



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

February 2024

From the Master's Desk



Robert Buck
State President
Bethlehem Grange No.121
president@ctstategrange.org

This country we live in is truly a great nation of which we ought to be proud. Granted it is not perfect, but if you want a majestic symbol of the USA upon which to reflect, consider the Bald Eagle. It is truly one of nature's most majestic creatures and awe inspiring as well in its strength and beauty. They are rooted to areas where they can find what they need to survive. They are resilient enough to have bounced back from the edge of extinction from the effects of DDT. Unlike us, they are lone wolves, socially speaking, so not quite united with each other except that they do tolerate one another to a certain degree. At the Shepaug Dam here in Southbury this morning before writing this(1/20), I had the good luck to see six of them and study them and their behavior from relatively close up. What does this have to do with the Grange, you might ask?

National President Chris Hamp has formulated the slogan "Grange Strong: Rooted, Resilient, United." The Grange, right back to its founding in 1867, has been a strong part of the history of the country for over 150 years. Just study the reasons for its founding, some of the things our Order has accomplished to better life

in the US, and the effect we continue to have in our communities and as a lobbying power rural America. Imagine the power we could exert if we grow our organization. We are rooted, resilient, and united.

Last weekend, eight people from Connecticut joined me and 85 other Grangers in Concord, New Hampshire for a great Northeast Leader's Conference. We were right downtown with the New Hampshire Statehouse across the street from the Holiday Inn. The workshops included topics of harnessing artificial intelligence (AI) to our advantage, leadership and conflict resolution, and grant writing. AI (Canva and ChatGTP were discussed) certainly is a powerful

tool if used with caution. Leadership and conflict resolution continue to be topics of importance as we strive to work together in harmony with many different types of personalities. Grant writing is the only way to go for many Granges to fund large projects that are out of reach of their own fundraising events. The camaraderie was great with folks from the seven northeastern states in attendance. Then on the way home, after enjoying lunch in Derry, NH with old family friends, I ran into a snow squall, two whiteouts and bad road conditions crossing the southern part of the state. I got through that only to blow a tire out on a pothole in Brattleboro, VT! Got to change the tire for the spare in a third whiteout! It was an adventure, no less!

...Continued on page 2

Don't fall for this scam

by Terri Fassio, CSG Public Relations Co-Director

If you are an admin on your Grange's Facebook page, you probably have run across the latest messages stating that the page will be deleted due to trademark infringement, illegal content, misrepresentation or other suspect warnings. These messages are an alarming scam, spreading fear and urgency for users who trust the Facebook platform.

These fraudulent messages pretend to come from Facebook itself and are often from accounts that appear to belong to Facebook staff members stating that the page receiving the message will soon be deleted. They have been circulating in huge numbers, with very similar text in most cases, and are happening not only with Granges, but with ALL pages on Facebook's platform. Everyone from your favorite celebrity to Fortune500 companies are dealing with these very same messages.

VerifyThis.com explains this situation clearly -- "This message is a type of phishing scam. Phishing scams are a type of cyber security attack...The goal of these kinds of cyber attacks is to mislead recipients into providing

...Continued on page 3



Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange



NEXT ISSUE . . . Articles Due Feb. 15

From the Master's Desk

Continued from page one...

It has been brought to my attention that Connecticut State Grange pays \$1.00 assessment per year per member to National Grange to help fund the National Convention. This helps cover the cost of the convention in regions that are not as financially able to cover the costs by spreading the cost out. A committee has been appointed to study options for cutting the cost of our State Session. In talking to the

Presidents of the other states, their conventions take various forms, some meeting in hotels as we do and some in other less costly venues. The different conventions also vary in length. All these things will be studied so that we can change our Session to best fit our needs. We also have a fundraising committee to investigate larger scale fundraising to cut the State grange budget deficit.

With many Granges getting sizeable grants to fund various repairs and improvements to halls, the topic of Grange income has come up because of how it affects the 990-N e-Postcard filing. A Grange must average \$50,000.00 or less over three years to file the 990-N e-Postcard. If your average is greater, your Grange will need to file the long form 990 tax return. While the State Secretary files the 990-N e-Postcards for Granges, he WILL NOT file the long form tax return for your Grange. You must do that yourselves if need be.

The keys and ciphers for the Annual Word will only be distributed after the appropriate quarterly reports are filed by Grange Secretaries. So, get those reports in promptly. Once secretary handbooks are distributed to Granges, State Secretary Todd Gelineau will be planning Schools of Instruction for secretaries as these are integral to educating all on proper procedures.

Plan to attend.

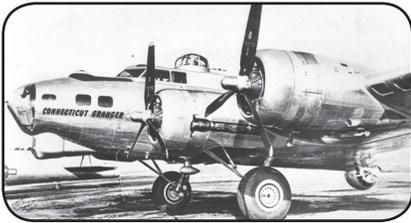
State Lecturer Dave Roberts has planned the Northeastern Lecturer's Conference for June 21-23 at the Holiday Inn in Norwich. This is a great event for all (not just lecturers) interested in Grange to attend. You can garner new ideas for programs and events for your Grange to put on. It's always good to see how things are done elsewhere. Like all Grange conferences, the fellowship and networking are fantastic. You will make new friends and see old ones too.

The National Grange Presidents Conference will be held February 16-18 at the Sun-N-Sand Resort in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Maggie and I will be driving down and hope to get much out of this event. I will be reporting on it later. The Ag Day at the Capitol program is coming up fast as well. That will take place in March. We will have representatives at that as well. Our Agriculture Committee has had some turnover and change. Thanks to Irene Percoski for serving as she has stepped down. We have new leadership on that committee. Kristin Donihee will be Chair with the help of her two daughters. New contests and programs have been formulated.

As we continue through the winter, reflect back on the Fourth Degree and think of the farm in winter wherein we look over the past year and what we have accomplished and plan for the new year in your homes and lives, and in your Granges.

the Connecticut Granger

Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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Vice President Terri Fassio
Treasurer Jody Cameron
Secretary Noel Miller

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the **15th Day** of each month and should be sent to:
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National Grange
Virtual
Legislative Fly-In
March 18, 2024 Register: grange.biz/flyin2024

Facebook scams

Continued from page one...

personal information that the scammer will use to gain access to bank accounts or steal recipients' identity."

These messages often have contain a link, encouraging the recipient to click it to resolve the situation. The links go to convincing but fake Facebook login portals operated by scammers to capture account credentials and hijack access to the threatened pages, as well as the admins' personal Facebook profiles.

VerifyThis.com continues -- "These fraudulent pages and flows are designed to closely mimic Facebook's interface and messaging in order to harvest user account details, financial information, or even install malware onto devices. It is an attempt to fully take over user accounts for malicious purposes. But the links, websites, and phone numbers are not authorized or associated with Facebook in any way. They are part of a scam orchestrated by bad actors to steal personal information and hijack accounts."

So if your Grange Facebook Page is a recipient of one of these messages, what can you do?

If you received these type of messages, but did not click the link(s) included in the spam messages, then the solution is an easy one - just report the message as Spam to Facebook. Then block the sender and archive the message. Facebook will take it from there, eventually deleting the messages. You will have to do this for each message received.

What if I fell for this scam and clicked the link?

If you have fallen victim to this scam, the first thing to do is reset your Facebook password, and also activate two-factor authentication on your account for extra security. Next, review your page(s) and look for any unauthorized posts and changes. Delete everything that is suspicious. You may also want to run a virus scan on your computer as well. If your page was compromised, and you still have access to it, then post accordingly and apologize for the confusion. Be sure to report the incident to Facebook with details, such as providing screenshots and links if available. You may also want to review your Page's privacy settings to ensure that you have maximum control over the information that you share.

How can Grange avoid a Facebook Violation?

Page admins are encouraged to review rules surrounding sharing copyrighted material, use verified and trustworthy sources, and also to be familiar with Facebook's Community Standards. Facebook's Help Center has a number of articles of interest and is an excellent place to start. If a page is operating properly with awareness and within the Community Standards, then there is no risk to it being scrutinized for viola-

tions.

Take note that if a Facebook Page truly did post something that was a violation of Facebook's policies, Facebook would do one of two things -

-- Facebook would ban the admin from posting on the page, and could lock the page from updates; or

-- Deactivate that page immediately, and push a message on the admin's profile page accordingly.

In either case, the admin would then have to appeal to Facebook to get the admin and/or page reinstated.

Always think before you click, stay vigilant and informed.

Sources: verifythis.com and malwaretips.com

LOOK OUT FOR MESSAGES LIKE THIS:

⚠ Important Notification:

Your Facebook page is scheduled for permanent deletion due to a post that has infringed upon our trademark rights. We have reached this decision after a thorough review and in accordance with our intellectual property protection policies.

If you believe this to be a misunderstanding, we kindly request you to file a complaint seeking the reinstatement of your page prior to its removal from Facebook.

Request for Review: <https://c8ke.com/contact.supportmediaid011?fb=meta>

We understand that this situation may impact your ongoing business operations. However, please be informed that if we do not receive a complaint from you, our decision will be final.

Your cooperation and understanding are greatly appreciated. Should you have any inquiries or apprehensions, please feel free to reach out to us.

Sincerely,
Facebook Support Team

© Noreply Facebook. Meta Platforms, Inc., Attention: Community Support, 1 Facebook Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025

SPEAK LIKE A "CHAMP"

Speak like a "CHAMP" will be a monthly word or phrase designed to get everyone speaking the same language to build a positive message as we Grange.

"LEADER'S INTENT"

The *Leader's Intent* is a concise and clear expression of the purpose, desired end state, and key tasks that a leader communicates to guide work groups and teams in their decision-making and actions.

The leader's intent serves as a guide, allowing work groups and teams to exercise initiative, make decisions, and adapt their actions to achieve the leader's vision even when specific details or circumstances change. This concept is not limited to the military and is often applied in leadership and management to foster decentralized decision-making and empower team members.

Legislatively Speaking



Noel Miller
Legislative Director
Coventry Grange #75
millernoel434@gmail.com

The new year has come with great news on the economic front. I get gasoline for \$2.97 per gallon, a gallon of whole milk is \$2.92 per gallon, a dozen of eggs are \$2.91 per dozen, a CD or Money Market is at 5.4%, the Dow Jones Industrial Average is over 37,000 for the first time ever, unemployment stands at a 50 year low, and inflation has leveled off to the point the Federal Reserve may lower interest rates come March. My question is “Where are all those stickers with Biden pointing and saying “I Did That”. They were plastered all over the place when he took office, during the left-over Trump times, but are nowhere to be found now. If you have some leftovers, please give them to us so we can point out the good things that President Biden has done for our country. Mr. Trump has campaigned that he hopes the Stock Market would crash before January so he won’t be listed as a President Herbert Hoover. Too late, he got that title with the handling of the pandemic and the give the rich tax breaks, during his Presidency.

Green energy is growing across the nation, with wind turbines and solar farms replacing coal fired energy plants. West Virginia where the motto is “Coal keeps the lights on” just put online its first of 5 solar farms which produces enough electricity for 90,000 homes. Senator Joe Manchin voted against green energy programs, because of his personal energy interests. He even voted against the Child Tax Exemptions, and School Meal programs.

He has been heard to say “Don’t give poor people money, they’ll only use it to buy drugs.” Shame on you Joe!

Congress is wavering on the Military Support for Ukraine. Why waste money on them when it can be spent here? Don’t they know that arms are sent to Ukraine, not cash, and that the cash cost is used to replace weapons sent to Ukraine? These are American jobs that this money goes to replace the artillery shells, Javelins, ammunition, small arms, rockets and drones. So stop the aid to Ukraine and watch Americans lose the jobs.

Before Congress went on Christmas break they passed one bill to return whole milk to school lunch programs. I submitted a resolution back in the 90s to bring whole milk back to schools. This was when soda was being made available in school lunch rooms.

With this good news, please dairy farmers, DO NOT EXPAND YOUR HERD SIZES, thinking that you can profit from this news, flooding the already strained milk

market will not work. Remember the herd buyout in the 1980’s? It didn’t work. Remember the government cheese purchase in the 1970’s? It didn’t work either and it’s still going on now. With dairy farms getting larger, what happens if the land isn’t there for the crops, or weather patterns changing. How will you survive? China has just taken one of its provinces and built a 1,000,000,000 cow dairy farm. All people are working at this farm, cows were bought from all over the world. We know how China deals with food safety. Would you want milk products from there? We must keep a watchful eye on these trade products.

March is Ag Day at the State Capitol and April is the Virtual National Legislative Fly-In.

We have heard sad news that the Wapping Fair has closed forever as the South Windsor Lions Club has had a decline in volunteers and can’t see how they can continue this year. Sorry Gordon Gibson, I guess they really miss you!

Now is the time to think Spring and don’t forget Grange Week in April. Stay warm.

Upcoming Pomona Meetings

Eastern Connecticut Pomona No. 14

March 2 - “Bluebirds” @ Glastonbury Grange, Masonic Hall, South Glastonbury

May 4 - Special Meeting for Fifth Degree @ Killingly

Mountain Laurel Pomona No. 15

March 2 - Regular Meeting @ Riverton Grange Hall

May 4 - Special Meeting for Fifth Degree @ Winchester

Nutmeg Pomona No. 16

March 17 - Fifth Degree/Inspection @ Cheshire; Refreshments by Greenfield Hill & Wallingford

June 2 - Election of Officers @ Beacon Valley Refreshments by Beacon Valley

Lecturer News & Notes



Dave Roberts
State Lecturer
Riverton Grange No. 169
Lecturer@CTStateGrange.org

Following our first major snowstorm of the year, Judy Doyle and I journeyed to Concord, New Hampshire, to attend the 2024 North East Region Leadership Conference. During this event, North East State Grange Lecturers met to begin planning of our 2024 North East Region Lecturers Conference which will be held June 21 – 23 at the Holiday Inn in Norwich, Connecticut. Connecticut is the host state for this event, so I will be chairing this event and I hope that all Community and Pomona Grange Lecturers will help strongly support this effort. I appreciate that Mountain Laurel Pomona Lecturer Debbie Vail and Granby Grange Lecturer Judy Doyle have already been involved in helping plan this event.

We plan to host our NINTH virtual Lecturers Roundup on Sunday, February 18th, at 7:00 PM. Zoom information will be sent out to all interested folks; and remember that these Roundups are not JUST for Lecturers, but for all who are interested in sharing and/or learning more about Grange activities that could impact your local or Pomona Granges. At this event, we hope to feature an exciting new initiative launched at the 2023 National Grange Convention in Niagara Falls, called “Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors” or “RRSS” for short. This program is funded through a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) federal engagement grant awarded to the National Grange. Joan C. Smith, from Potomac Grange #1, serves as the RRSS Program Manager. At



From front: Dave Roberts, Judy Doyle and Robert Buck at NE Leaders Conference in Concord, NH

the invitation of National Grange, I am serving as the Northeast Region POC for this RRSS initiative for the next two years. For any Community Grange who participates in providing valuable information to your Grange friends and your community, you can earn a \$100 incentive payment just by supporting this initiative. All you have to do is report in May and October of 2024 the total number of people you influenced.

Check out the Connecticut State Grange website for all 2024 contests. For the 2024 Lecturer’s Department Photo Contest, we will have four categories (Patriotism/Grange Activities, Pets, Landscapes, and Flowers). This contest is open to all Grangers (Junior, Youth, 1+ and Grange). Judging will be held at the State Grange Family Festival this summer and winning photos will be displayed at the State Grange Convention and then returned to their owners. Cash prizes (First, Second, Third) will be offered in each category. Adults will complete in one contest and Junior, Youth and 1+ will complete in a separate contest.

We have exciting news to report

on “The Grange Plot” in Peoples State Forest. The boulder is now in place near Park Road in Barkhamsted; the bronze plaque funded by so many of you has arrived; the plaque will be installed on the boulder in Peoples State Forest by the Town of Barkhamsted town crew; and then we hope to plan a fun-filled unveiling of the new plaque in the Spring with many of you. Our 20 acre parcel of land, funded by members of Connecticut State Grange in 1930, has been re-identified and will now be remembered forever. Our Connecticut State Grange original donation of \$500 to purchase 20 acres of land for Peoples State Forest, and our current donation of over \$2,000 to purchase a bronze plaque, are awesome gifts to all residents of Connecticut to show our commitment to the present and the future. Thank you!

In closing, please let me know if you need any help for your Grange or a speaker, as I enjoy visiting other Granges as your State Grange Lecturer. Also, if you would like help on performing a community needs assessment, I would be glad to help.



Dave Roberts & Walter Hartley, President of the Rhode Island State Grange at Leaders Conference.

Go Team Grange!

Enthusiasm and positive attitudes build momentum



by Christine E. Hamp,
National Grange President

The first month of serving as your National Grange President is in the rear-view mirror, and learning has and continues to occur! I am thrilled with the excitement, willingness to be part of the solution, and all-around, "Let's get it done" attitude, all of which is exponentially building momentum and relevance across the country.

Go Team Grange!

Please use the phrase "Grange Strong" in your newsletters, at your conferences, and as part of your social media presence.

Junior Team

I am excited to announce the creation and launch of our new National Grange Junior Team. This team has been created and empowered to review and manage the Junior Department for 2024 and beyond. Team members include Adam Ellwanger (IL), Laura Gotauco (RI), Tom Gwin (WA), Emily Hartsell (NC), Molly Newman (KS), and Liz Tolley (OH).

This Team is empowered to conduct a thorough examination of every component of the current Junior Department and report back with their findings and recommendations, with the goal of ensuring that we are meeting the current needs and wants of our young members and their families as well as our community and State Granges. This Team will also review the Grange Youth Fair Program to see how it fits into our National Grange programming.

Sister Samantha Wilkins has graciously agreed to remain the National Grange Junior Director through the first quarter of 2024, to ensure a smooth and complete transition. Thank you, Sam, for your many years of outstanding service and dedication to our Junior Grangers.

Members Needed for Work Groups

I am looking to put together several Work Groups to review and make recommendations on various components of the National Grange. If you are interested in being considered, have a name or names to recommend, or thoughts to share, please let me know within the next couple of weeks.

- Communications
- E-Membership
- Merchandise and Sales
- Fundraising
- Bylaws Review

Imagine the impact the Grange can make when we prioritize and actively work toward enhancing the experience and value we provide to each member. How awesome this country could be if every community had a strong, vibrant Grange focused on resilience and relevance. Remember also that determined people working together can do anything. Let all who desire join in serving as Caretakers of a Legacy!

DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING

SQUARE DANCES

AT KILLINGLY GRANGE

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3RD 7 PM	SATURDAY MARCH 2ND 7 PM	SATURDAY APRIL 6TH 7 PM
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RICH SBARDELLA - DANCE CALLER

Killingly Grange

BLUEGRASS SHOWS

FEBRUARY 24TH
MARCH 23RD
APRIL 27TH

LIVE MUSIC
SNACKS AVAILABLE

SATURDAYS
6-9 PM

801 HARTFORD PIKE, DAYVILLE CT



We drove up to Concord NH this past weekend for Northeast Leaders' Conference and had a great time. There were 9 of us from CT. Sorry George and Sharon Russell had to bow out after Sharon got sick. There were 93 total attending. Great workshops on grants, AI, and leadership. We had a great view of the NH State House out the hotel window. It's the oldest state house(1819) in the country where legislators still meet in original chambers.

The trip home was quite a trip, stopping in Derry, NH to visit old family friends for lunch. Then we got caught in near whiteout conditions in snow squalls in Southern NH. Got through all that and hit a pothole in Brattleboro, VT that pushed the tire off the rim and punctured it. After putting on the spare, the rest of the trip was ok.



CONNECTICUT
STATE GRANGE

VIRTUAL
SOCIAL HOUR
2024
SCHEDULE



You don't have
to be a
Connecticut
Grange Member
to attend!

28

MARCH

A Special Zoom:
Update on the
CT State Grange
History Book Project
Thursday, March 28
7:00 PM

30

MAY

Blooming Time!
Home Gardening
in Connecticut
and Beyond
Thursday, May 30
7:00 PM

25

JULY

Potluck Primer:
Let's Share Our
Favorite Recipes!
Thursday, July 25
7:00 PM

26

SEPTEMBER

What is "AI"?
Grange Benefits
Using AI Technology
Thursday, Sept. 26
7:00 PM

21

NOVEMBER

Marketing
Experimentation:
Thinking Outside
The Traditional Box
Thursday, Nov. 21
7:00 PM

JOIN US FOR A FUN AND CASUAL SOCIAL GATHERING. A BRIEF PROGRAM WILL BE PRESENTED.
Send an e-mail to information@ctstategrange.org for the Zoom Meeting Access Information

Golden Coventry members



EASTERN CT POMONA #14

Corr: Carol Hnath

Mar. 2: "Bluebirds", 7 PM at Masonic Hall, South Glastonbury, with Glastonbury Grange as host.

Our December meeting was preceded by a roast beef dinner for the members prepared by the Camerons and helpers. At the meeting we discussed holding an activity such as a cruise to the lighthouses or the Essex Steam Train and cruise. More information about these suggestions will be discussed at our next meeting so input is welcome- join us!

Also, each officer has been 'assigned' a Community Grange to visit. We are hoping that this will be a way to share what we are doing as a Pomona and to encourage our members to attend a meeting and participate. It will also be a way for us to learn what is happening in some of the Granges that do not have members attending Pomona and see if there are ways that we might assist them as a Pomona.

We are also discussing a way that we might involve the other Pomonas in an activity with us- more on this as we develop a more concrete plan or idea!

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Feb. 7: What Lovely Day is February 7th?

Feb. 21: George Washington is In Charge



(Left) Noel Miller receives his Golden Sheaf (50 Year) Certificate from State Overseer Ted Powell at a recent meeting of Coventry Grange. (Right) Betty Lussier (pictured left) receives her Golden Sheaf from Past Voting Delegate Marcia Miller.



The local county AA Group used our hall for their holiday Alkathon over Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day as well as New Years Eve and New Years Day. They held meetings in the upper hall and downstairs was used for food and sociability. This is a good Community Service venture for us. We plan to hold our meetings downstairs now, as we did last year, to conserve our heating oil. Some fund raising items are being planned for the upcoming months.

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Feb. 28: Thinking about the Community

We are keeping working on projects that will increase the awareness of the Grange in our community. We made wonderful pies for the Christmas fund raiser. Several groups are still using the hall for their events. Many of our members are keeping our members informed about the Grange work

as well as the many happenings in our town. These include many activities that are sponsored by the town recreation committee. These are activities for adults, students as well as seniors. We are grateful to have such a great town committee to promote these events. Several of our members do local volunteer work with the community kitchen and deliveries of food to shut ins. There are many opportunities for everyone. As we move into the spring, we will do more outside work. Thanks to all who are helping in many ways.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Irene Percoski

Feb. 1: Bluebirds - Zoom

Mar. 1: Family Activities Program -Dawn in charge Zoom

Apr. 5: Membership Committee Invited

Our January program on hands was interesting. We learned how to shake hands, how to give a hand, where handshaking started and how it advanced through the years.

I am sure that by the time most of you get the Granger our Feb meeting

The information contained in each issue of The Connecticut Granger is for informational purposes only. The Connecticut Granger assumes no liability or responsibility for any inaccurate, delayed or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon. The information contained about each individual, event or organization has been provided by such individual, event organizers or organization without verification by us. The opinion expressed in each article is the opinion of its author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Connecticut Granger. Therefore, The Connecticut Granger carries no responsibility for the opinion expressed herein.

will be history. So I will concentrate on what to expect in March from sister Dawn. Family Activities can play a big part of Grange business. It's more than contests, it's involvement in all aspects of Grange life. There is always something new to learn, something new to make, somewhere new to explore and most definitely making new friends across the State and across the Country.

We are proud to announce that we received an incentive check for our involvement with A C P . Materials were given to local libraries, senior centers and local stores. We are sorry to hear that brother Richard is in hospital in Los Vegas and hope for his speedy recovery. We miss Elizabeth who is now in Florida with family and hope soon to greet her again by zoom. No new Community service programs are presently in the works, but our minds are churning.

Do you have a complaint about something? Write a resolution, This is an Election year, learn all you can about all the candidates so you can make informed decisions at the poles. Connecticut primaries have been moved forward to early April, be prepared to make your choice. Happy Valentines Day and Happy St. Patrick's Day. Think Spring!

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

Feb. 1: Valentine's Day

December we draped the charter for 60 year member Ernest Affricano. We presented 50 year Golden Sheaf certificates to Noel Miller, Betty Lussier, Maria Kuchy and Julie Swick.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Michelle DeDominicis

Here is good news. The Master Gardeners of Connecticut in cooperation with Ocean State Job Lot will be distributing seeds again this year for free to associations and organizations. So if you belong to one, know someone who does (make them aware of this) or as an individual grow and share with others please place an order and make use of these

seeds. You have until Feb. 14, 2024 to get your order in. I will be at the Tolland Agricultural Center on the day of distribution and can pickup your order to save some a trip out there. Send me an email after you order and we can decide where and when we can make the transfer.

<https://mastergardener.uconn.edu/2024/01/19/2024-seed-order/>

NORTH STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

Feb. 9: Revolutionary Beginnings

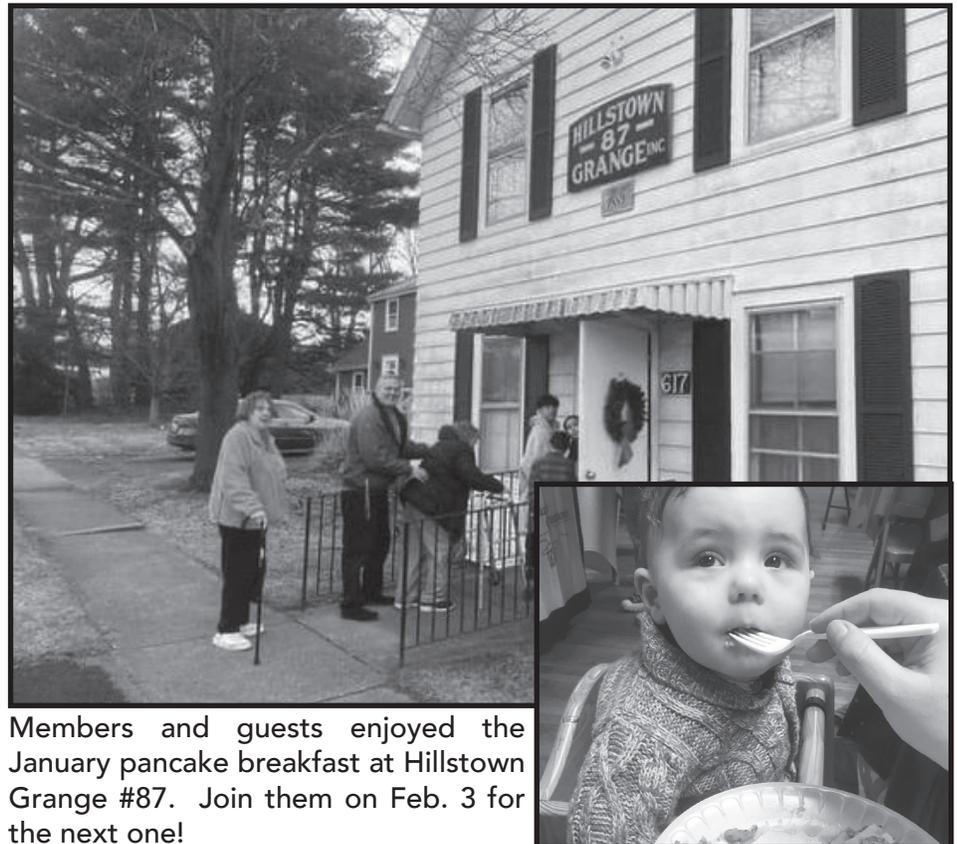
Feb. 23: Snow date for February

Our annual Christmas party was a nice mixture of traditional and fun. First each child in the hall placed a character into a manger scene on the Graces table while members read the story of the Nativity; then the children participated in a rousing game of Win it in a Minute where teams of three cooperated in building towers from red Solo cups and squares of cardboard. The children's ages ranged from 5 to 15 and each team included a little one. It was wonderful to see

the cooperation within the teams. There were cries of encouragement, then despair as towers rose, then toppled to the floor. Santa arrived on time with a bag bulging with gifts for the children. The evening concluded with festive and filling refreshments. Many thanks to the loyal crew that decorated the hall, both upstairs and down.

A nasty storm caused us to move our caroling from Monday to Saturday, much to the surprise of the carolees. (Is that a word?) Noting the startling rise in the price of prepared fruit baskets this year, our Master and his wife decided to make them themselves. Other than the fact that their efforts saved the Grange a pretty penny, this recipient can testify that the resulting baskets were far superior to the pre-made ones. I'm sure the carolees agree. And if these heavy storms we have been experiencing will just stop toppling trees over onto the wires, next time we will tell you all about joyous January.

Hillstown Pancake Breakfast



Members and guests enjoyed the January pancake breakfast at Hillstown Grange #87. Join them on Feb. 3 for the next one!



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Mountain Laurel Pomona will not meet again until March 2 when we are scheduled to meet at Riverton Grange Hall.

In the meantime, our Lecturer would like our members and friends to work on a special project. At our June meeting we will be collecting books for the Region 1 Book Bus. Books are needed for children aged from baby to 8th grade. It would be great to have all of our Granges involved. Remember this can be part of your Community Service Report. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

There were so many donations for our collection of mittens/gloves, etc., the Christmas tree was broken! The donations were given to thankful social service agencies in the area. Thank you all for your support of this project.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Feb. 13: Sweethearts/Country Store, Ref. Todd Gelineau

Feb. 27: Washington or Lincoln, Ref. Potluck at 6 PM

Mar. 12: Green, Ref. All Men & Women

Mar. 26: CWA Program, Ref. Pam Wright

January has not been a good month for Tuesday night meetings. The first meeting of the month was canceled and the second meeting was moved to Zoom. Hopefully the trend will be better going in to February.

At our January meeting, the



Debra Tyler of Taghannuck Grange poses with her "Earth Scroll", a 54 foot scroll of leaf and block prints with calligraphy that chronicles the seasons in New England and Jerusalem.

members reviewed the status of Trinity Reformed Church's use of the Grange hall for their weekly services. With only a couple of hiccups, it has gone well and the Grange has offered the church a lease. We hope to have all of this finalized during February.

The addition of Trinity Church gives Winchester three monthly renters (Post Office, State Grange and the Church) along with ongoing winter storage rentals in our garage space. This additional income is certainly welcome as our heating and insurance expenses are great.

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Feb. 3: Square/Contra Dance 7PM-9PM by Dance Committee. Suggested donations: \$5 child, \$10 adult & \$20 family.

Feb. 8: All About Love by Ruth Schnell. Ref: Ruth Schnell

March 14: In Like a Lion by Barbara Prindle Ref: Bill Beeman

April 11: Spring Cleaning In & Out by All Ref: Jill Drew

Note: Refreshments & Social time at 7PM with meeting at 7:30 unless otherwise noted.

We now have a Community Service sign-in sheet (soon to be booklet) for

members attending in person to write down their hours since the last meeting. Some preferred to keep track at home on their calendars. We received Thank You notes for cookies and the Dictionary Project.

The new word was received and will be given out at our February meeting. An incentive check came from the National Grange for our broadband display using National's literature at the Cornwall Agricultural Fair.

Debra Tyler is putting up her Scroll and having people come to learn about it. The Earth Scroll is 54 feet of block and leaf prints with calligraphy; chronicles the seasons of the natural world in New England and Jerusalem and a few paralleling human belief systems. Displayed "in the round" on a modified yurt lattice (designed and created by fellow Granger, Brent Prent Prindle) Earth Scroll creates an intimate space inviting study, contemplation, and quiet celebration. While it is set up in Taghannuck Grange Hall, Earth Scroll artist, Debra Tyler will invite small groups of viewers to visit and explore ways to use it for promoting peace, as part of her online seminary studies.

Continued next page...

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Dorothy Fairchild

We consider ourselves fortunate to have been able to meet all winter so far. Our secretary and treasurer, especially, can stay on track with their tasks by having regular meetings. Ideas for community service and grange activities were discussed.

Cheryl and Ray Johnstone were assigned to be the January lecturers. They brought us to the Arctic, the most northern part of the world, to study the Polar Bear. Their program ended with a Snowball Toss Game Competition. A very good time was had by all.

We will meet again on February 11th.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Dean Perry

Feb. 11: Chili Bowl, 3 to 5 @ St. Mark's Church, Bridgewater. Take out chili meals for Super Bowl Sunday.

Mar. 25-29: 11 A.M., Easter Egg Hunt, Bridgewater Recreation Area. Easter Egg Hunt for children 2 to 10 plus a visit by the Easter Bunny.

May 18: Bake Sale, 10-2, Bridgewater Firehouse. Cookie sale at the Roxbury and Bridgewater Garden Club Spring Plant Sale.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Dave Roberts

Feb. 1: Trip to Hillstown Grange (617 Hills Street, East Hartford), for Free Seed Giveaway event, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, refreshments and entertainment

Feb. 2: Meeting & Program: "How Agriculture Impacts Me Every Day"; Agricultural Committee program; George Russell, Chair

Feb. 4: Honoring Our Veteran of the Month (Barkhamsted Senior Center; 109 West River Road, Barkhamsted, 6:00 PM)

Feb. 18: "Maker Sunday", 12 noon, a new event co-chaired by Dawn Anstett and Melissa Sweeney providing an opportunity for members and guests to meet at the Grange Hall and make homemade items.

Feb. 20: 12 noon luncheon at Barkhamsted Senior Center to honor

retired First Selectman Don and Linda Stein for his service to our community and Grange

Riverton Grange members have been very busy with a number of both fun and impactful activities. We held our January 5th meeting and voted to start a new initiative called "Maker Sunday" proposed by Sister Dawn Anstett. On the 3rd Sunday of each month, members and guests will meet at the Riverton Grange hall to work on making homemade items. All are welcome to attend.

Also on January 5th, Riverton Grange virtually celebrated its 116th Anniversary as a chartered Grange with a program hosted by President Dave Roberts, with tremendous support from Terri Fassio. Dave traced the history of Riverton Grange from 1908 and a pig donation by Charter Overseer Leon Coe to help start a building fund, to our flourishing Grange of today. Dave highlighted that the first meeting of the Grange on January 3rd, 1908, was a stormy night and only 36 charter members attended due to icy roads, including his great Grandfather, Carlton S. Roberts, who served as Steward, and his great Grandmother, Dora W. Roberts, who served as Secretary. At this first meeting, our organizer State Grange Deputy J. H. Putnam, said "I believe that they have the making of a fine Grange".

Dave highlighted numerous Grange projects over the years, including the 1923 Riverton Grange Cookbook. Following the presentation, members shared highlights of their Grange memories over the years (including the Great Flood of 1955) and shared who was their Grange mentors. Special guest Joan C. Smith, Chair of the National Grange Foundation and member of Potomac Grange No. 1, joined the celebration and thanked all Riverton Grange members for continually evolving to meet the needs of their community.

Secretary Judy Doyle created a graphic of current Riverton Grange projects over the past 12 months. Members then wished Secretary Judy and guest Pat Tarca special birthday

wishes for their milestone birthdays!

On January 6th, seven members of Riverton Grange journeyed to Hillstown Grange for their awesome pancake breakfast. A fun time was had by all and it is great to see Grangers supporting Grangers!

Our January Veteran of the Month (29th) ceremony was canceled due to a snowstorm, so our next Veteran of the Month ceremony will be held on February 4th at 6:00 PM. This event is primarily indoors, refreshments are served, and it is open to the public, so come experience one of these awesome events honoring our veterans.

Finally, Riverton Grange continues to work with both the Riverton and Barkhamsted Lions Clubs on Project Amazon under the leadership of Secretary Judy Doyle to distribute items to over a dozen separate non-profits in our area including Pleasant Valley Food Bank, Barkhamsted Senior Center, Riverton Vol. Fire Department, Barkhamsted Elementary School, and Waste Not Want Not.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Marguerite Smith

Our last meeting was held on Thursday, December 14th at the Grange. On Thursday, January 18th, we will meet over Zoom and discuss advertising and logistics for our 2nd annual Seed Swap held at the Grange from 2:00-4:00 pm on Sunday, February 25th. While folks are swapping seeds upstairs, we will host local students (ages 4-14) downstairs to build Lego creations. The poster for this event is now on our website and facebook page and advertising in local print publications and businesses have gone out. We are also pleased to have recent contact with volunteer teens from the local high school to help with this and other upcoming events along with our annual fair in June. Also up for discussion is the role we can take in the restocking of our town food pantry. Come out and join us on February 25th!



Skillet Chicken, Potatoes & Peppers

From *Woman's Day*: "My mother taught me to love good ingredients and let produce shine. My grandmother and mother made this dish when we lived in Italy, and now I make it for my grandchildren. It has the flavors of roasted chicken without using the oven." — *Lidia Bastianich*

Yields: 4
 Prep Time: 55 Mins.
 Total Time: 1 hr. 15 mins.
 Calories Per Serving: 565

INGREDIENTS:

- 6 Slices Bacon
- 1/2 Cup Canola oil
- 4 small chicken legs
- kosher salt
- 1 lb. red bliss potatoes
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 2 small onions
- 4 small red cherry peppers
- 2 sprig fresh rosemary



STEP 1 - Cut the bacon slices in half crosswise, roll up each piece and secure with a wooden toothpick. Trim the toothpick.

STEP 2 - Heat the canola oil in a large skillet over high heat. Season the chicken with 1/4 teaspoon salt. Add half the chicken to the skillet, skin-side down, scatter the bacon around the chicken and cook until the chicken is golden brown and the bacon is crisp, 4 to 6 minutes per side. Transfer the chicken and bacon to a plate. Repeat with the remaining chicken pieces.

STEP 3 - Wipe out the skillet and return to medium heat. In a medium bowl, toss the potatoes with the olive oil and season with 1/4 teaspoon salt. Transfer the po-

tatoes and any oil in the bowl to the skillet. Arrange the potatoes cut-side down and cook until golden brown and crisp, 6 to 8 minutes. Turn and cook on the rounded sides until crisp, about 2 minutes. Add the onions, peppers, and rosemary and toss to combine. Cook, covered, shaking the pan occasionally, for 5 minutes.

STEP 4 - Return the bacon and chicken (along with any juices) to the pan, nestling it among the vegetables, and cook, covered, shaking the pan occasionally, for 5 minutes.

STEP 5 - Uncover and cook until any liquid has evaporated, the chicken is cooked through, and the potatoes are tender, about 5 minutes.



Are you GRANGE STRONG?

Support this fundraiser through customink.com to purchase your own #GrangeStrong shirts!

must purchase by February 23!
 delivery by mid-march

- T-Shirt - \$22* (Navy)
- Women's V-Neck - \$22* (Steel)
- Long-Sleeve T-Shirt - \$28* (Navy)
- 3/4 Sleeve Raglan T-Shirt - \$20* (Gray/Blue)
- Hoodie - \$40* (Royal)



grange.biz/grangestrongshirt

*plus applicable taxes and shipping

SAVE THE DATE

July 22-27, 2025 | Torrey, Utah



Thousand Lakes RV Park and surrounding properties



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

The next meeting of Nutmeg Pomona is Sunday March 17th with a Degree rehearsal on March 10th. Both meetings will be held at Cheshire Grange starting at 2 o'clock. We will be conferring the Fifth Degree. Now is the time to line up your candidates. Refreshments are in charge of Greenfield Hill and Wallingford Granges.

On the agenda is the election of Steward. Any volunteers – call Master Donald Lanoue.

As this meeting falls on St. Patrick's Day, I'm sure Musician Bob Charbonneau will have some good Irish music to sing.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our next meeting is Saturday February 9th at 2 o'clock. Please note that this is a Saturday not our usual Friday night meeting. We will be meeting in the lower hall – hopefully to save some fuel. The program "Oranges" in charge of Joanne Cipriano. Pat and Ron Fischer will be serving the refreshments. This follows our monthly tag sale. from 9 to 3. We will be back to our meeting room in March.

On the agenda will be discussing our 135th anniversary celebration to be held on June 14th.

Our December raffle was very profitable thanks to donation of prizes from our members and to those who sold and bought tickets. Our next raffle will be in June at our anniversary meeting. It would be nice to receive some prizes from

some of our members who are unable to attend meetings. Also if you would like to sell some tickets, check with Master Joanne.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

March 7: Meeting

Apr. 4: Meeting

May 2: Meeting

Lyme Grange held its first meeting of the new year on Jan. 4. So much to discuss. The furnace needs to be replaced. We are getting estimates but figure several thousand dollars should give us a new furnace. In May our annual plant and food sale will take place on our side lawn. May 11 is the date (the Saturday before Mother's Day).

Long range plans are to have a

large public tag sale on our grounds, probably in June or July. It hasn't been finalized yet.

Of course, in August it will be time again for the Hamburg Fair. It takes many thousands of dollars to accomplish this.

Happy new year! We wish everyone a healthy, prosperous new year.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Feb. 9: Sweet Hearts

Feb. 23: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Mar. 8: Four Leaf Clover

Mar. 22: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meetings.

Consider having a craft night



Dawn Percoski
Family Activities Dir.

Vernon Grange No. 52
CWA@ctstategrange.org

On February 3rd we held our Family Activities Zoom meeting. Since I am writing this in December, I don't know how it turned out yet but I'm sure we all had fun.

Now that winter has us in our grips, I am working on large projects

for the Big E such as afghans. It keeps me warm while I work! I have also found some really cute simple ornaments to try out for our Christmas area. If you are not into crochet or knitting, maybe sewing is your forte. Those quilted bowl for the microwave sold very well. Or if you have those 40 lb. grain bags (large plastic bags from, say feeding chickens, or bird food bags), they can be easily made into a shopping bag and are also very popular. We didn't have many and they went so fast!

What else can you think of to have a craft night in your Grange. It can be a separate meeting for just having fun. Maybe you can have the Lecturer's program during this meeting and have a separate business meeting. What ever you decide, it's always more fun to do projects with other people. It that's not something your Grange can do, then maybe you can gather at someone's house for snacks and crafts! Good company goes a long way to fight off those winter blues.

THE BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

CHILI TO-GO

11 FEB 2024 3-6 PM

CHOICE OF BEEF - WHITE CHICKEN - VEGETARIAN & CORN BREAD \$15.00

PRE-ORDER RECOMMENDED

CALL PAM: (203)470-8013 bridgewater@ctstategrange.org

PICK-UP AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH PARISH HALL
5 MAIN ST S - BRIDGEWATER CT

GARTER SNAKE: A GARDENER'S FRIEND



- 35 kinds of garter snakes in North America
- Lengthwise stripes in yellow, brown, tan, rust, etc
- Typically less than 2 ft long
- They eat rodents, slugs, snails, grasshoppers, grubs and other garden pests
- Harmless to people and dogs
- To attract them, add a rock pile or brush pile, and a water source

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

Lecturers' ROUND-UP



Let's gather again
VIRTUALLY on ZOOM
to discuss the
2024 Grange Program

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 18, 2024
7:00 PM

You don't have to
be a Lecturer -
or from Connecticut -
to attend.
Open to all Grange Members!

For More Information and ZOOM Credentials:
CT State Grange Lecturer/Program Director Dave Roberts
lecturer@ctstategrange.org / granbydavidroberts@gmail.com
860-469-5067



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 uncover 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.

This Month



Last Month

Valentine's Dance with
THE AMERICAN 27'S
 Saturday 2.10.24 @ 6 - 10 pm
 The Oxford Grange
 Dinner, Dancing & Live Music!
 Tickets: \$20/ea.



BYOB
 MUST BE 21+

TICKETS
 & MORE INFO:



Photo by Jamie J. Tilley

DINNERS
 AT THE **2024**
SENEXET GRANGE

UPCOMING

JAN 26 SHEPHERDS
 PIE DINNER

FEB 29 AMERICAN
 CHOP SUEY

MAR 29 CHICKEN
 POT PIES

FOLLOW SENEXET GRANGE ON FACEBOOK
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/OURQUIETCORNER.CT



**PANCAKE
 BREAKFAST**
 FEB 10 8:30 - 11:30
 Buttermilk
 Choc-chip
 Cherry

**Wallingford Grange
 Pancake Breakfast**
 Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024
 586 Center Street, Wallingford, CT
\$6 Pancakes & Sausage

Greenfield Hill Grange
 1873 Hillside Road, Fairfield, CT

FUNDRAISER
 Souper Supper Fundraiser
 Soup, Bingo and Souper Prizes!

Featuring a variety of delicious soups & Grilled Cheese Soda Coffee & Dessert

February 17, 2024
 (Snow Date February 24th)
 Dinner at 6:00
 Doors open at 5:30

BINGO

www.facebook.com/Greenfield.Hill.Grange
 @GHGrangeFld

Call Jim 203.259.8023
 Or Steve 203.367.4373
 for reservations and info

This will be a **RESERVATION ONLY** event ~ reservations must be made one week in advance.
 Cut off to reserve February 10
 Come One, Come All, INVITE A FRIEND

\$20.00 per person includes Bingo



Beginning Anew



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

Jeremiah 29:11

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Philippians 4:6

We are one month into a new calendar year. It is a time to reflect on the year that has past and plan ahead for better things in the year ahead. Some of us have made New Year’s Resolutions, which we may or may not keep. I am of a mind that instead of just choosing the first of each year to make new resolutions that we should reflect at the end of each day on what we have done and what we could do better. At the same time thank God for all the good that has occurred in keeping us safe through another day, and asking His help in the days to come. Each morning is the beginning of a new day. Every single day is an opportunity for you to start anew.



As we are told in our Grange ritual and as I have said here before, look forward to better and brighter days instead of mourning over the past. In planning each day we need to be optimistic that things will work out for us, but not too optimistic. Be also ready to include God in your planning, asking God’s help in all that you do, and also making sure that your plans do not violate the rules that He has set out for us, always remembering that He requires us to consider and help our fellow human beings and care for the world around us that God has entrusted to our care. If possible, keep this goal in mind throughout the day whenever you have time for reflection. St. Paul tells us: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working

for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.”

And when the day comes to a close, let us again reflect on the day’s events, praising God for those things which have worked out for the good, and promising that, whatever did not work out as we desired we will work on tomorrow to try to do better, with God’s help.

In Memoriam

Ernest Affricano, G.S.
Coventry Grange #75

Morgan Ely, G.S.
Lyme Grange #147

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”