | Norwich          | Stonington  |
| Bridgewater   | Groton          | OldLyme          | Taghannuck  |
| Cannon        | Harmony         | Oxford           | Vernon      |
| Cawasa        | Hemlock         | Pachaug          | Wallingford |
| Cheshire      | Higganum        | Preston City     | Whigville   |
| Colchester    | Hillstown       | Prospect         | Winchester  |
| Coventry      | Killingly       | Putnam           | Wolcott     |
| Echo          | Litchfield      | Redding          | Wolf Den    |
| Ekonk         | Lyme            | Riverton         |             |
| Enfield       | Manchester      | Senexet          |             |

## In Memoriam

Linnea Behlman, G.S. Beacon Valley #103  
Contance McBrien, G.S. Hemlock #182

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

## State Chaplain

### Making Time for God



Charles Dimmick, State Chaplain



Charleen used to say that, when she was a little girl, she thought that Church was at 11 am on Sundays because that's when God had office hours. Her father was a college professor, and she had heard him speak of office hours as the time set aside for meeting with his students, so it was a logical conclusion, based on inadequate information, that God set aside a certain time to meet with

his worshipers. In reality, of course, God is always available to meet with us; the problem is that we forget to set aside time to meet with God. Back when I was still teaching I had a similar problem with my students: I would set aside six to eight hours a week when I would be sure to be in my office to meet with my students, and very seldom had anyone come to see me, until the last week of the semester when some of them began to panic about how they were doing [or not doing] in their course work. And I often told them that I wished they had come to see me sooner. God must feel the same way.

I suggest, as a New Year's discipline, that we all should try to set aside some time each day to commune with God, not just for an hour on Sunday morning. Perhaps one should start in a small way, saying that "starting this week I will try to say a few prayers and read a bible verse every Wednesday", and then when this has become ingrained as a habit, add another day. I'm still not perfect on this myself, but after several years of trying I get in a bit of Morning Prayer or other devotion Sunday through Thursday almost every week. It's a matter of discipline. And it doesn't need to be done in a church or chapel or on your knees. When I was still working I did my daily devotions while commuting to work (minus the scripture reading, which really shouldn't be done while driving).

One way to be reminded about this is to arrange for a suggested prayer service to be sent to you once or twice a day by e-mail. I use <http://dailyoffice.org> but there are several other such services if you look for them, such as [http://dailyprayer.us/daily\\_devotion.php](http://dailyprayer.us/daily_devotion.php) and <http://www.plough.com/en/subscriptions/daily-prayer>. Or one should feel free to improvise whatever feels comfortable to you. There are no rules. God just wants you to keep in touch.

Whatever you do be sure to set aside some of this time just to listen to what God may be trying to say to you. Don't let the noise of the world drown out God's still small voice.