



Happy St. Patrick's Day
Happy Easter



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Connecticut Granger



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

Vol. 56, No. 6

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

March 2016

State Master



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

themselves, which is one of the mistakes we have made over the years. New members are like plants, we prepare the soil, plant the good seed, water and hoe the weeds. Once the plant begins to bloom we should say our job is done, take care of yourself, the weed will return and choke our plant and it will wither and die. So will new members if we don't nurture them, welcome them, involve them, enthuse them, they will wither and die from our Grange. Let's work together to mentor new members.

Last year the Connecticut State Grange Executive Committee announced the values of the Connecticut State Grange. They were (and are): HONESTY, COMMUNITY, CHARITY, INTEGRITY, FRIENDSHIP AND CTZIENSHIP. We as Grangers all should project these values and strive to obtain these values within our Community Granges, these Values are the foundation of the Grange and if we work toward them we all will benefit from the lesson they teach all of us. In the First Degree the Steward tells the women, "Wearing that garment is to teach you that those we admit into our circle are not chosen by outward appearance, and that we are not deceived by display in dress. It is to the mind ad heart that we look for all good workers." This is for both men and women. So when you join- leave the drama, negative, and ill will outside the outer gate and join the team that will get things done for all.

We are bombarded with social media, Facebook, Twitter, etc. These all can be positive tools for the growth of our Granges, but they can also bring negative comments, rants, and non-productive comments to our Granges. Monitor what your members are doing on social media and remove or educate on the misuse of the

The preparations for spring are all around us. The mailman has delivered numerous seed catalogs, articles on new planting techniques and new and improved tools or equipment to improve or reduce our labor. Mother Nature has begun to bring forth signs of Spring. The redwing blackbirds have returned to the marshes, peppers will be calling in the night. Skunk cabbage will sprout in the wetlands. These sights and sounds tell us spring is near, so we need to prepare now for the work before us. March has always amazed me as the dead grasses turn overnight into small green shoots breaking through the dead cold soil, into the emerald carpet, tree branches bud into leafy banners, celebrating the arrival of spring.

Springtime also brings new challenges to our Community Granges, New members are welcomed into our halls and the lessons of the Grange are explained to them, so we should make sure that mentors are assigned to these new members. They should answer questions, explain events or ritual that new members may not understand, call new members as to meeting nights or activities they might enjoy. They should offer to take them to a neighboring Grange so they can meet other Grangers and see what other Community Granges are doing. We tend to bring in new members and then let them fend for

comments that have been posted. We want to promote the good and helpful not the trash or smut that we have all witnessed on some sites. What you say today will be there forever, so let's all play nice.

March 16th will be Ag Day at the State Capitol. The Ag. Committee, Legislative Committee and I, along

with Hank will be there to meet and talk to legislators and the Governor. This is always a great event to go to so you can see how much agriculture is in Connecticut.

Spring brings Inspections, so please welcome Deputies or others to your halls and be prepared for inspections. Inspections are not to judge

you but to see how your meetings are conducted and the activities your Grange does throughout the year. I thank you for your support and friendship given to my Deputies.

Finally, I wish all a Happy Easter and hope you see the miracle of spring.

Cannon hosts Apple Blossom School



On January 21, Cannon Grange hosted its neighbors from the Apple Blossom School, which told us about their program, and Waldorf education. Fifty people attended. Pictured (front, l to r) Jessica Khoshabo, Marcia Marquis and Camille Lawrence from ABS, (Back, l to r) Doug Shepherd, Master, and John Kriz, Lecturer of Cannon Grange.

NGM discontinues shield policies

Todd Gelineau, State Secretary

Many Granges insured through National Grange Mutual (NGM)/Main Street America (MSA) will be receiving a letter as their policies come up from renewal. NGM has decided to discontinue the "shield" policies that many of our Granges have held for a number of years.

Letters of non-renewal are being sent to Granges as the policies come up for renewal. For some Granges, these letters have been a shock and a source of a small amount of panic. The letters are being sent out well in advance of expiration of the policies but it's important to find a new carrier as soon as possible.

We strongly urge you to contact your agent to discuss your options. In most cases, your agent will work to get a new

policy in place for you. We have heard of one case where the agency suggested the Grange find their own policy. Hopefully this is an isolated situation. Your agent is there to serve your insurance needs.

There has also been a question of how National Grange Mutual can stop issuing Grange policies. Unfortunately, NGM has not been a Grange company for many years now and our only real connection to the company is the use of the Grange name. They have made a business decision that severely impacts our Granges.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please call me at the Central Office 860-633-7550 or at home 860-307-1522. We will try to give point you in the right direction.

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& Hank's Travelogue

Also...

A look at the first Master of the first Connecticut State Grange



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

Scan this QR
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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.



The second time around for last month's Window Picture didn't result in any new information. Do you have an idea? Please let us know!



Tough budget talk from Governor Malloy



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

Gordon F. Gibson, State Legislative Comm.

Governor Malloy delivered his budget message to the General Assembly on Feb. 4, the opening day of the 2016 session of the General Assembly. He did not pull any punches but told the legislators the State has to live within its income. This is similar to the head of a family telling everyone their credit cards are maxed out and they will have to survive paying cash for everything.

In both cases the big question is how to do it. Governor Malloy offered

some guidelines for the General Assembly.

The State needs to acknowledge that not all projects are essential core projects and prioritize spending to only what are really core projects. This means cutting spending on things that are nice to have but are not really necessities. The problem is that different people have different priorities. This includes both the legislators and the general public. It is like a family with several children, each of whom has a different idea of what is the most important thing for the family to have.

The Governor urged the General Assembly to reduce spending by all state departments but also to give the department heads more discretion in how they are going to use their limited funds. At present the General Assembly passes a budget with a great amount

of detail concerning what the funds are to be spent on. The problem is that situations arise during the year which require prompt action but the agencies cannot do much about those situations because they do not have enough funds detailed to those particular kinds of situations. Going back to the family analogy, it is like having a washing machine break down beyond repair but not replacing it because money has been set aside for a new clothes dryer, not a new washing machine. The Governor's proposal is like the head of a family telling the children they will each have a certain amount of money to spend on whatever they want, but when it's gone, it's gone and don't come back asking for any more money.

Pensions for state employees are another major issue in the budget. Pension plans have been revised

from time to time to match what private industry is offering their employees. Like private industry, those who have worked for the State for a certain time are "grandfathered" into the pension plan they started with while new employees are offered only the current pension plan. The problem today is that the State did not make the contributions it was supposed to make into the oldest plan. Most all the employees who were in that plan are now retired and the State is obligated to pay these retirees the pensions they are entitled to receive.

Governor Malloy is asking the General Assembly to acknowledge there is not enough money in the pension fund to pay the State's obligation to these retirees and pay them directly out of current income. Employees enrolled in the newer retirement plans have money deducted

from their paychecks and invested in programs similar to the defined contribution plans generally available to new employees in private industry today.

Governor Malloy has also recommended no new tax increases this year. The reason behind this is very simple. All the members of the General Assembly are up for reelection this year. Those seeking reelection know any tax increase will hurt their chances for reelection, regardless of their political affiliations.

Meanwhile, all the individual legislators are filing bills to be considered this year including many bills to reduce the state income tax in various ways. Those all sound good on paper, particularly in an election year, but given the State's financial situation most of those bills will not even get a public hearing this year.

National Grange legislative updates

Burton Eller,
National Leg. Director

The President's Budget
President Obama released his proposed FY'17 government budget to Congress February 9. Its progressive vision of governance could influence the upcoming presidential election and define much of the President's legacy. Among popular bipartisan items in the president's budget plan are \$1 billion investments in cancer research, prescription drug abuse and heroin-use treatment. The spending blueprint also proposes a \$19 billion investment in federal cybersecurity infrastructure. USDA's agriculture research and education budget would receive additional funding for research grants and in-house research on safe water, climate change response, soil health, food safety and quality, pollinator health, antimicrobial resistance, foreign animal diseases, and avian influenza. One of the most unpopular proposals is a \$10.25 tax per barrel of oil to fund a slew of clean air initiatives. Agriculture has given a frigid reception to the president's proposal to cut more than \$1 billion from crop insurance in fiscal 2017. Also unpopular among growers is the proposal to initiate user fees for regulatory implementation of the FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Missing from the administration's budget are attempts to rein in spending for Social Security and Medicare, the main drivers of the nation's debt. Instead, the budget addresses the debt problem by increasing the revenue/tax side of the balance sheet.

Now it's Congress' turn at the budget process, adopting the sections it likes striking the sections it doesn't like and substituting its own priorities. The twelve Senate and House appropriations committees will attempt to finish their work in the coming months before another omnibus spending bill becomes necessary for FY'17 on October 1.

Congress' Unfinished Business

Congress heads into election year with some major unfinished business affecting food and agriculture. School nutrition programs and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission need to be reauthorized. Several states are poised to require labeling on foods containing GMO ingredients unless Congress preempts with a federal standard. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade pact will be ready for action by Congress. Opponents of the administration's Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule will continue attempts to keep the regulation from taking effect. Here's where several major issues stand:

GMO Labeling: The easiest legislative fix to preempt state labeling laws was to insert language in the must-pass omnibus spending bill back in December. That didn't happen because of objections in the Senate. Last fall there appeared to

be growing support for a voluntary certified GMO-free label which protects the consumer's right to know. However opposition grew from within the organic food industry. Apparently organic producers feared a GMO-free label would compete with food labeled organic. The food industry, led by the Grocery Manufacturers Association, proposes a new SmartLabel smartphone disclosure system to provide consumers the information they want about food ingredients including the presence of GMOs and allergens, nutrition information as well as environmental, religious and sustainability factors. Six Senators including Blumenthal and Murphy of Connecticut, Sanders and Leahy of Vermont, Markey of Massachusetts and Tester of Montana are questioning the feasibility of SmartLabel at this time since a third of consumers do not have smartphones. Secretary Vilsack on behalf of the administration has tried to broker a compromise but to no avail. The GMO labeling issue continues to be divisive. The National Grange policy states that, until scientific studies indicate real health risks exist, the Grange should oppose the mandatory labeling of genetically modified products. The Grange does support the voluntary labeling of foods that are verified and certified free of GMO ingredients.

Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP): Trade is traditionally a bipartisan issue with supporters and detractors on both sides of the aisle. President Obama and congressional leaders want the landmark, twelve-nation trade deal passed this year. But TPP is already embroiled in election year politics both in Congress and along the presidential primaries trail. Candidates Clinton, Sanders, Trump and Cruz oppose TPP. Congress will not act on TPP before elections which would leave it for the post-election lame duck session of Congress or punt it to the next president for 2017. The National Grange advocates for the creation of fair trade agreements that will be beneficial and flexible while protecting jobs and the American dream.

Waters of the United States (WOTUS): Implementation of the WOTUS rule has been temporarily suspended by court rulings to allow legal challenges by more than two dozen states to proceed. In December, 2015, Congress added language to the Omnibus spending bill that no FY'16 funds shall be used to implement WOTUS, effectively holding the rule at bay until October, 2016. In January, 2016, Congress passed a resolution (House 255-166, Senate 53-44) to redefine jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act that would kill the WOTUS rule; the President vetoed the resolution. The Senate fell eight votes short of overriding



the veto. WOTUS will continue to be a hot topic in Congress.

Regulatory Issues to Watch in 2016

WOTUS: Becoming known as the mother of all regulatory issues, the Waters of the United States rule is the top priority of most farm, ranch and landowner groups. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati has stayed implementation nationwide and will decide whether challenge to the rule should be litigated in the appeals court or district courts. Vast areas of agricultural land, idle lands and forest lands appear to be subject additional regulation if the rule is allowed to stand. EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers are not backing down and have said they look forward to vigorously defending the merits of WOTUS. As litigation moves forward this year, stay tuned for news from the court. The National Grange opposes any mandate that suggests all watersheds are to meet the same water quality standard and finds no basis for the federal government extending its WOTUS regulatory arm across all waters at every location in the country.

Clean Power Plan: The most sweeping anti-coal move in history would impose carbon dioxide emissions limits for the first time on existing power plants. Known as the Clean Power Plan, the rule is designed to cut carbon pollution 32 percent over 2005 levels by 2030 even though EPA acknowledges harmful air pollution has been reduced by 70 percent since 1970. It is designed to accelerate the shift away from coal as the chief source of electricity generation toward natural gas, wind and solar power. A large number of older facilities would be forced to close thus greatly reducing electric generation capacity for the immediate future until alternative, cost effective generation facilities become available. The Supreme Court has ordered a halt to enforcement of the Clean Power Rule until utilities, miners and more than two dozen state legal challenges plus 30 additional suits are resolved. The D.C. Circuit Court is slated to review the merits of the many lawsuits challenging the plan on June 2. The National Grange policy supports all forms of viable energy development including traditional fossil fuels, wind, solar, hydroelectric and biofuels that deliver power to citizens as cheaply as possible in a reliable manner.

Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA): This law was signed I 2011 but the regulations are still trickling in. The latest one published is the final Product Safety Rule which requires water used to grow produce or water that might come into contact with produce be tested for microbial contamination.

Unmanned Aerial Aircraft (Drones): Drones are a boon for precision agriculture, allowing producers to monitor crop health and areas of fields that need more or less inputs such as nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus and trace minerals.

Drones are becoming options to replace horses, ATVs and pickups for surveillance of wildlife, cattle herds, fences, trespass and boundaries. As drone use expands, air space safety becomes a priority. Support is growing for technology that will make drones detectable by ag aviators, requirements that drones be painted colors that make them readily distinguishable from their background and certification for drone operators. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is expected to propose a set of regulations later this year. Because of privacy and air safety concerns, the National Grange will play a major role as policy is created to regulate the use of drones in agriculture.

Farm Policy Recommendations for Presidential Candidates

The nonpartisan agricultural think tank Agree has some policy recommendations for the country's presidential candidates. Agree co-chair and former Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman said these recommendations are needed to help farmers and ranchers overcome challenges with market volatility, drought, floods, disease, food safety and a reliable labor supply. The next president should:

- Strongly support research and innovation for food and agriculture
- Ensure a stable workforce through immigration reform
- Empower the next generation of entrants into agriculture
- Strengthen risk management policies and practices
- Bolster conservation and working landscapes
- Reduce healthcare risks through food and nutrition
- Respond to changing consumer demands through local food
- Address global hunger and malnutrition through international development

Struggles Ahead for Rural Areas

The USDA has released its 2015 "Rural America at a Glance" annual report. According to the report, many rural areas continue to experience population loss,

higher poverty rates and lower educational attainment. Some of the highlights are:

Rural employment grew one percent from 2014; urban employment rose two percent

The proportion of rural adults with four-year degrees is thirteen percent lower than urban areas.

Population declined in two out of three rural counties

Rural poverty remains high. Economic recovery after the 2008 recession has been stagnant for most rural residents

More About Food

Food is a necessity of life we Americans take for granted. Food is plentiful, nutritious, convenient and cheap here compared to most of the world. We have a wide variety of foods, preparation styles and ingredient choices. Food choices can be deemed healthy, unhealthy or a combination. Here are some updates concerning our food.

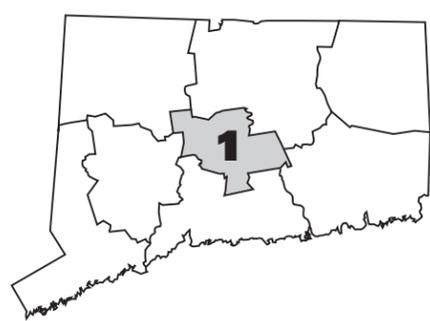
Dietary Guidelines: The 2015 edition of Dietary Guidelines for Americans, the latest edition of federal dietary advice, was released in January. Reaction from most quarters has been largely positive. It recommends filling half your plate with fruits and vegetables then the other half with whole grains and protein like lean meat, while topping it all off with low or non-fat dairy products.

Natural Foods: According to Consumer Reports, 62% of U.S. shoppers regularly bought foods with "natural" label and 42% mistakenly believe the presence of the word "natural" on a food means it's been verified, checked or certified in some way. In reality, there are no federal requirements or guidelines for food to be labeled as "natural" as there are for organic and other certified food labels.

The FDA does not restrict the use of "natural" on a food label so consumers may have been trusting in a label that means nothing at all. FDA has announced it is accepting comments for a more defined standard of what can be labeled "natural". The Consumers Union will soon release its own recommendations for labeling rules.

A Menu for 2050: Feeding the world's growing population is a front-of-mind topic around the world. Science, technology and ingenuity will certainly enhance agriculture producers' abilities to meet that challenge. Here are a few possible foods of the future which may help feed the masses, 1) Functional foods optimized to meet the nutritional profiles of children, the elderly, women and men, 2) Insects efficiently convert feedstocks to protein and there are 1,900 edible insect species on earth, 3) Algae could be the superfood of the future, offering more vitamins, minerals, protein and iron than fruits or vegetables; it's cheap to produce and grows abundantly, 4) Lab grown in-vitro meat is a reality but more research is needed to make it textured, tastier and cheaper.

Central Pomona No. 1



- Central #1
- Southington #25
- Meriden #29
- Higganum #124
- Hemlock #182



HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Mar. 11: St. Patty's Day

Mar. 12: Amy Gallatin & Stillwaters, 7:30 P.M. Bluegrass. For tickets, call Maureen at 860-342-0290.

Mar. 25: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



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



SENEKET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Mar. 16: Has Spring Sprung Yet?

We are meeting regularly during this winter.

The Dairy 4H Club and the AARP meet regularly at our hall.

We are busy keeping the hall in good order and the parking area safe.

A contra dance group will be performing in March.

Scholarship applications will be delivered to the local high school.

Long-time member Idabelle Chapman passed away at the age of 104.

We will be having a Christmas in July event to sell a collection of Christmas decorations.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Sybil Williams

Feb. 10: Homemade Valentine Contest and Presidents

Mar. 9: Spring Fling

Our January meeting

was held on a cold, slick, very windy evening but inside the building it was warm and welcoming. The entertainment for the evening was meant to get you thinking and sometimes we were really put to the test but we all came through. It was stimulating on a cold night and helped take our minds off the weather we had to face when the meeting ended. Next month will be our homemade valentine contest. We would love to have you visit us and bring your entry for our contest. Second Wednesday at 7 P.M.

Maybe, just maybe, if you study the seed catalogs long enough Spring will come. It will be time to start the seeds inside before you know it. I hope!

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Ekonk Community Grange is thinking

SPRING! March 4th the Juniors will be entertained by a very special visitor--it is a surprise for the kids! This begins at 6:00 p.m. Then on March 7th, the adult Grange, meeting starting at 7:30 p.m., will have an outstanding program featuring singing, guest pianist and lots of fun stories told by Program Director, Link Cooper. On Sat., March 12th, our series of outstanding suppers begins with you guessed it, Corned Beef and Cabbage! This crowd pleaser meal will be topped off with gingerbread and whipped cream for dessert. All suppers are \$12.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children ages 12 and under and preschoolers free. All suppers begin around 5:00 p.m. (if food is ready and a line is waiting, we let folks in earlier).

On March 13th, the Juniors, accompanied by the Easter Bunny, will visit Villa Maria Convalescent Home in Plainfield, with gifts for every resident March 19th will be the first in the Spring series of Square Dances, with caller Joe LoPresti and his band, "The Country Friends". Dances start at 7:30 p.m. and the admission is \$5.00. Beginning dancers welcomed! Call Katie at 860-564-1117 for questions. April 1st, the Juniors have a program on "Animal Rescues", beginning at 6:00 p.m. Sunday April 3rd will be a big day at the Grange. That afternoon at 1:00 p.m. a celebration luncheon will be held honoring members for their years of service. At the head of the list is Robert P. Jordan, longest serving Selectman in the history of Sterling, 80 years of continuous Grange membership and before that, he was a Junior Granger and Past Master! Voluntown's Arline Boucher will receive a certificate for 75 years continuous membership. Voluntown's Past Selectman, Willis Maynard, Barbara Stott

(Plainfield) and Celia Bennett (Canterbury) each awarded 70 year membership awards. Mary Bingham (Canterbury)-60 year recognition; Brother and Sister, Russell Gray and Verna Cole (Sterling); Brother and Sister, Luther Thurlow and Ethel Larkin (Canterbury) and Lorna Champagne (Canterbury) all 5 year award recipients. Finally, Voluntown's Richard Laiho will receive his 25 year Grange membership certificate. The Community Grange welcomes Richmond Grange (RI) at the April 4th meeting, always a great evening-7:30 p.m.

April 15th, we take a program to Richmond--another fun evening. They also meet at 7:30 p.m. April 16th, the Juniors are sponsoring a Spaghetti & meatball supper and the program will feature "Ranger Russ"--call Rebecca Gervais at 860-564-1139 for reservations! This event

will proceed the Square Dance at 8:00 p.m. that same night! April 23rd, Sterling Family Day committee is having a roast pork all you can eat supper at our Grange, beginning at 5:00 p.m. \$12.00 adults, \$6.00 ages 12 and under and preschoolers free. May 7th is the annual Mother's Day Plant and Bake Sale at our hall from 9-2.

The Grange annual Good Friday Chowder n' Clamcake supper will be Friday, March 25th, beginning at 5 p.m. Clear and white clam chowder as well as corn chowder will be available.

Admission is \$8.00 for adults, \$4.00 children ages 12 and under and preschoolers free. It is an all you can eat meal! Questions on any Grange supper: 860-564-2131.

You can like us on FACEBOOK anytime! The telephone number of the Grange is 860-230-0358.

Masters' Conference

The Masters of the various State Granges and the officers and directors of the National Grange meet annually during February for a weekend of updates, activities and Grange fun. This year's conference was held in Orlando, FL. Here's a few snapshots from Florida!



National Master Huber gives attendees an update on various topics from the National Grange.



National Lecturer Amanda Brozana (left) during the recent Master's Conference.



The group assembled at Master's Conf. in Orlando, FL.

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)

Periodicals postage paid at Winsted, CT 06098

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Connecticut Granger,
P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033-1393

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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

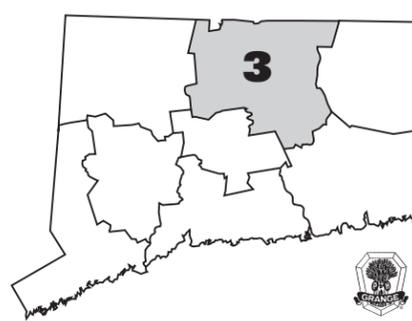
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East Central Pomona No. 3



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

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3 06259.

Corr: Noel Miller

Mar. 5: "Windy" – Host Coventry #75

Reminder of the 50 clothespin decoration contest. Bring your masterpiece for judging. Look to bring new members for the Fifth Degree in April.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Noel Miller

Mar. 3: Lion or Lamb-Speaker from Glastonbury High School Vo-Ag Program, Ref. Potluck desserts, Kay Ruff and all

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

Apr. 7: Meeting, 7:30 P.M., CWA Contest- Skit Night – Get Your Garden Ready; Ref. Priscilla Schmartz, Doris Monaco

Apr. 9: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7 P.M.

I hope everyone is enjoying this nice "open" winter that we are having so far this year. I know that I am. I keep looking at my roof and seeing just a little snow up there. I hope this continues so that I don't have to have it shoveled off.

Nothing much new happening at Glastonbury Grange at this time. I am sure we will probably have a "Foodless Bakeless Sale" this spring. At this time I don't have a date to publish.

The CWA is looking for members to make "Scrubbies" that we can donate to the New England Grange Building at the Big E. They sell really well and they ran out of them last year. Ann Posuniak, CWA Chairman, has the directions if you should need them.

We are always looking for new members. As your friends, neighbors, and relatives to join. If anyone enjoys doing community service type projects we would welcome them. Just contact me for an application or two, or three. We can have them join at any meeting. My telephone is 860-315-5336, email: kayeruff@gmail.com, address P.O. Box 192, Pomfret Center, CT

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

Mar. 4: On Getting Old

On Friday, March 4, we are going to be practicing our program on getting old. Then on March 15 we are getting our canes out and hobble down to Manchester Grange to put on our program for them. It will be fun visiting Manchester and they will be doing a program for us in June.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

Mar. 3: Spring, Ref. R. Macrobbie

Mar. 17: Ides of March, Ref. Noel/Marcia

Hope all is ready for spring, will be planning for a future fair event to relieve us from taxes. Will be working with the Coventry Ag Committee for plans. Note: Program book one day off, someone forgot leap year. Ha Ha Ha.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

In January we learned how badly endangered big cats are. Learning about their habitats that are dramatically changing from natural to urbandevelopments, plus scarcity of available food supplies and poaching, puts the numbers of lions and tigers of all species at an all time low. It would be sad indeed if the only remaining large wild cats are only to be seen in zoos. Bears are also getting fewer but have more easily adapted to mankind and are not yet endangered. As for Teddy bears, they are still beloved by all and don't show any signs of becoming extinct. We learned when they were introduced and when they became so very popular. It was surprising to hear members say they don't remember when they got

their first Teddy Bear. Do you?

If you plan to visit,



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

INSURANCE

Please read the article on the front page of this issue regarding National Grange Mutual. NGM has decided to discontinue "shield" policies for Granges and are issuing notices of non-renewal as they come up for renewal.

IRS 990N FILINGS

As of this writing, all of the filings done on the behalf of Granges have been completed and copies of acceptance receipts have been mailed back to the Granges. If your Grange has not received one, please contact me. If you are having difficulty filing, please contact me. It's extremely important to keep current with these filings. We have two Granges that are trying to restore their non-profit status with the IRS and it not an easy or quick process. The process for filing 990s only takes a few minutes but will ultimately saves a great deal of grief when it's not done.

The website used for filing the postcards will be changing soon, so it's

please check to see if the meeting has been postponed because of the

weather.

State Secretary

important to do your filing sooner than later. Launches of new websites don't always go very well and we wouldn't want you to fall victim to a system full of "bugs."

Shortly after the filing period ends, the IRS generates a list of all Granges that fall under our umbrella. We then have to go through that list and confirm each Grange that falls under our EIN.

NEW CERTIFICATES

I am very happy to report a new membership recognition program authorized by the State Grange Executive Committee. I'm sure you will agree that it's a very long wait between receiving a Silver Star Certificate and earning a Golden Sheaf. There has been a 40 year seal available but very few Granges take advantage of it.

In the coming weeks new certificates will be available to recognize 30, 35, 40 and 45 year members of the Grange. They will be signed by the State Master and State Secretary and will come in a folder created for us. While it may make for more work for our Secretaries, we believe it's a much needed incentive for our members. While 50 years is a wonderful achievement, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years are fantastic and should be recognized. As with the Silver Stars,

we will not charge for these certificates. While recognizing these milestones is optional, we hope your Grange will see the value in patting our members on the back for their contributions to the Order.

SILVER STAR CERTIFICATES

We have also designed new Silver Star Certificates that will be issued through the Connecticut State Grange and signed by the State Master and Secretary. It was felt that 25 years of continuous membership should be recognized personally by the State Grange with a certificate unique to us. All of these new certificates may be ordered by using the new pink order blanks provided to Secretaries recently. Simply indicate the years of recognition requested and we will take care of the rest.

The new certificates are based on a design used in the middle part of the last century featuring a farm landscape drawing. We thank the Hibbard family for donating a Silver Star Certificate from the 1950s to the State Grange and providing the inspiration.

INCORPORATION

It's that time of year again! Depending on your particular filing cycle, it's time to file your annual reports with the State of Connecticut Secretary of State's office. The preferred method of filing is electronic, but we are aware that many of our Granges are either unable to file electronically and/or are unable to pay the \$50 fee with a credit card. Please call the Secretary of State's Office in Hartford at 860-509-6100 if you need a waiver form for filing through the mail with a check.

As is the case with the 990s, some of our Granges are on a September schedule and will have to wait a bit longer to do their filings for the year.

Fortunately, this winter has been extremely kind to us and every mild day brings us one day closer to springtime. Until next time, enjoy St. Patrick's Day and have a wonderful Easter.



Two of the new membership recognition certificates the CT State Grange will be issuing to 25, 30, 35, 40 & 45 year members.

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



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

Next Mountain County Pomona Meeting:

Saturday, March 19
Meeting begins at 4:00 P.M.
Bring a dish for the potluck supper.

MOUNTAINCOUNTYPOMONA#4

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Mar. 19: Day Meeting @ Riverton Grange, 4 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to an error in the Handbook, the date of the next (Day) meeting of Mountain County Pomona is incorrect. As Easter falls on the fourth Saturday of March, the next meeting moves up to the prior Saturday, March 19. It's been a couple of years since we have been able to hold the day meeting as weather has been an issue. Hopefully warmer weather will be well represented that day as it is the first official day of spring. Don't forget that this meeting also features a potluck supper. So fill your car and we'll see you at Riverton Grange.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Mar. 8: Green, Green, Green, Ref. Potluck Supper at 6 P.M.

Mar. 22: CWA Program, Country Store, Ref. Todd Gelineau, Faith Quinlan

Mar. 26: Cabin Fever

& Bake Sale

As a precautionary measure, the first meeting of February was cancelled as snow was predicted (and several inches had fallen the day before). The snow didn't materialize that night but our members were able to stay warm and cozy at home. We should be back on track in March when our attention turns to our annual Cabin Fever Craft and Bake Sale. If you would like a table, please contact Ramona Fassio at 860-482-2733 and she will get you signed up. Members are also reminded that the bake sale is an important part of our fundraising activities for the year so consider donating an item or two.

At our last meeting, it was voted to continue working with Riverton Grange on the Dictionary Project. Riverton works very hard to get dictionaries into schools in four area towns—a very worthwhile project that is also supported by the Winchester Rotary Club.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Cindy Prelli

Mar. 4: Regular Meeting, Program in charge of the Lecturer

Mar. 19: Riverton Grange will host Mountain County Pomona

Apr. 1: Regular Meeting – Due to lack of candidates, degrees will NOT be conferred as previously announced

Good company, good food and fun was had by all as we celebrated our Anniversary on Friday, January 15, 2016. The men of Riverton Grange were the big winners of our A Number Contest- a competition between the men and women. Their skit entitled "Potluck Suppers at Grange" was enjoyed by all and gave everyone a good laugh. Members and friends enjoyed a delicious potluck supper prior to the program.

The Agricultural

Committee put on a very interesting and informative program on Friday, February 19 about beekeeping and dairy facts! Dressed in beekeeper regalia, Raine Peterson, our very own beekeeper, demonstrated the art and craft of beekeeping to all. She encouraged others to consider the hobby as our bees are becoming endangered. Amanda Freund, officer and employee of the Freund Farm, presented dairy facts as they pertain to nutrition and livestock.

Shirley Moore, President of Riverton Grange Fair, presented a detailed proposal for the fair that would help ensure a more robust well-attended fair on Saturday, August 20, 2016. The fair committee will be meeting soon and would appreciate input from

interested individuals.

A collaborative effort between the Winchester Rotary, Winchester Grange and Riverton Grange will provide dictionaries to all third grade students in Winchester, Barkhamsted, North Canaan and Falls Village. Presentation to the classes will take place in the spring.

Members of Riverton Grange look forward to hosting Mountain County Pomona on Saturday, March 19, 2016. The meeting will begin at 4 P.M., followed by a potluck supper and program.

The Lecturer is in charge of our next program on March 4, 2016. Please join us: Moe Gabelman and Bob O'Connor promise to have great refreshments!

My favorite spot in Connecticut



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

lecturer@ctstategrange.org

March 13th. Please make note of the date. Our Annual Pomona Lecturers' Meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. at Cheshire Grange Hall. All Grangers are invited to this meeting. I would especially like to invite Subordinate Lecturers. We need to revamp our projects and make some changes. It is important that we hear from everyone regarding their thoughts and ideas for changes in our current

programs and get input for some new programs. Hope to see you there. If there is bad weather I will call all Pomona Lecturers. Anyone else please call me. 203 272-4620.

The seven State Lecturers met at Leaders Conference and spent quite a bit of time discussing ways to improve Lecturers Conference. I think you will like the results. The 2016 Conference will be held August 1, 2, & 3 at Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

It will be hosted by the Rhode Island State Grange. The price will remain the same as last year. Each State will be putting on a program encouraging people to come and visit them. That having been said, I need some ideas for

numbers enticing people to come to Connecticut. Anything you can suggest, would be appreciated.

Who says 'nobody reads the Granger'? Well, I can prove them wrong. If you remember last fall I included the 1st Place Winning Essay in my article. In it Emily Alexander wrote about her front porch. Seems like her Sister read the article and presented Emily with a sign that read...

Welcome
To Our Porch
Sit*Relax*Gossip

It's time to take advantage of the Spring Weather and longer daylight hours and get out and visit our neighboring Granges. Hoping to see you around the State.

WINCHESTER GRANGE

CABIN FEVER

Craft & Bake Sale

Saturday, March 26th
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Spring Crafts and Gifts
 Delicious Luncheon and More!

Winchester Grange Hall

Route 263 and Newfield Rd.
 Winchester Center, CT



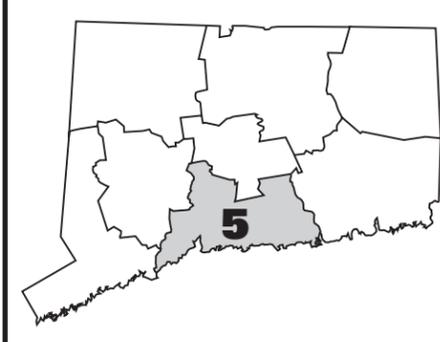
www.WinchesterGrange.org

1889 CT State Grange Quilt



This photo was found in the archives at the State Grange Central Office. The description on the back of the photo reads: Quilt made by Mrs. T.S. Gold, wife of the first Treasurer of the CT State Grange in Jan. 1889, shown at State Session in 1953. Pictured with the quilt are, then State Master Ira F. Wilcox and Helen Reynolds Wilcox. Does anyone know where this quilt may be now?

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



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



NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

Corr: Wesli Dymoke

Mar. 14: Springtime

The program for our next meeting will be the Talent & A-Number run-offs for the Pomona.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Daniel Lauttenbach

Mar. 2: Springtime

Mar. 16: Competitive Program

We had to change the March 16 Ballroom Fever program to April 6th and the April 6th Competitive Program back to March 16th as shown above.

As mentioned in earlier articles, our craft nights continue as well as our collecting of items for our troops and the Cheshire Food Bank. Our open meeting on February 3rd (a box supper with a Valentines motif) and our Legislative program on the government and our health care system were enjoyed by all.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Daniel Lauttenbach

Mar. 10: "Maple Syrup".

A guest speaker will be talking about making maple syrup.

Mar. 24: "CWA" Janet Haller will be in charge of the program.

Jan 14 - "Happy Year". Meeting was canceled.

Jan 28 - "Movie Night". Agriculture: Vern reported that greenhouses are loading up for spring flowers. He also mentioned that a farm on the Connecticut River with 70 acres farming rights was being preserved by the state. Dan mentioned that the Bilger Farm in Meriden was also another farm that the Farmland Trust helped to save. He also mentioned that one of the state legislators was proposing a bill to make it harder for the state to sell off or swap land that is already state park land. Janet reported on the CWA needlework contests and collecting for soup kitchens. She also mentioned to start getting Fair Ads and Boosters. She also mentioned that Terry was working on a new design for our fair's premium book. It was proposed that we do the Mother's Day Flower sale again this year on the Saturday before Mother's Day.

Our movie night had an agriculture theme and was about forcing bulbs in the winter in your house. The first of three YouTube videos was a preview for the next two. The title of this video was "Forcing Bulbs for Winter Color-Indoors". Basically it went over the basics but it had really amazing flowers with

lots of colors and lasted about 2 minutes. The next video was called "How to Force Spring Bulbs to Grow indoors in the Winter". This was more of a nuts and bolts video going in depth on how to force Daffodils, Hyacinth, and Amaryllis. This was definitely worth watching because there was lots of advice on how to plant, placing the bulbs and watering them. They also talked about how to "gin them up" in order to

stiffen up the plant's stalks. The last video was called "Forcing Paper Whites, a How to Video with Glenwood Weber" and was about 6 minutes long. This video dealt with just with paper whites and covered the some topics as the last video but things to learn and see here, too. They also showed the plants in their various stages in growth by the week so you can get an idea to expect how long before growth appears, for

them to mature and how long the flowers last, what to do when the flowers go by and preparing them for planting outside. YouTube was a tremendous resource on this topic. I also found a video called "Prairie Yard & Garden: Peonies" which was about 30 minutes long about a garden center out in Minnesota that sells peonies and they have some amazing plants. Go check it out.

Cheshire Grange No. 23



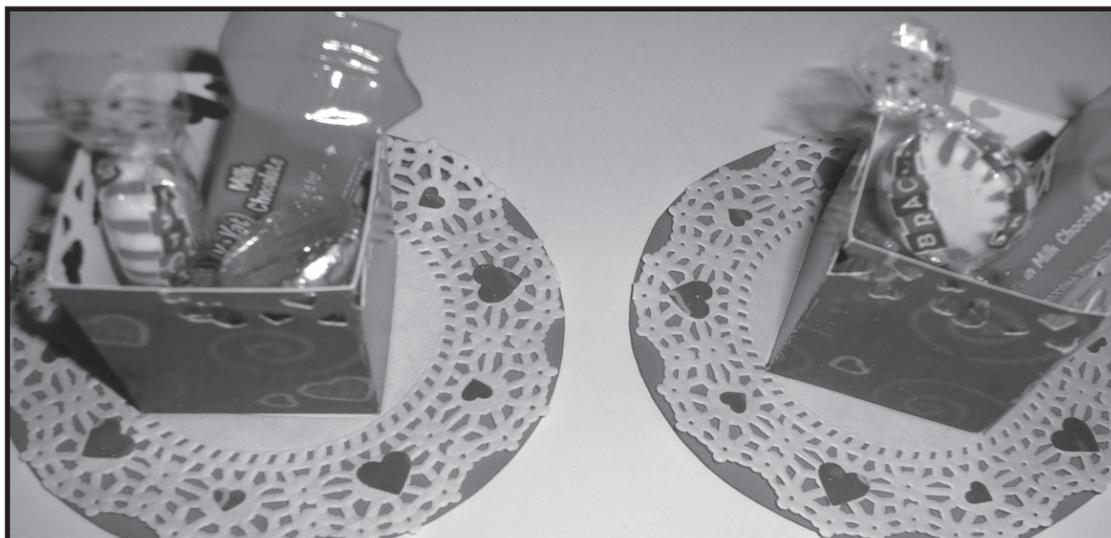
Boxes of candy being packaged up prior to being sent to Aghanistan.



Some of the pretty boxed suppers from Cheshire's Valentine's Day Boxed Supper.



Cheshire members enjoying their Valentine's Boxed Suppers in February.



Tray favors made by the members of Cheshire Grange for the residents of Marbridge.



American Values.
Hometown Roots.



CHESHIRE
GRANGE HOSTS

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

CORNER BEEF
DINNER

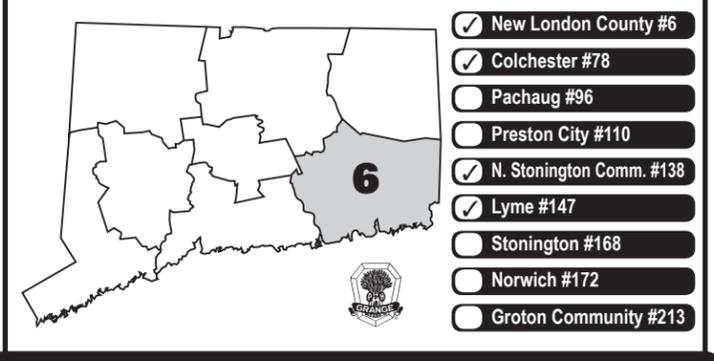
SATURDAY
MARCH 12
6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: 44 WALLINGFORD ROAD, CHESHIRE

Adults: \$12.00
Children 5 - 12: \$5.00
Under 5: Free

You can order/reserve tickets by calling:

New London County Pomona No. 6



NEWLONDONCTY.POMONA#6

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller
Mar. 12: Talent & A-Number Show- North Stonington

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

- 1- Sound System from Stonington Grange, Richard Roberts
- 2- Gift certificate to Turkey Hill Farms from North Stonington Grange, Martha Bowman
- 3- Gift certificate to Hart's from Norwich Grange, Gladys Chase
- 4- Gardening Basket from Colchester Grange, Sandy Dart
- 5- Gift Certificate to Olive Garden from Lyme Grange, Richard Roberts
- 6- Gift Certificate to Lowes from Pachaug Grange, Sandy Dart
- 7- Gift Certificate to Lopreste Farm from Preston City Grange, Clarissa Mathewson
- 8- 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!).

It has been a quiet winter so far and we hope it remains so. We hope to see an entry from each Grange in the Talent and A-Number competitions at North Stonington Grange on March 12. This should be an enjoyable evening for all.

The seasons are changing, the snow softly falls,

We find our world bounded by four boring walls.

But the earth keeps on trav'ling through space, day by day,

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

~~~~~  
 There's lots of talent out there if you'll only look around.

So check out all your members and see what can

be found!

Then gather them together and get into your car,

And held out to North Stonington, it's not very far.

### COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Bonnie Trecarten

Due to inclement weather we were unable to have a regular meeting this month. We are planning on re-scheduling at a later date in better weather.

Colchester Grange members would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our past Chaplain, Jim Miller for his work at the Soup Kitchen in Willimantic. Jim is a tireless volunteer and his work is appreciated by both other volunteers and those that depend on the soup kitchen for their meals.

Also, best wishes for a speedy recovery to Lois Evankow who is currently recovering from an illness at Apple Rehab Center in Old Saybrook. Lois is a regular at our meetings in Colchester and contributes a great deal to our Grange and we appreciate all she does. Get well soon Lois, we miss you.

Will have more next month, so until then hope all are enjoying the white stuff and staying warm!

### NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller  
**Mar. 11:** "March Forward!"

**Mar. 25:** "Be Unstoppable"

We are happy to welcome Richard Chapman as a member of our Grange. We hope this means we will see more of his brother, Arlie, too. They are both very special gentlemen.

We held only one meeting in January with the fourth Friday saved for a snow date. Thank goodness this winter is proving to be milder than last year's (so far!). The program for the evening was in the charge of the Agriculture and Conservation Committee and Jason Miner presented a delightful computer game in which there were

questions and jokes hidden behind 42 numbers on the screen. We learned and laughed a lot.

Our March 11 program is Officer Exchange and Ritual Night. On March 25 we will be treated to the Lecturer's State Contest entry "What's Cookin'?" Sue always puts together a marvelous program so be sure not to miss this one! And if that little black kitty cat who hangs out under my bird feeder will just stay at home, next time I'll tell you about fabulous February.

### LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Richard Chapman

**April 7:** Shipwreck Party; Neighbors Night

The debut of our "G" note jar resulted in a shower of "G" dollars to launch this fun State Grange contest. Members were asked to capture all the "G" dollars they can find and bring them to Grange throughout the year to be tallied in September.

The groundhog (Riley Tefft) visited our February meeting and was a big hit. Skip and Nancy Beebe sang a John Lennon song, Grow Old With Me with Skip playing the guitar. It was awesome! It was a song they had sung at their wedding. Rounding out a most enjoyable program was music by Ron Purinton and Dan Mutchler.

We are so glad to hear that our lecturer Lois, following a very serious bout with pneumonia, is getting back on her feet at a local rehabilitation center and we wish her well.

In April we will note our 120th anniversary during our Neighbors Night/ Shipwreck Party. Come wearing what you were wearing when the ship got wrecked.

Wonderful wise words: Be the reason someone smiles today.

### NORWICH GRANGE #172

Corr: Richard Chapman

**Mar. 9:** This N That  
**Apr. 13:** A Humorous Time; National Humor Month

A "G" Notes challenge to all Community Granges with under 50 members! Those "G" dollars are pouring in to Norwich Grange at our meetings and the challenge is there to beat us! (Details on front page of the January Granger).

We have a new lecturer - Kate (Chapman) Tefft - who hopes to stimulate increased attendance and membership with her programs. She was State Grange Princess in 1968 and lecturer of

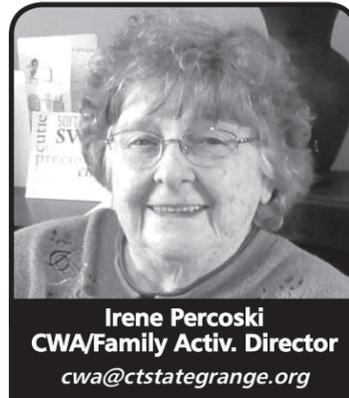
Norwich Grange in 1968, 1969, & 1993.

We noted National Canned Food Month in February by everyone donating cans of food which

was given to our local soup kitchen pantry.

Wise words: Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through the snow!!

## Don't forget Comm. Serv.



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

I want all CWA/Family Activities, Subordinate and Pomona chair people to make sure you make note of all the good works that your respective Community Service committees are doing, and add them to your final reports in September. Each time your Grange does anything to help someone in need is a very

big part of our Committee work too. While needlework, baking and crafts is the mainstay of our department, it is not all we do. So please think ahead and then take credit when making your reports.

A list of items asked to be made for the Big E this year include all the usual items, mittens, hats, towels and scubbies. Also asked for are baby sets, afghans, and Christmas, Thanksgiving and Halloween/Fall items. With winter setting in, now is the time to make that extra item. If you would like to work at the Big E this year now is also the time to plan what days you can be there and if you would like to sell raffle tickets or work at the cash register. Lists of names must be in early. The upstairs rooms will only be open on the weekends so plan accordingly.

## State Grange establishes Comm. Service Grant Program

The Connecticut State Grange Community Service Grant is to support any Connecticut subordinate/ community Grange that needs financial assistance for a new community service project. Grant maximum of \$150 per year per Grange. The State Grange has set aside \$3000 this year for the program. We can assist 20 Granges with starting a new project this coming year. To obtain a grant application; contact the Connecticut State Grange Central Office or George & Sharon Russell at 860-824-7056 or Email georgerussell1948@gmail.com If you need a copy of the 2016 C.S.G. Community Service Report Form let us know. We hope you have your Community Service Project well on its way!

## 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

## Excelsior Pomona No. 7



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



**EXCELSIOR POMONA #7**

*Corr: Jean Meehan*

At the January meeting of Excelsior Pomona held at Prospect Senior Center, we learned a lot about our villages, towns and cities in Connecticut. We really miss members from the Wolcott Grange attending our meetings. Our next meeting will be on March 16 at Bethlehem Grange with the meeting starting at 7:30 P.M. The talent and A-Numbers will be judged at this meeting.

We are working on our anniversary celebration later this year with hopes all our Granges in our Pomona will get involved like they usually do.

Our May 18 meeting will be degrees with inspection and our rehearsal will be on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. at Beacon Valley Grange Hall.

**BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103**

*Corr: Al Maddox*

Again Beacon Valley is saddened by the loss of one of its members.

Harry Steel past master of our Grange. Hopefully this will be the last for awhile.

Our March meeting will be on the Friday the 11th. the title is "The Quiet Man". It was a movie starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara, that took place in Ireland. We will celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Carol is in charge of refreshments.

April will be a busy month for us. We will be having a Craft Fair on Saturday April 16th, and an Open mike on Saturday April 23rd. If anyone is interested in having a table at our craft fair, weather you have a craft to sell, or sell Avon, Tupperware, etc. please let Joanne Cipriano know. 203-754-5863 (also if you want any information on our upcoming events, she will be glad to tell you).

We really can't complain about this winter, it has been one for the record books. Now that spring is here everyone get out and enjoy it.

**BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121**

*Corr: Al Maddox*

We are back on Monday

nights at 7:30 P.M. Refreshments for the March 28 meeting will be by Skip and Rob.

On April 2 we will hold a flea market from 9-1. For tables, call Linda at 203-264-8151.

On Sunday, January 24, Jeremy Maddox gave an excellent talk and demonstration on Bethlehem being a Heart Safe Town for his Eagle Scout project and we gave him a donation for this project.

Don't forget our Flea Market on April 2 from 9-1 P.M.

**PROSPECT GRANGE #144**

*Corr: Jean Meehan*

Prospect Grange draped the charter in loving memory of Diane Barbieri and Minnie Wolvek. Two very active Grange members that will be missed by all.

Fifteen of our members worked on letters and valentines that were sent to our veterans through the Big Y stores. Valentines cards were made and delivered to the residents at the Paradigm Health Center. We have also been working on dancing leprechauns for their St. Patrick's Day celebration and also something for their trays for Easter.

Due to the snowy, icy and sub-zero weather, our activities have been greatly reduced. Hope all our Grange friends are keeping safe and warm.

We are looking forward to our annual visit from Deputy Ron Fischer at our May meeting.

**OXFORD GRANGE #194**

*Corr: Robert Buck*

**Mar 4:** Hobby Night Show 'n Tell

**Mar. 18:** Pizza Party and Planning Meeting

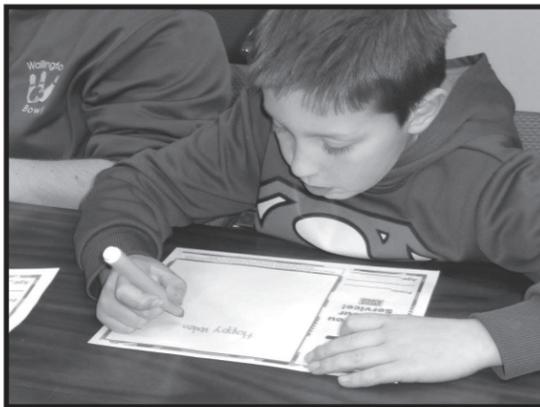
Winter has been slow so far at Oxford Grange as we only meet monthly for January and February. The January meeting was spent crafting a resolution addressing concerns about the Trans-Pacific Partnership and other like agreements. A 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off is planned for April 1st. Come and enter your chili in the run-off or come to eat! Tickets

will be available for purchase. The monthly Open Mic nights have been going very well. We are attracting a regular line-up of musicians including

some new people, and an audience as our event on the second Monday becomes more well known. February made for one and a half years since we began the

program, thanks to the hard work of Martin and Karen Earley. Congratulations to Phil Rowland on 70 years and Jeanne Vaill for 55 years of membership.

## Prospect Grange No. 144



Making Valentine letters and cards for the Veterans at our meeting tonight. The Big Y is collecting and sending them to our Ameican Troops overseas.

Just a few of our members working on the Valentines cards that will be sent to our Veterans for Valentines Day thanking them for their service and that we are thinking of them, and were sent through the Big Y. We made a total of 15 at our Jan. meeting.



Marcia Gaspar, Tina Meehan, and Jean the recreation director at the Paradigm Health Center accepting the Valentine cards and heart shaped lollipops Feb. 10.



St. Patrick's Day Grange potlucks or refreshments wouldn't be complete with a loaf of Irish Soda Bread. This Taste of Home recipe is easy to make and delicious too!

**Hank's Irish Soda Bread**

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 cups all-purpose flour  | 3 tablespoons butter |
| 2 tablespoons brown sugar | 2 eggs               |
| 1 teaspoon baking powder  | 3/4 cup buttermilk   |
| 1 teaspoon baking soda    | 1/3 cup raisins      |
| 1/2 teaspoon salt         |                      |

**DIRECTIONS:**

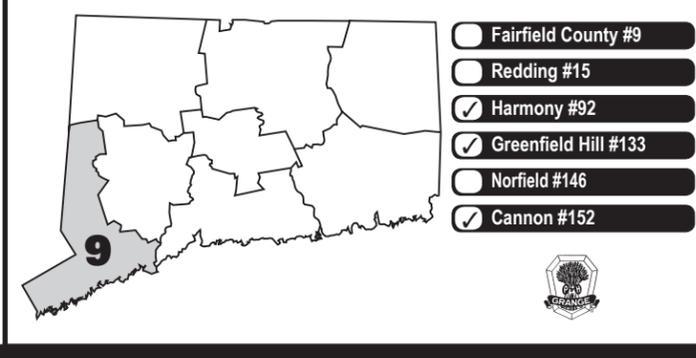
In a large bowl, combine flour, brown sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Cut in butter until crumbly. In a small bowl, whisk 1 egg and buttermilk. Stir into flour mixture just until moistened. Fold in raisins.

Knead on a floured surface for 1 minute. Shape into a round loaf; place on a greased baking sheet. Cut a 1/4-in.-deep cross in top of loaf. Beat remaining egg; brush over loaf.

Bake at 375° for 30-35 minutes or until golden brown. Yield: 6-8 servings.

Source: <http://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/irish-soda-bread>

## Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



### HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: George Ward

**Mar. 11:** Regular Meeting, Refreshments at 6:30, Meeting at 7:30. Lecturer's program to be announced later.

Condolences were offered to our oldest member, Gertrude Wilson, on the death of her younger sister, Ruth Desrosiers, Gertrude made her home with her sister before being confined to Lord Chamberlain, Nursing and Rehab. Center.

During our last special planning meeting for our 125th anniversary, we concluded there was much to do and not enough time to adequately prepare for a successful event if it was held in April. Therefore the anniversary has been rescheduled to the fall. We will update our plans as we progress. We will continue our planning for the anniversary and also start planning for our Spring Fair. Articles for sale are being received, cataloged and priced.

Can Spring be far away? Seed catalogs for this year's planting are being received in the mail.

We welcome all to our hall and our meetings. Please call to be sure the meeting is being held.

### GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

**Mar. 12:** St. Patrick's Dinner, 6 P.M. Dinner, Doors open at 5:30 P.M.

**Mar. 21:** "Wear'n the Green", Meeting 7:00 P.M.

**Apr. 1-3:** 8-10 Penny Lane Players "Romeo & Juliet"

**Apr. 16:** From the Attic and More Sale, 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

**Apr. 18:** Earth Day & Arbor Day- Planting a Tree Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

**Apr. 23:** Hungarian Dinner, 6 P.M. Dinner, Doors Open at 5:30 P.M.

We have a busy late winter and early spring in the works. In March, a St. Patrick's Dinner is on the calendar with corned beef and cabbage and all the fixings. Call Jim or Steve Golias at 203-259-8023 or 367-4373. Our regular

meeting will include the impact that Ireland has had on agriculture.

The first two weekends in April will be the Penny Lane Players Production of Romeo and Juliet. Performances are on Fridays and Saturdays at 7 P.M., Sundays will be at 2 P.M.

A sale on Saturday, the 16th will feature treasures from the attic; call Steve for table cost at 203-367-4373. We'll close out the month with a Hungarian dinner on the 23rd. Call Cindy at 203-243-1887 for details and reservations.

Note suggested donations for dinners are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. Cindy also has information on activities on the future Junior Grange. A trip to Warrup's Farm maple sugar operation is being considered if weather permits.

All are welcome to meetings and activities.

### CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

**Mar 3:** Artificial Intelligence

**Mar 17:** Raising Backyard Chickens

**Mar 19:** Silent Movies with live piano accompaniment

**Apr 23:** Acoustic Night #2

Continuing with our program theme of "Healthy Living: learning something new and enjoying leisure time", we were delighted to host one of our neighbors, the Apple Blossom School, for a program on the Waldorf approach to early childhood education. An audience of nearly 50 people was welcomed to our Hall for the program. Our February program was enjoyed by town residents and Cannon members when Wilton's new chief of police came to talk about the work and community outreach of the department.

Looking ahead toward the spring, we have a busy month of March and April when we will present two fascinating programs on Artificial Intelligence & Robots, and raising backyard chickens. These are two great opportunities to learn something new! For leisure

time, we have scheduled our annual Silent Movie evening and a second

Acoustic Night. These are listed above, and we hope you mark your calendars

and plan to attend. All the programs start at 7 PM.



### By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange Friends!

Winter seemed to return to Connecticut the end of January and for February. I got to help shovel and plow snow at Good Will Grange Hall.

I had a nice Valentines Day too - complete with hearts and candy! Looking forward to visiting Granges soon!

Be sure to 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>

Say Hello if you see me around the State!



## Norfield Grange

Fun "Early" Valentine's Day Celebration at the Norfield Grange's monthly meeting this week. Steve Porter announced 2 upcoming events: SFS (Sustainable Farm Saturday) - Sat., Feb. 27th (social event) & SFF (Sustainable Farm Friday)...Mike Z. on Friday, March 11th will share his secrets for "Stirring Up Home Made Hard Cider"...more details to follow.

## Oxford Grange Open Mic Nite



Beth Bradley, a member of Greenfield Hill Grange #133, performs at a recent Open Mic Night held at Oxford Grange #194.



# Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

## The recipe for successful promotion

by Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

Successfully promoting your Grange consists of an important mix of ingredients consisting of

- advertising
- traditional promotions (i.e. printing and word of mouth)
- media communications
- online marketing
- social media

Granges need to find their unique and individual combination of ingredients for successful marketing, then stir it up with your Grange's history and mission, and you will find the finished product will be a newsworthy presence that will be sought after by the general public.

Directions:

- Grow your presence locally first, then reach outward.
- Keep your printed Grange brochures,

handouts, posters and business cards updated and current.

- Participate in local festivals, shows, fairs, and events. Show your presence.
- Don't rely solely on social media. Combine traditional publicity methods with online marketing.
- Don't be afraid to try new ideas and think outside the box.
- Choose wisely where you want to spend your marketing time. Be an active participant in endeavors in which your Grange is involved.

As with your favorite cake recipe where the consistency of the batter is important to the finished piece, consistency in your Grange promotion and marketing efforts is important to your Grange's success.

If you or your Grange needs assistance in planning your promotions, please contact the Public Relations Committee. We're here to help!

# NEED MEMBERS?

## What can your Grange do to help recruit new members?

- Be Positive
- Be Visible
- Be Engaged
- Be Community Minded
- ASK FOR HELP!
- Be Active
- Be Relevant
- Be Willing

## Contact the CT State Grange Membership Committee Today!

membership@ctstategrange.org

Jody A. Cameron, Director  
(860) 412-0225

Committee:  
Maggie Buck  
Ted Beebe



## It's a matter of "Teamwork"



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

Plans are well underway for our next social event. The theme for this one is "Teamwork". You don't have to come prepared with a team. We will take care of that. So save the date of Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Supper will be served at 6:00 P.M. We will be serving a typical Saturday night supper- soup, sandwich and dessert.

I almost forgot- see you at Cheshire Grange.

Tickets should be on sale soon in each Pomona for the low price of \$5.00.

We are still looking for a suggestion for our "We Reach Out" project. Any suggestions?

## ZOOM replaces TeamSpeak for National Grange online meetings



The National Grange is pleased to present ZOOM as its new online meeting platform. ZOOM will take the place of TeamSpeak which is no longer in use.

This easy-to-use platform unifies cloud video conferencing, simple online meetings, and group messaging all in one and can be accessible from your PC, Mac, tablet or mobile device.

For more information, please visit the National Grange website: [www.NationalGrange.org](http://www.NationalGrange.org).

## Hello, I'm Chris Cleland



By Christopher Cleland,  
American Sr. Benefits  
Fellow Grange  
members,

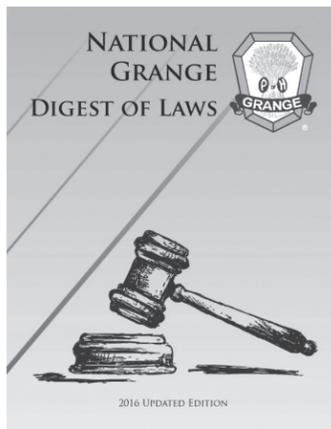
As a newly minted Connecticut Grange member I would like to express my gratitude for being allowed to join such a prestigious and historic society.

The Grange will be 150 years old on Dec. 4, 2017 and what a truly compelling story the Grange has written. Special thanks to Edith Schoell and Roseanna Smith for all their help in getting me indoctrinated and providing me with all the historical books that I have read and greatly appreciated.

I look forward to working with all the Subordinate, Pomona and the State Grange members continuing the traditions of insurance, planning, "education and elevation" to the Grange members and their families.

At American Senior Benefits we are dedicated to helping America's growing senior population. We start with knowing Medicare inside and out. We work to help seniors get coverage they need to stay healthy and secure. We can also help them find financial instruments that are adaptable and appropriate to their financial situation. We are proud of what we do and happy to help. We look forward to providing the service and assistance you need.

Feel free to contact me at: [ccleland@american-seniorbenefits.com](mailto:ccleland@american-seniorbenefits.com) or call (860) 729-0804 (cell) or (860) 676-0260, x240 (office).



## 2016 National Grange Digest of Laws Now Available Online

The 2016 National Grange Digest of Laws is now available for download. Log into the National Grange member section to download a copy of this publication as well as other valuable Grange publications [www.NationalGrange.org](http://www.NationalGrange.org).

# Meet Harvey Goddard

*First Master of the First CT State Grange*

Harvey Godard was born on March 15, 1823, in Granby, Connecticut, to Oren Godard and Minerva (Holcomb) Godard.

On May 1, 1858 he married Sabra Lavinia Beach of Granby, Connecticut who was the daughter of Oliver Beach and Lavinia (Case) Beach.

The following children were born to them: Oren Harvy, Porter Beach, George Seymour, Fred Munyon, Oliver Clifton and Grace Minerva Godard.

He was very active in his home town and was held with high esteem by his fellow townsmen. He represented his Town in the General Assembly in 1873.

By occupation he was a farmer, owning and operating extensive lands which he inherited from his father. This included the operation of grist, lumber and cider mills as well as the distillation of pure cider brandy which he manufactured in



the same still as did his father before him. Although a member of no church, he was liberal in his views and saw good in all. He was a Jeffersonian Democrat. He was a Royal Arch Mason.

His wife, Sabra Beach Godard served as National Grange Pomona for 1875, 1876, 1877 and 1878. She was also Ceres of the first Connecticut State Grange during its brief life. He was the first Master of the first State Grange

serving 1875, 1876, 1877, resigning that office early in 1878.

He was the first Charter Master of the first Granby Grange No. 5. Although this Grange collapsed in its early years he was one of the sponsors of its second reorganization serving again as its Charter Master.

He passed away on January 8, 1896 and was buried in the family plot in Granby.

## More benefits to membership

The National Grange announces three member benefits available to Grange members and their families.

### FREE NUTRITIONAL ANALYSIS AND PLAN

Identifying areas of nutrition where you need extra supplementation is a difficult task. Harder still is wading through the vast assortment of vitamins and minerals that claim to improve your health and well-being. Maybe you have a rough idea of where to start, but why leave anything to chance?



### FREE CVS RxCARD-DISCOUNT PRESCRIPTIONS

Your health is important and you can feel better when you take your medicines as prescribed by your doctor. The FREE RxSavingsPlusSM prescription discount card provides savings of up to 70% with average prescription savings of 22% off the regular retail price to help make your

medicine easier to afford. This FREE prescription discount card program can be used anytime a medication is not covered by insurance, you can even use it for your entire family and pets.

### SUREBRIDGE SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE

National Grange offers SureBridge supplemental insurance plans to help you navigate life's twists with cash benefits to cover unexpected expenses that occur when you are sick, injured or disabled. The money can be used for anything you choose; out-of-pocket medical expenses and deductibles, to help offset a loss of income, or help with everyday living expenses such as rent, mortgage, car payment or groceries. It's your money, your decision. Click "Free Quote" to see how affordable these plans can be.

#### Dental Insurance

\$16.00/child

\$19.00/adult

#### Vision Insurance

\$9.00/individual

\$25.00/family

#### Gap Medical Insurance

\$7.50/individual

For more information on any of these programs please check the National Grange website at [www.NationalGrange.org](http://www.NationalGrange.org) or call National Affinity Services at 855-533-1776 or email National Affinity at [maryann@nationalaffinity.net](mailto:maryann@nationalaffinity.net).

## Southern Connecticut Past Masters

The March meeting of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters will be held at Cheshire Grange on March 12. In place of our usual Potluck Supper we will enjoy a corned beef and cabbage dinner put on by the members of Cheshire Grange. Just think no dish to make, no dish to cart and no dishes to do. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Call Marge Bernhardt. If you are not coming to our meeting, I'm sure the members of Cheshire Grange will still be happy to sell you a ticket.

Following supper we will hold our monthly meeting with Cindy Charbonneau President presiding. It will be Election of Officers. Nomination Committee is Carl Bernhardt, Charles Dimmick and Cindy Legg. The three "C's."

We will also have the drawing of our raffle. You can't win if you don't buy a ticket.

## In Memoriam

Idabelle Chapman, G.S. Senexet Grange #40  
Harry Steel Beacon Valley #103  
Minnie Wolvek Prospect Grange #144

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



*Charles Dimmick, State Chaplain*

"Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us". These words are second nature to most of us as we have repeated them so many times [although in some versions it is "trespasses" instead of "sins"]. And yet, as with so many things often repeated, we may say them without

really thinking what they mean. One should especially note that it links God's forgiveness to a promise that we will also forgive others. It is this second part that can trip us up. We should always be ready and willing to forgive others when they have wronged us as soon as they show repentance for what they have done. In the 17<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Luke, Jesus says "even if he sins against you seven times in a day and comes back to you seven times and says 'I repent', you must forgive him."

Are we allowed to withhold forgiveness when we don't hear an apology? Not necessarily. We should also forgive people when it becomes clear that their offence against us was not willful, but merely careless or unthinking. Jesus set the example for this when, hanging on the cross, he said "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing". And think also of young children, who many times just don't "know better". Certainly we should try to correct their wrong actions, but we must also forgive their many trespasses.

I'm not saying that any of us will ever approach perfection, either in forgiving others or in making sure that we do not do things that we should apologize for. We will continue to do wrong, and our brothers and sisters will also continue to do wrong, no matter how much we try to be better. Even Saint Paul says "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. (...) For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out." Knowing that we are all weak in this manner, and only human, it behooves us all to continually ask God to forgive our trespasses and to remember also to continually forgive our brothers and sisters for their offences against us.

## Show your appreciation



When a Master or Lecturer leaves office, show them how much you appreciate their service with these Past Master and Lecturer pins. \$10.00 each plus shipping and handling.