



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

Vol. 59, No. 7

The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

April 2019

Changing Public Perceptions



Faith Quinlan
Membership Dir.

Winchester Grange #74
membership@ctstategrange.org

This article is being written while I prepare my presentation for the Northeast Leaders Conference. I would like to share with you some of the ideas I will be presenting. I must say that when taking on this role as Membership Director my first ideas of how to gain members were huge and meant turning things upside down. I wanted to change the Grange to fit the business model of another organization that is successful at gaining members. Contemplating the changes and the costs and what it truly would mean for our current members I quickly realized it was not necessary. It is not necessary to change who we are. Yes, that does seem obvious now but as I grasped for simple solutions I quickly had to acknowledge this isn't going to be simple. We need to put one foot in front of the other and just keep moving forward.

We don't need to change our organization, we need to change the perception people have of us. We need to make sure they know who we are. This is the first stage of our mission. I have plans in process that I will reveal in the next few months that will make this easier for us all to share why membership

is for everyone. I know we need a huge influx of members and a pretty radical change in mindset to move ourselves into this new time in society. We live in a time that is busy and complicated plus we are fighting with so many others to gain time and attention from potential members. All that said I have to say what I really see being successful and simplest to implement is simply put: We want to focus on our strengths but change our approach. What are our strengths in todays technical, fast-paced, over-scheduled, over-stimulated world?

"We don't need to change our organization, we need to change the perception people have of us."

What do people in today's society need that we may be able to provide? A welcoming and authentic place full of real people who share your interests or community concerns and offer friendship and support and sometimes resources to help in daily life. Is that really special these days? I believe it is.

I believe that because I have seen the statistics. The ones that strike me most are the ones that report huge increases in loneliness and feelings of isolation amongst younger people. This is an age group that is surrounded by people in school and at work. The number of people affected is higher than



ever before amongst the 18-30 age group. It is because they do not have nearly enough real or human contact. Facetime or video chat is not a substitute to sharing a meal with someone or sitting across a table and chatting about events and things going on in your neighborhood.

People today want to give back to the world, society and environment. My "old school" recommendation for this is they need to do some hands on work and meet real people. They do not get the good energy

Continued on page 2



The Connecticut State Grange

A part of the National Grange

*American Values,
Hometown Roots*

**NEXT ISSUE ...
Articles Due April 15**

From the President's Desk



George Russell
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169
president@ctstategrange.org

March came in like a lion and hopefully it will go out like a lamb and April will be warm and sunny. By the time you read this article the Northeast Leaders Conference “Leading Leaders 2.0” will be just a memory for those who attended. I hope that everyone who attended was able to get something out of this conference to bring back to their Granges. I will have more on the Conference in the May President’s Report.

In the middle of February, I attended the Masters Conference in Wichita, Kansas. One of our objectives was to come up with a new mission statement for the National Grange. The President and National officers came up with several ideas. By the end of Friday evening we narrowed it down to two mission statements to work on the next day. On Saturday morning we finally came up with a few National Grange Mission Statement: “The Grange strengthens individuals, families, and communities through grassroots action, service, education, advocacy and agriculture awareness.” One of our speakers during the conference was Erin Yelland, Ph.D., CFLE; Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist from Kansas State University. Erin’s topic was: “The Opioid Crisis:

What You Need to Know.” The opioid crisis is not just an inner-city problem but rural areas experience it as well. Drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, of which a large majority is due to prescription and illegal opioids. At our last Board meeting we discussed ways we could set up programs for the State Grange and our communities to participate in a program. One of the programs is to pass out disposable bags that you put in your unwanted prescriptions; add water, seal and dispose of in your garbage. We will be looking into these

programs and see what we can set up in our state. I felt this was a good conference with plenty of information on our Youth and Junior Committees, Membership and Communication Directors.

At our last meeting, the Board of Directors decided to sell the property at 43 Naubuc Avenue in Glastonbury, the former Good Will Grange Hall. We are looking into renting a space for our Connecticut State Grange office. There are chairs, tables, sashes, regalia of all kinds and much more looking for a new home. If your Grange needs any of these items, please contact Todd or myself and we can make arrangements for you to pick them up at the Grange Hall in Glastonbury.

Changing Public Perceptions

Continued from page one...

by sending money through a Go Fund Me page. They need the feeling of satisfaction that happens when members all sit down after a spaghetti dinner or strawberry festival and get to enjoy the fruits of their labor while discussing how busy it was or that funny thing that happened when the public was there. That cannot be done digitally. How can we get them to be a part of this?

Ask for volunteers. People to help set up and take down or who help collect things or serve food. Let your members help too but they should take more of a leadership role during the event. This is a chance to talk about who you are as a community Grange.

Sometimes the easier request is to ask for volunteers. It is less commitment than membership and makes someone feel good and ok that they don’t have all the answers. Volunteers can get so much from helping us and we should remember that sometimes people today, just like all Grangers, have the same need to be needed and appreciated. They will enjoy being helpful for a few hours, getting that great feeling of accomplishment and will receive support and welcoming new friends. You may turn a volunteer into a new member.

We have never had more tools with which to communicate but nothing can compete with a handshake or a pat on the back and the feeling of accomplishment at the end of a tough day when the work is done. That is because as humans we crave true social interactions and the reminder we are alive.

Toll debate continues in Hartford



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Coventry Grange #75
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

The 2019 Connecticut General Assembly session is moving right along now. The Legislative committees have been meeting and having public hearings on various bills. The committees are now reaching the deadlines by which the actions on their assigned bills must be completed. These bills will then be sent on to the House or Senate for their action.

The most notable bills this session addresses creating the process to allow the addition of an 'electronic tolling system' to some Connecticut highways. The Transportation Committee just passed three bills addressing tolls, two House and one Senate bill. The proposed bills would add tolls to I-84, I-91, I-95 and portions of Route 15. These bills will now move on to the House and Senate for consideration.

This discussion of the addition of tolls has been a growing topic for the last few years. Under the Malloy administration, there was a study done with recommendations addressing tolls as to where and how many. This initial study did include other highways in the state such as Routes 384 and 295. Supporters of the tolls say that Connecticut has an aging infrastructure and that the tolls revenues are needed to fund significant repairs to aging roads and bridges. The state also needs to address the viaduct in Hartford. If tolls are approved this year they still need to get federal approval and it will be a few years before they are generating revenue.

One of the bills calls for the creation of a Transportation Committee which would oversee the tolling system. Another bill allows the Department of Transportation to construct, maintain and operate an electronic tolling system leaving the details to them. The bill also addresses



reciprocal agreements with the Department of Motor Vehicles and other states with tolls for the collection of tolls.

As for how much you would pay, it has been recommended that residents who have a Connecticut E-Z Pass receive a discount on the tolls. Out of state E Z Pass holders would be charged a higher rate. They also recommend a commuter rate for those who pass through 40 tolls a month. There are exceptions for police, fire, state and other safety vehicles. The funds would all be placed in a Special Transportation Fund and shall not be commingled with other funds and revenues. In other words, the new transportation lock box.

So far support for these bills falls along party lines, but there are groups who are lobbying to reject the tolls. We have to look at state finances and our highway infrastructure and weigh it against the impact that tolls may have on our state residents and communities. The Grange does support improvements on our highways making them safer to travel.

THE GRANGE STRENGTHENS INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH GRASSROOTS ACTION, SERVICE, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY AND AGRICULTURE AWARENESS.

Grange Mission Statement

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.



We received a letter in the mail that was not signed, with the following information on last month's photo — "Golden Sheaf members of Metichewan Grange. Pictured are Alice Smith, Dorothy Elwood and Elsie Anderson, with Master Harold Morrarty." Thank you to whomever sent in the identifying information.

Don't be afraid to send in your answers even if you're not 100% positive. Your clues may help someone else remember the rest of the information.





GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Apr. 4: Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Apr. 20: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party 7:00 p.m.

May 1: BAKELESS/FOODLESS SALE

May 2: Meeting 7:30 pm.

May 18: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party

Our March 7th meeting was really a COLD night out. But we had 9 brave souls that ventured out.

We want to send a GET WELL MESSAGE to our Assistant Steward, Ann Posuniak, as she is down with Vertigo. We wish her a speedy "Get Well" message. We also learned last evening that 2 other members are on the "Get Well" list. Sister Zell Ferrando is coming home in a day or two from hospital. She has a broken leg and Brother Henry Killam is going into the hospital for surgery on his neck. We wish them all a Speedy Recovery.

At the meeting it was also announced that we are now on the Grange web site. Brother Dan Posuniak said he will try to keep it updated. They also decided to hold our April Card Party. It is scheduled for April 20th and that is Easter Eve, but all felt that will not be an issue.

A reminder is going out to all members that May 1st is our BAKELESS/FOODLESS SALE. We hold two a year and this is the first one for 2019.

May 2nd is our meeting at 7:30 p.m. and the Lecturers program is "May Flowers". It is also the Memorial Service put on by the Chap-

lain and the 3 Graces. May 18th Monte Carlo Whist Card Party and refreshments and door prizes always welcome. Plan on attending and enjoy a fun night out.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Cherie Robinson

Apr. 5: Root Beer; *Ref: Cherie*

March came in like a lion and is acting like a lamb right now. Let's hope it continues. Crocus are up, so that's a good sign. At our March meeting, we learned about hunger, food insecurity, food literacy and a food desert. We continue making plans to address these issues in our community. We played Grange Grocery Bingo with the prizes being a new re-usable bag filled with groceries. We donated a box of groceries to Cornerstone Food Pantry.

While we are saddened by the clos-

ing of Manchester Grange, we are delighted to welcome new members to Vernon Grange. Vernon Grange was happy to host the March meeting of Eastern Pomona.

In April, we will be draping our Charter. We will also be learning about root beer. Join us if you can, we welcome visitors.

EKONK COMMUNITY GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

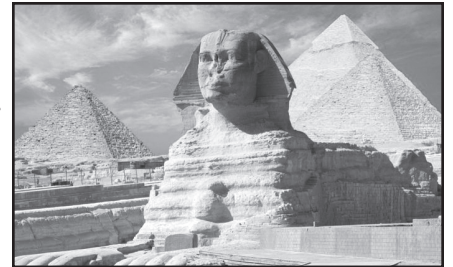
We welcomed Connor Sebastian into membership. Connor attends Plainfield High School and now the entire Sebastian family are Subordinate Grangers. All five children grew up in our Junior Grange! April 1st Richmond Grange brings us their annual fun program. April 19th will be our annual Good Friday Chowder n' clam cake supper,

...Continued next page

See the world with Colchester Grange

Treasures of Egypt featuring a 4-night Nile cruise: March 4-16, 2020:

You will step back in time and explore thousands of years of history, legend and lore as you view Egypt's timeless wonders on this 13 day trip which includes round trip air, transfers, hotels, deluxe 4-night cruise on the Nile, highlights including Giza, Pyramids, Sphinx, Memphis, Sakkara, Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, Luxor, Valley of the Kings, Temple of Karnak, Kom Ombo, Aswan, Choice on Tour Old Cairo: 22 meals (11 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 7 dinners).



Imperial Cities with Oberammergau Passion Play: June 29

July 9, 2020. This trip sets out on an exciting cultural experience in the Imperial Cities of Central Europe featuring traditional entertainment and the epic Oberammergau Passion Play in Germany.



Highlights of the trip: Budapest: Matthias Church, Fisherman's Bastion, Bratislava. Vienna: Grinzing Evening, Schoenbrunn Palace, Cesky Krumlov. Prague: Hradcany Castle, Oberammergau Passion Play, Munich. 16 meals (9 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 6 dinners).

Please contact Cathy Russi for the full details the tour company is offering including travel protection plan, membership to Collette's Loyalty travel program and price per person. Space is limited on each trip, please call as soon as possible for information. crussi45@sbcglobal.net or 860-887-9621.

Continued from previous page...
with white, clear or corn chowders available. Sterling Family Day will hold their annual roast pork supper at our hall on Sat., April 27th. Both April meals begin at 5:00 p.m. The Junior Grange is holding a heating sale, with all profits going to the family of Junior Grange President, Lillian Sharpe, who continues her valiant battle with Leukemia.

Our Grange partnered with Voluntown Volunteer Department and other Vountown organizations and \$7,300.00 was raised in a massive chicken barbecue where all profits will create an emergency fund for any Voluntown family hit with unexpected disaster.

April 7th will be our annual Awards luncheon with Helen Molodich leading the list of dignitaries as she receives her 80 year membership award! She truly has been a faithful Granger, still bakes beans for our Strawberry Supper; matriarch of the Molodich Grange family! We established a committee as the Grange will chair the annual Sterling Memorial Day Parade. It was noted that the Jordan family is having a huge two day bake sale at Hart's Greenhouse in Brooklyn. Our Grange is partnering with this fundraiser benefiting the family of Lillian Sharpe. It will be April 13th and April 14th during regular business hours at Hart's. Grange members will bake together at the Grange for this event. J. Allen Cameron did the annual Ag Day at the Capitol display, in his capacity as State Grange Ag Director. Several Ekonk farm/Grange families participated by providing him with photos of their operations.

Mike Molodich reminded members that they are welcome to participate or cheer on the Ekonk Grange volleyball teams that play in the Sterling Municipal gymnasium Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m. (until it gets too hot to play-resumes again in late fall). Square dances began in March and continue April 21st and May 18th.

Dancing begins at 7:30 p.m. Ever faithful, Joe LoPresti, is caller! Our Juniors enjoyed a visit to the Plan-

etarium in Killingly Intermediate School, learning much about astrology! Visit us anytime: Juniors 1st Fridays at 6pm; Subordinate 1st Mondays 7:30.

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Apr. 12: "Sailing, Sailing, Over the Bounding Main."

Apr. 26: "Community Citizen Program"

We are sorry to report the loss of another of our Grange family. Carol Miner, Golden Sheaf member and Past Master joined the Great

Grange Above on February 10.

Our February program was in the charge of the Ag. Committee. They presented a lively game of Jeopardy with questions based on elevators, escalators and other lifts. We found we were sadly lacking in knowledge in these areas.

On Apr. 26 we will be honoring longtime members and our Community Citizen. The recipient is a secret. Please join us to find out his/her identity and in celebrating our senior members. And if the ground hog is to be believed, Spring is just around the corner! Hooray!



Braided Easter Egg Bread

Easter is on Sunday, April 21st this year. One of the baking traditions is the Braided Easter Egg Bread. This recipe from AllRecipes has whole eggs baked into it. This makes for a beautiful presentation.

INGREDIENTS:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, divided | 2 tablespoons butter |
| 1/4 cup white sugar | 2 eggs |
| 1 teaspoon salt | 5 whole eggs, dyed if desired |
| 1 (.25 ounce) pkg. active dry yeast | 2 tablespoons butter, melted |
| 2/3 cup milk | |

DIRECTIONS: In a large bowl, combine 1 cup flour, sugar, salt and yeast; stir well. Combine milk and butter in a small saucepan; heat until milk is warm and butter is softened but not melted.

Gradually add the milk and butter to the flour mixture; stirring constantly. Add two eggs and 1/2 cup flour; beat well. Add the remaining flour, 1/2 cup at a time, stirring well after each addition. When the dough has pulled together, turn it out onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic, about 8 minutes.

Lightly oil a large bowl, place the dough in the bowl and turn to coat with oil. Cover with a damp cloth and let rise in a warm place until doubled in volume, about 1 hour.

Deflate the dough and turn it out onto a lightly floured surface. Divide the dough into two equal size rounds; cover and let rest for 10 minutes. Roll each round into a long roll about 36 inches long and 1 1/2 inches thick. Using the two long pieces of dough, form a loosely braided ring, leaving spaces for the five colored eggs. Seal the ends of the ring together and use your fingers to slide the eggs between the braids of dough.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Place loaf on a buttered baking sheet and cover loosely with a damp towel. Place loaf in a warm place and let rise until doubled in bulk, about 45 minutes. Brush risen loaf with melted butter.

Bake in the preheated oven until golden brown, about 30 minutes.

SOURCE: www.allrecipes.com/recipe/17244/braided-easter-egg-bread/



WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

Corr: Deborah Brown

The Whigville Grange has planned events for 2019. The earliest one is: May 10, a Mom's and brides fair. Booths will include wedding planning, a J.P., a cake baker, jewelry, skin care, cosmetics, candles, and things to pamper the ladies! A nice way to find a Mothers' Day gift, or get wedding ideas. Light refreshments will be available, so join us at the Grange from 10am until 2 pm. Some spaces are available, contact Debbie at b_gary@sbcglobal.net.

As you are spring cleaning, set aside some things to sell at our upcoming flea market on July 13. Inside and outside spots, rain or shine. Details to follow.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Apr. 9: First & Second Degrees, Ref. Domenic & Joan Campi

Apr. 23: Third & Fourth Degrees, Ref. Harvest Potluck at 6 P.M.

Winchester Grange welcomes its newest members and congratulates all new members who joined during our Obligation Ceremony held at our last meeting.

A special meeting was held to discuss an exciting addition to Winchester Grange. Details are still being ironed out and we'll let you know in the next issue what may be happening in Winchester!

Looking ahead, April is scheduled to be Degree Month with

the First & Second Degrees being conferred at our first April meeting and the Third and Fourth on the second meeting. If your Grange has candidates in need of degrees, please contact let us know.

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of spring-- it's been a long winter- with or without lots of snow.

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Taghhannuck's regular April 11th meeting starts at 8:00PM, our summer hours. The Program "Spring Cleaning In & Out" begins at 7:00pm and is exactly what it sounds like. If you plan to come bring cleaning supplies to help out.

We will have a booth at the 34th Sharon Classic Road Race on Saturday May 4th on the Sharon Green in the middle of town. The event usually runs from 9:00am-12:30pm. If you are a runner this is a great 5 mile event and if not there is a Silent Auction, Bounce House, Massages, Food Concessions, local exhibits from community organizations (THAT'S US), music and more. Please visit us there.

Our goal is to get Taghhannuck Grange out there and try to get younger people interested in our grange. We did get one application from our February event with Carol Ascher. Our invitation to have a

booth at the May 4th Road Race also came as a result of our February event.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

Apr. 6: Flea Market, 9-1 P.M., Memorial Hall, Bethlehem.

Apr. 22: (Mon.), Awards Night, 7:30 P.M.

Our Community Service Award will be presented to Rick Wood for Caring for Bethlehem. "Music with a Mission" Bell Choir will perform.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Apr. 13: Show and Tell

May 11: Lilacs and Tulips – Baking Contest.

Our program on the Shakers, especially those who lived here in Enfield, was educational in not only in what they believed but what they accomplished as a community. Several of their local buildings are still standing and still in use as private residences. They were industrious and inventive. The first mail order packets of vegetable and flower seeds originated right here. Although there are only 2 members left who reside in New Hampshire, their legacy lives on in many ways. We will look back on our own history in March as we celebrate 120 years. Our program will also be craft making, so come prepared.

the
Connecticut Granger
Published Monthly

Livre
Gratis
FREE
Tasuit
Fri
Vapaa
Gratuito
Wolny
Gratuit

The 2019 Connecticut Granger Subscription Lists have gone out to all Granges. If your Grange has not received it, please let us know. Remember, ALL Grange homes are entitled to receive the Granger FREE of charge. Please return your corrected lists as soon as possible.



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Nutmeg Pomona does not meet in the month of April but we do want to wish all our fellow Grangers a very happy Easter.

Our next meeting will be June 2nd at 2:00 at Beacon Valley.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

April 3: Awards Night. Open Meeting, Tea Cup Auction

Apr. 17: Complete Program

We had a successful corned beef and cabbage dinner in early March. Our treasury will be further enhanced with two more dinners we are serving in late March and mid April. Our Monday craft nights continue. A fifty-five membership seal was presented to Emily Alexander at a recent meeting. Heidi and Richard Comstock ,also, recently received their fifty-five year membership seals. As mentioned earlier, plans are under way for our Late August fair.

Our CWA program on May 15th will be "Remembering The Circus." It will be an open meeting with a teacup auction. This will be one of our highlight meeting this year. Please mark your calendar to join us.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

We are in the homestretch for our 130th Anniversary being held on Friday, May 31. Time: 7:30 P.M. Please save the date.

Our program for April is "Easter" in the charge of Lecturer Judi Reynolds. Joanne Muscillo will be

hostess. Our April clean-up Day is Wednesday the 17th - time 1:00. Come and give us a hand.

We will have our usual Open Mic on Saturday, April 20th from 2 to 5. Attendance has tripled during the last couple of months. Come and see what you are missing.

Our clothing drive is May 3, 4, and 5. All donations will be appreciated. Time Friday and Saturday 9 to 5 and Saturday 9 to 5 and Sunday 9 to 12 noon.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Jim & Lori Golias

Welcome Spring and away with the heating bills! It was a somewhat quiet Winter at our Grange. Our January meeting was cancelled because of the snow, but our Valentine Dinner was a success. Stuffed Shrimp and Chicken Franchise were the featured fare.

We were also able to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with our Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner. Thank you to the Boy Scouts and the families of Troop 90 for helping with our Spring grounds clean up.

Please save the date: Saturday April 27 for our Spring Bazaar and Open House from 10-3.

Vendor tables are still available. To reserve or for info, call Steve, 203.367.4373.

Our Agricultural Fair is set for September 14, 2019.

Spring has Sprung! Let the planting begin.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

May 2: We will confer the Third & Fourth Degrees, Harvest Supper @ 6:30 P.M.

May TBA: 9th Annual Plant & Food Sale

June 6: Memorial Service. Practice for "Let's Celebrate" Day and Baking Contest.

Due to our parking lot not being plowed, we postponed our March meeting one week with a wonderful meeting on Riley Tefft's 15th birthday. A cake was fired up and her two favorite ice cream flavors were served.

Spring is showing its wonderful entrance. Snow drops are up with white buds and I'm sure will burst into bloom soon.

The Lyme-Old Lyme Boy Scout Troop has the most Eagle Scouts in the state. They continue to do projects for the Lyme Grange Fair. Most recently, the main staircase on our grounds needs replacement. The Scout's Council has approved the project.

We voted to allow the local high school "graduation party" project "Cow Chip Raffle" to use our fairgrounds, a relief to organizers.

By the time you read this, we will have presented 13 certificates from 75 years to 40 years to deserving members.

Happy Spring!

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

Apr. 4: Business Mtg

Apr. 18: Business Mtg

April 25: Fair Committee Mtg

May 2: Business Mtg

May 11: Celebrating our 120th Anniversary (May 4)

The Fair Committee has been hard at work since January, meeting on a regular basis and planning various events that will take place on August 25th. Tasks and assignments are getting accomplished. A great day for agriculture and family is planned, so we hope to see many Grange members in attendance.

We've been holding some mini-baking contests for members and

Continued next page

GRANGERS ARE HEROES FOR THEIR HOMETOWNS. MAKE SURE TO DRESS THE PART

ORDER YOUR CAPE TODAY!
PROMOPLACE.COM/GRANGE
 \$7.50 plus shipping

Contact Mike Warner by email for special pricing on bulk orders
mike@monroeclassic.com

Learn more about our Grange Month theme that can be used all year long at
nationalgrange.org/grange-month-2019/

videotaping how they are judged so our fair-goers can see what judging is all about.

We had a fun evening in late March with Silent Movies and John Mucci providing a dazzling piano accompaniment to the program of Laurel & Hardy. We know that all who came had such a great time seeing vintage films and enjoying the comedy.

Our Grange will celebrate 120 years on May 4th meeting in the same building! The actual celebration is being held on Saturday evening, May 11th as the Hall is already engaged for something else on May 4th. We'll have more details on the event soon.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Apr. 12: CWA

Apr. 26: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled.

Apr. 27: The Sharades to perform at Hemlock Grange. Music of the 50s and more. 17 Sage Hollow Rd., Portland. 7 P.M. to 11 P.M., tickets \$12. Call 860-342-0290.

May 10: May Flowers

May 24: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Apr. 5: Regular meeting, 7:30 PM

Apr. 13, 2019-Chili Cook-Off, 6 PM

Apr. 19: Regular meeting, 7:30 PM

Apr. 26: GOMAD potluck supper and music, 7:00 PM

We made it through the winter. We have a new tenant, a yoga studio, renting the hall. They have done some clean-up, painting, and even joined the Grange. Welcome to Aga and Joe. The handicapped ramp is nearing completion with railings started but not quite finished. With spring coming, we can get out and continue our gardening work around the hall. The Grange by-laws are being revised to update our membership dues, and look for a change in meeting night for Oxford Grange. We voted on changes March 15, so any updates will be posted in the next issue of the Granger.

Thank you!

Marge and I thank everyone in our grange family who sent us expressions of sympathy on the passing of my sister. It is comforting to know that we have so many caring friends in the Grange. Thank you and we love you all.

Bob & Marge Sendewicz



VENDORS :
Arts, Crafts,
Specialties,
Antiques,
Seasonal

April 27, 2019

10-3pm

OPEN HOUSE

Greenfield Hill
Grange
1873 Hillside Road
Fairfield, CT

Come see our **HISTORIC BUILDING**, built in 1897 and learn more about the Greenfield Hill Grange –
Founded in 1893
We are celebrating our 126th year!



For info:
call Steve 203.367.4373



@ Riverton Grange

Riverton Grange No. 169 will hold a Game & Card Night on Saturday, April 27 from 6:00 - 9:00 P.M. at the Grange Hall located at 9 Riverton Road (Route 20), Riverton. We will have sandwiches, desserts, coffee, tea and water. Come play cards, or board games, maybe a puzzle. Bring your crafts to work on. See you there!

For more information please contact Raine Pedersen at 860-309-3160.



Dawn Anstett
State Youth Director

Riverton Grange #169

Youth@ctstategrange.org

Youth Connections

It's mid-March while I am sitting down to write for next month's Granger, in the midst of planning for this summer's Northeast Youth Conference. Every year youth Grangers from all over New England and New York gather for a weekend of leadership training, education, fellowship and they participate in competitions. Mid-March being the start of National Deaf History Month, I thought it would be a good time to write about the Grange's focus promoting deaf-awareness programs, The William Ireland Deaf Awareness Award and the Sign-A-Song Contest that will be held at the conference this summer.

Deaf History Month starts on March 13 and that day is significant because on March 13, 1988, Dr. I. King Jordan became the first deaf president of Gallaudet University. This month runs between two months spanning not just one significant date but three. A second date, that is important in deaf history is April 8th, where in 1864 President Lincoln signed the charter that established Gallaudet University. Gallaudet became the first university for the advance education of deaf and hard-of-hearing persons. The third day, on which they wrap up the month, took place right here in Connecticut, where on April 5, 1817 the first permanent public school for the deaf opened in West Hartford, CT, The American School for the Deaf.

The National Grange has many programs that promote deaf awareness. These include: The Gallaudet University Internship Endowment, The Deaf Awareness Program and Dogs for a Better Life, formerly known as Dogs for the Deaf. The National Grange Youth has an Achievement Awards Program. In this program, youth can work on completing tasks in many areas of Grange work, earning certificates and seals for completed work. One of those programs is the William Ireland Deaf Awareness Achievement Award



American School for the Deaf, W. Hartford.

and for many years now Sign-A-Song has also been a youth contest.

Reading levels of achievement within this award you can see that we are recognizing the importance of communication and community in our programs. The five levels are:

Sapphire: Learn the manual alphabet. Demonstrate it to someone proficient in sign language. (It can be done at a Sign-A-Song contest).

Emerald: Develop a Deaf Awareness display or program. Present/display it at a Subordinate/Community or Pomona Grange meeting.

Silver: Participate in state sign-a-song contest, enter an educational display at State Session, or present a workshop on sign language at a State Session, State Youth Camp or State Youth Conference.

Ruby: Participate in a regional sign-a-song contest or present a speech on deaf awareness at a regional youth conference.

Gold: Participate in the National Session Evening of Excellence Sign-A-Song Contest or develop an education publication to promote deaf awareness and/or sign language.

Upon completing the five levels above you can receive a special Achievement Award pin.

Deaf Awareness involves both communication and community. What we as hearing individuals see as beautiful and expressive, when

watching someone sign a song, or even watching an interpreter in public, is a necessity for the deaf individual. Being aware of deaf culture, will help ensure that we are not offending someone. Simple actions like moving into their visual field or tapping them on the shoulder are appropriate ways to engage in conversation with a deaf person and ask if you are interrupting. Not all deaf people can read lips but if they don't talk loud or mumble. Face the deaf person that you are communicating with and don't turn away before you finish speaking. There are many small things we can do to make it better for a deaf person to communicate with us but remember to ask them what they prefer.

Details for the Sign-A-Song Contest can be found in the Grange Blue Book and on the National Grange Youth Pages. Most sites I came across recommend that you ask a native deaf signer or interpreter to help you. Many of them may ask you your intentions and with the proliferation of YouTube videos showing many "hearries" signing for glory or recognition, some native deaf signers and interpreters you approach to help you may see what you are doing as offensive. Dr. Raychelle Harris has been quoted by many online, posted this excerpt from *Exploring Deaf Culture: Deaf Communities in the United States* on her own Facebook page: "Hearing people learning sign language often think it is fun to translate songs written in English to ASL, often with good intentions, but they do not realize that this practice is offensive to the Deaf community." (Leigh, Andrews & Harris, 2018).

The 2019 National Youth Grange Program Book does list the following change for this contest: costumes and props are allowed. Please think about what Dr. Harris wrote, and participate in these contests to build communication and community, not just as a performance.

Deaf Culture: Exploring Deaf Communities in the United States. "The Fascinating Origins of Deaf History Month," Deaf Interpreter Services, www.deaf-interpreter.com. Leigh et al. - Plural Publishing Inc. - 2018.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Don't put the cart before the horse

by Terri Fassio,
Public Relations Co-Director

Don't Put the Cart Before the Horse. This is an age-old proverb handed down through generations. But how does this phrase relate to your Grange, and its communications?

Granges are seeking out positive press on a daily basis. Every Grange yearns to have that newspaper article published, radio interview or television coverage, and even have a social media post that goes viral, in the hopes of gaining new interest, and thus new members. What is your Grange doing to make this positive press a reality?

Granges can not expect to be the center of attention when they are not sponsoring activities and projects of interest to the public which would warrant the attention of the press and the public.

Hosting events and undertaking community service projects help to raise awareness of your Grange as well as promote its mission. Is your Grange hosting events and pursuing projects that affect your local community? If not, why not plan something today.

We've all heard the excuses -- not enough help, members too old, no proper venue, no funds, no one attends -- the list goes on and on. The fact is - they are just that, excuses. Each Grange is as integral to their community as their members make it. We

are proud to say that across Connecticut, our Granges are as diverse as the state in which we reside. We have Granges that are rural, suburban and urban - each with distinctively different communities in which they serve. Every Grange needs to take a look at their activities and projects and assess their individual situations. How does MY Grange affect MY community?

Once your Grange has begun planning projects and activities outside of regular meetings, the next step is to alert the press, and

promote your event or project through a l l different medias. Y o u cannot get the word out too much or too soon. P r e s s Releases, f l y e r s , posters, s o c i a l media , p o s t cards and mailers to your members - these are

all sources that should be included when promoting your Grange. Don't want to tackle publicity? Contact the Public Relations Committee. We are here to help, and have a proven track record with the Connecticut press. Be sure to plan enough time to get the job done. Pushing deadlines can only hinder the amount of coverage received.

"Putting the cart before the horse" means working out of order. It can be counter-productive, ineffective for both the Grange and their communications, and shows the organization as disorganized. It frankly doesn't work. Take the steps to move forward with your Grange and make a splash in your community, and the positive press will follow.

Spring Tag Sale &

FLEA MARKET 

Greenfield Hill Grange
1873 Hillside Rd.
Fairfield, CT 06824

April 27, 2019
10:00am to 3:00pm

New & Old Treasures




Famous Grangers: Norman Rockwell

Norman Rockwell was a Granger, and so were many of his subjects!

The paintings of Norman Rockwell are about as synonymous with America as apple pie. They embodied the life and spirit of the American people. He was an artist, a patriot, a civil rights activist and a Granger.

He and his family were very active in the local grange while he lived with his wife and three sons in Arlington Vt. He would often volunteer to wax and sweep the hall after grange dances. He liked selling tickets for the dances because it afforded him an opportunity to study hands and faces...planning for his next painting. Many of his subjects were among these fellow grangers.

For \$5 they would pose for several hours to be immortalized forever in his iconic works. Portraying the scenes he visualized and captured in his art.

In 1953 he joined with the Vermont State Grange to present his charcoal portrait of the National Master at the National Grange Session held in Burlington Vt.

The New York Times had this to say about his subjects:

“They were plucked from Grange halls, school dances and the town green, regular people whose faces, by the brushstrokes of a neighbor, would come to embody Americana.”

Originally posted on Facebook (on March 15th) by Mifflin Grange #1725 (Pennsylvania)



CT State Grange Past Deputies Association

The Past Deputies Association will meet at Cheshire Grange on Sunday, April 7. The day starts with a potluck dinner at 2 followed by the meeting, program and Country Store. Marcia and Noel Miller will be host for the dinner. Irene Percoski will entertain everyone with her program and the theme for the country store is the letter “O”.

On the agenda is election of officers. Nominating Committee: Charles Dimmick, Barbara Robert and Lois Evankow.

The Raffle Committee will also be soliciting gifts for our annual raffle. Please come prepared.

"The first and highest object of our Order is - 'to develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood.'"

PLANT SOMETHING NEW IN YOUR LIFE THIS SPRING. JOIN US AT THE GRANGE.

 NATIONALGRANGE.ORG

Northeast Lecturers to meet in Mass.



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

Cheshire Grange #23
Lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Great News... The 2019 Lecturers' Conference is coming together and looks better than ever. As I reported last month it will be held August 5, 6 & 7 at the Devens Common Center in Devens, Massachusetts.

The cost for the conference will be \$330 for a single room, \$265 for a double room and only \$220 for a triple room. Being at a conference center will definitely meet our needs much better than being on a college campus. I am really looking forward to

being there. Janet Segur, the Massachusetts State Lecturer and President of the Northeast Grange Lecturers' Association has put a lot of time and effort into planning the conference and is doing a great job laying the groundwork for our new format. Hopefully lots of our Lecturers and other interested people will be able to attend.

How well do I know you? My Workshop at the conference is entitled "Getting to Know You". If you were there two years ago, some of it will be on the same idea but a lot is being added so you can get to personally meet people from other States. Where did you meet your husband? Was it in the Grange? I meet Carl at a Youth Conference in Vermont.

That makes this 60+ year Granger feel really old.

Spring should be here by now. How about taking some pictures of Spring Flowers or of a Grange event you are having. There are six categories and you can enter a picture in each. The categories are America the Beautiful, Animals, Grangers In Action, Family Celebrations, Historic Places or Events and Antique Vehicles. Judging will be part of "Let's Celebrate". Watch for more information next month or ask your Lecturer.

Please remember I am always here to help you and your Grange. Call me, text me or chase me down at a meeting.

See you around the State.

State Secretary



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary

Winchester Grange #74
Secretary@ctstategrange.org

Just when we think spring is here in more than just name, Old Man Winter sends us another blast of winter to put us in our places. Hopefully by the time this issue hits your mailbox spring will have come permanently with warmer temperatures, flowers and sunny days.

Thank you to all who registered and attended the Northeast Leaders Conference in March. This issue comes out just at the time the conference is going on so we can't tell you here how it went but we do know the workshops scheduled set this event apart from any recent Leaders Conference. More on the conference in the next issue.

Also in March, I mailed letters to all Granges informing them of the decision of the Connecticut State Grange Board of Directors to sell the property located at 43 Naubuc Avenue, Glastonbury (formerly Good

Will Grange Hall).

This decision was made following months of deliberation and evaluation. In the end, it was decided the costs required to update the building to current code with handicap accessibility, adequate restrooms, updated kitchen, new heating and cooling, etc. would have been far too expensive. Use of the building would have continued to be for the Grange office and occasional use by the State Grange for gatherings and a monthly board meeting. It would have been difficult to justify.

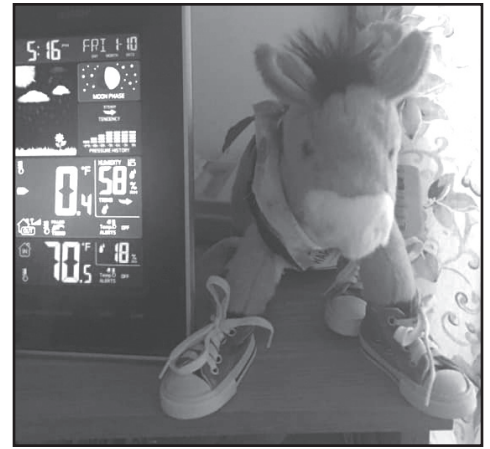
Following that vote, the Board instructed the State Master to arrange for a location for a new State Grange Office. A plan is presently being worked out and we will provide details when available.

A letter was sent out to all Granges announcing the cancellation of the 2019 camping season at Camp Berger. Please contact the State Master if you have questions.

Has your Grange and/or Grange members paid dues to your new Pomona? If not, please get in touch with your Pomona Secretary. On March 31, dues become payable to

the State Grange for each of the three new Pomonas in the State. Unfortunately, there are a number of Granges who have not responded to the Pomona Secretary's queries. It is important that a list of all current Pomona members in each Community Grange is provided to Pomona. The dues payment to the State Grange is based on the total number of Pomona members reported by each Community Grange to their respective Pomonas.

The State Grange continues to file the 990N ePostcard for all Granges in the state for 2019. **HOWEVER**, the IRS took down portions of the website in early March and have yet to put it back online. Agents at the IRS have absolutely no idea when the site will be put back online, so I wait, and wait... and wait more. It's frustrating but there's no alternative as all 990 filings must be done online. Rest assured, your Grange's 990 will be filed by me as soon as I am able to log on to the site again. When the filings are complete and we have received acceptance from the IRS, receipts will be sent out to all Granges. Please place these receipts in a safe place as they are your only proof of filing and this can also be useful to your Grange when conducting financial transactions.



by Hank the Burro

Greetings Grange friends!

It's sure has been cold in March - but now we are starting to see a few warmer days. George and I travelled to Mountain Laurel Pomona's meeting in March at Riverton Grange. It was great to spend some time with Lecturer Lin Erickson and my new friend Morgan from Canton High School. I also got to check out the beautiful baskets donated by Cawasa Grange for the drawing at Leader's Conference.

On February 26 at Winchester Grange, five new members took their obligation - three from Riverton and two from Winchester. I got to have my photo taken with Phil & Maureen Prelli and Peter Keefe. Welcome to the new members!

I also have recently participated in the 8-Day Grange Photo Challenge on Facebook, where you have to post a Grange photo a day for 8 days, and then tag a friend to do the same. It was fun looking at older photos and taking a walk down memory lane.

Speaking of Facebook, how about following the link to my Facebook page, and then click the "Like" button while you are there too. You can follow us on all of our fun Grange adventures. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHankthe-Burro>



In real life,
heroes
 don't always
 wear capes*
 *BUT IF YOU WANT, WE'VE
 GOT ONE READY FOR YOU
 JOIN GRANGE YOUTH TO BECOME A HERO
 FOR THOSE IN NEED IN YOUR HOMETOWN



IT'S TIME TO CASH IN ON GRANGE DISCOUNTS FOR ENTERTAINMENT, TRAVEL, ADVENTURES AND FUN!



Go to ticketsatwork.com | Create a username and password | Use our Grange company code

Log into your National Grange Member Page to get our company code or members may contact Loretta Washington for the code

Ekonk visits Richmond Grange



Members of Ekonk Community Grange #89 recently visited Richmond Grange in Rhode Island and presented a "Hee Haw" themed program. This is an annual event for both Granges, alternating halls each year.

Ag Day at the Capitol



Former State Dept. of Agriculture Commissioner Steven Revictzky (far right) stopped by the Connecticut State Grange booth at the Captiol. CSG Ag Director J. Allen Cameron is pictured (left) with State Master George Russell.



Whigville Fundraising Campaign

A check presentation ceremony on March 10 kicked off Whigville Grange's fundraising campaign to fix the well at the Grange. Contributions may be made via PayPal www.burlingtonlandtrust.org/grangeproject or by mail to The Burlington Land Trust, P.O. Box 1153, Burlington, CT 06013. Please write "Whigville Grange Well" in the memo section. Our goal is \$8,000 with \$5,000 raised so far. We hope you will be able to contribute and help save the Grange. A big thank you to the Burlington Community Fund at the Main St. Community Found. for its \$1,000 grant.

43 Naubuc Avenue, P.O. Box 1393
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Address Service Requested

Redemption



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain
Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

*For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at the last he will stand
upon the earth.
And after my skin has been
thus destroyed,
yet in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see for myself,
and my eyes shall behold,
and not another.*

These words from the Book of Job should be familiar to both Jewish and Christian readers. They reflect the strong belief that after this life there is a life to come, that God will not forget his people, but offers them life eternal. The terms “redeem”, “Redeemer”, “redemption”, “save”, and “salvation” appear over 200 times in the Bible, abundantly in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. The exact word used varies with the context and the translation.

But the message is clear: God redeems or saves His people, either individually or collectively. Because of our sinful nature we cannot save ourselves; only God can save us, as the prophet Isaiah says [Chapter 12]:

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust and not be afraid.
The Lord, the Lord himself, is my
strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation.”

Now, in our ordinary lives when we redeem something, such as

redemption of soda bottles, we give up something of lesser value, such as the bottle, and receive something of greater value, such as money. We redeem our baggage claim and receive our luggage, something of much greater value to us than the claim ticket. However, sometimes, such as redemption of an item in a pawn shop, the price we pay might be considerably larger. God’s redemption gives to us eternal life, but for us Christians the price paid is very large indeed. In the book of Revelation we read: “You were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”

Again, in the Old Testament book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 53, we read:

“Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

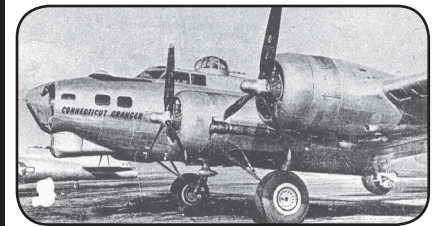
I lack the theological depth to completely understand this, but just accept it as a matter of faith.

In Memoriam

Blanche Bass, G.S.
Colchester Grange #78

Carroll Miner, G.S.
N. Stonington Comm. Grange #138

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”



WW II Flying Fortress “Connecticut Granger”

STAFF

President/Editor Todd A. Gelineau
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:
Connecticut State Grange
P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033
or Todd Gelineau, Editor
P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069
Granger@CTStateGrange.org

(USPS 563-220)

the Connecticut Granger

is published monthly for \$10.00/yr. by:

Connecticut Granger, Inc..
100 Newfield Road,
Winchester Center, CT 06094
*(DO NOT SEND MAIL/CORRECTIONS
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