



# the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

May 2019

## From the President's Desk



**George Russell**  
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169  
president@ctstategrange.org

Since I wrote my last article, March has been a very busy and gratifying month. On March 29 and 30th the Northeast Leaders Conference was held in Norwich, sponsored by your Connecticut State Grange. We had a great turn out for this conference with 117 people registering for the event. We had four excellent speakers that conducted workshops both Friday and Saturday night. They presented a lot of helpful and pertinent information on how to grow our Granges. The Connecticut State Grange was well represented by officers, committee chairs and several Granges sent representatives to this conference. National officers that attended were Betsy Huber, President/Master National Grange, Phil & Maureen Prelli: Overseer, National Grange, Burton Eller, Legislative Director, and Joe Stefanoni, Membership Director. On Saturday evening during the closing banquet; The Northeast Community Service awards were presented. Noel Miller, Community Service Director for Connecticut: presented the Firefighter of the Year Award to Arthur Skip Beebe of the Old Lyme Fire Department from Connecticut. Marie Robidoux: Community Service Director for Rhode Island State Grange; presented the Educator of the Year Award to

Sandra Makielski of Davisville Middle School in Rhode Island and presented the Law-Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to: Daniel S. O'Neill and his canine partner: Ruby from the Rhode Island State Police.

I would like to thank all of the Pomona and Community Granges for donating baskets to the "Love of Lillian" fund. We raised \$800 from this raffle. Next year's Northeast Leaders Conference will be hosted by the New York State Grange.

Ag Day at the capitol was also held the end of March. The Ag committee worked to update the Membership Booth for the day. Several pictures of Grange members' farms were added to this year's booth. State Grange members that manned the booth for the day were: J Allen Cameron, Ciri Miller, Alma Graham and George Russell.

The State Grange will have a new office located in Winchester, Connecticut. The new office is part of the Winchester Grange Hall and was formally the Winchester fire department's meeting room. We will be moving by the end of May and hope to be in there by June 1st. The Board of Directors has made plans for our monthly meetings to be held at Hillstown Grange.

At the State Grange office in Glastonbury: we still have chairs, tables, Grange Stations and other items available; so if you need any of these items please let us know. By the time you read this article: let's hope we have some nice warm weather that we can enjoy!



Ciri Miller of Senexet Grange, J. Allen Cameron, Agric. Director and George Russell at Ag Day in Hartford.



Earl Phillips of Eureka Grange #62 sings a few notes while cabaret singer Ashley Cruz encourages him during the closing banquet at the 2019 Northeast Leaders Conference in Norwich.



**The Connecticut State Grange**

A part of the National Grange

*American Values,  
Hometown Roots*

**NEXT ISSUE ...  
Articles Due May 15**

# Let's All Celebrate Our Grange



**Marge Bernhardt**  
State Lecturer  
Cheshire Grange #23  
Lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Let's all Celebrate our Grange. Let's Celebrate begins on Sat. June 8th with the judging of our Photo Contest. There are six categories – America The Beautiful; Animals; Grangers In Action; Family Celebrations; Historic Places or Events; and, Antique Vehicles. Why not enter a picture in all the categories. A rigid backing is required for all photographs. The backing can be no smaller than 4" x 6" or larger than 11" x 14". You can mail or give me your entries ahead of time, or bring them to Cheshire Grange Hall between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. on June 8th.

On Sunday, June 9th we will hold our Talent and "A Number" Contests beginning at 1:00 p.m. All entries in these contests go directly to the State Judging. The winner of the Talent Contest will be eligible to present

their number at the Lecturers' Conference in August.

The theme of the "A Number" Contest this year is "Holidays". This can be on any recognized holiday. Any number suitable for a Grange Meeting is eligible. Time Limit: 6 minutes (includes set-up and performance). Does your Grange have an entry? If not why not help your Lecturer prepare one.

By now everyone should have received information and registration forms for Lecturers' Conference. If you didn't get yours, please let me know and I will see that you get one right away. Because the conference is being held at a hotel instead of on a college campus the deadline for registering has been moved to June 10. Please be sure and get yours in on time.

If you have questions about any of the contests or the conference please do not hesitate to contact me.

Hope to see you around the State and in Devens, MA at Lecturers' Conference.

## Remembering Metichewan Grange



The New Milford Historical Society is currently displaying some items once used by the Metichewan Grange of New Milford. The museum is located at 6 Aspetuck Avenue in the town of New Milford. Metichewan Grange opened its doors in 1904 and finally closed in 2007. Most of the remaining members moved to Bridgewater Grange.

The information enclosed in each issue of The Connecticut Granger is for information 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 therein.

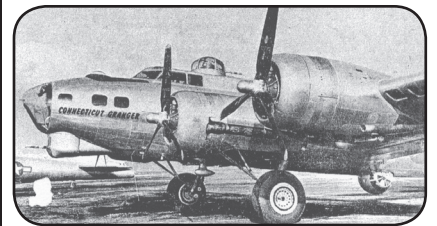
### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Let's Celebrate Day...

Sunday, June 9th

Cheshire Grange Hall

the  
**Connecticut Granger**  
Published Monthly



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  
100 Newfield Road  
P.O. Box 3

Winchester Center, CT 06094  
or Todd Gelineau, Editor  
P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069  
Granger@CTStateGrange.org

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# Make the most of opportunities



**Faith Quinlan**  
Membership Dir.

Winchester Grange #74  
membership@ctstategrange.org

With the spring blossoms and grass turning rich green I suspect everyone is ready to get outside more. For many of us that can also mean socializing will pick up also. The longer days and warmer temps usually bring a lot of invitations and opportunities to do things that are only an option once the snow and ice are gone.

Over the next few weeks our family has planned or has confirmed events that will take us through the school year. Summer weekends fill up fast with vacations, weddings and barbecues on the calendar. What does that mean when we are planning our Grange events?

Plan early, ask for volunteers early and especially get the message out early. Most of you will know what your events are and when you are having them. How will you get the message out? What can you add to your usual plan? Can you get the flyers up, signs and start posting on Facebook or other social media?

When possible be sure to have signage for the following event to get people thinking and planning weeks ahead. Remember to contact our public relations team to get help designing these.

We have great food, baked treats, crafts and deals for shoppers available for sale at every Grange here in Connecticut. You should feel very proud of what you provide, contribute and volunteer for your community. That pride is also in who we are. Our goal at our events is to show our warmth and civil mindedness with as many people as we can. When they see the homemade items and taste the wonderful treats we serve we open a conversation about who made them and how long they and their family have been members. Grange

events showcase to potential new members our pride and openness, teach our stories, make them feel welcomed and opens a door to the possibility they will become new members.

I cannot stress enough that the way to gain new members in today's busy and distracted world is to get them to your Grange for an occasion and then get them to return again. We have heard that one of the Grange's toughest barriers is the fact that people do not know who we are or what we do. Getting visits from the public help to lower that barrier. They come because we have something that interests them. Admittedly they do not come because it is the Grange, they may come because they like the Classical Music performance at the hall or because they are seeking new lamps and we are having a tag sale. Each occasion they come, no matter the reason for their visit is a positive experience with the Grange and more time we have to share with them what we have been up to. Layer these positive experiences, opening the barrier of who we are and what we do. How can they resist?

I suppose the down side is all of these positive experience layers may actually gain for us some Grange supporters rather than members. That sounds like an okay

problem to have at this point. When the community visits you for your Strawberry Festival or the Annual Fair, they already know where you are located and who you serve. They have made a few new friends and if we do it right they have more information in their hands about who we are.

We are amazing and a positive force within the families and communities we serve. No matter how small a Grange may be right now compared to what they once were, they still have everything they need to find new members. There are events we can have where we partner with another community organization and get our name out. If you do not have a Grange building you can bring your event to another community location. Please send me an email or give me a call because I would love to help you brainstorm an idea that fits with who you have to work the event and what is realistic for your current membership.

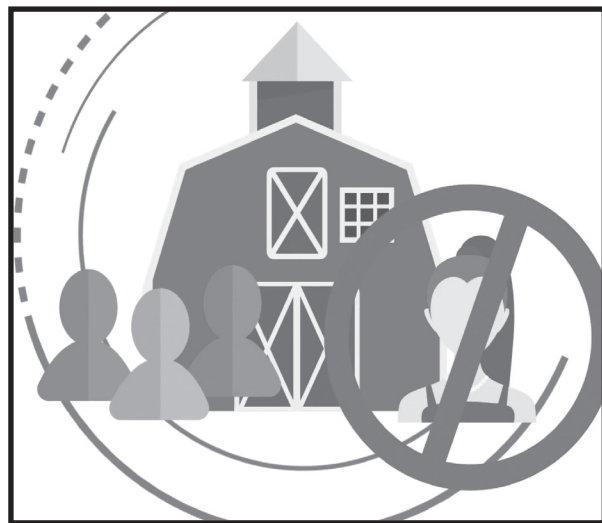
Pamphlets, flyers and booklets are great to have available for potential new members but a face, personality, conversation and handshake will always will bring us closer to our goal.

Please check out the new Membership/Marketing video below. It explains the Grange to new people.

## Check it out!

We have a new video about our organization. Let's make it go "viral." Please share on all your social media accounts or just share it with your email pals.

If you have not had a look at this yet go to:

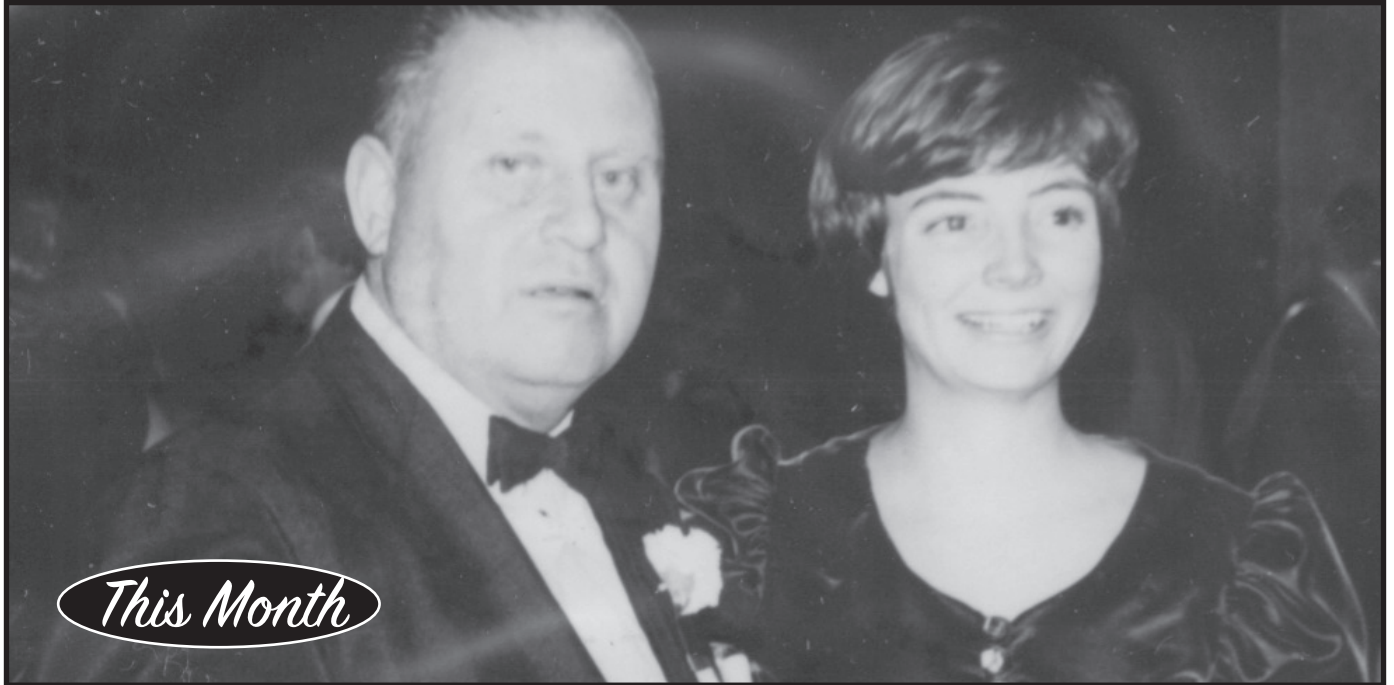


<http://bit.ly/GrangeMem2019>



# WINDOW TO THE PAST

Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a history to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of faces and places as we look through the Window to the Past. You can contact us by calling (860) 626-5074 or on the web by emailing: [submissions@ctstategrange.org](mailto:submissions@ctstategrange.org).



We received a note from Don Offinger on the April photo —

“The April picture is of Cannon Grange’s “patron saint”, Ed Saunders. As always ever-so serious, he is listening to something that Dorothy Kasperait is saying. I cannot tell whose face is obscured by Dot’s head serving as LAS. I see Ed’s hand seeming to affix a pin of some sort to Dot’s sweater, having been either escorted to the Master’s Station or to the Altar. I think it is the Altar as I see the double doors at the front of the Hall. Ed was Deputy of Pioneer Pomona Grange and he is obviously in this role per the sash he is wearing. The photo appears to be in Cannon Grange Hall, as I recognize the printing on the No Smoking sign over the doors, and it appears to be the double doors at the front of the Cannon Hall.” Ruel Miller also confirmed their identities.







**EASTERN CONNECTICUT POMONA #14**

*Corr: Noel Miller*

**May 5:** Fifth Degree Rehearsal, 2 P.M., Killingly Grange Hall

**May 11:** Fifth Degree and Inspection, 7 P.M. Killingly Grange Hall

The next meeting is inspection and the Fifth Degree. Any members wanting to receive the Fifth Degree are invited. Inspection will be for the State Grange. Dues and Annual Word will be given at this meeting. The visitation mascot Pattie the Platypus is out and about for the visitation rave. The Grange that has the most members at the Grange where Pattie is visiting will take her back to their Grange and await visitors to claim Pattie at their next meeting. This contest is open to Eastern Connecticut Pomona Granges only. No stealing!

**SENEXET GRANGE #40**

*Corr: Diane Miller*

**May 15:** Memorial program

We have been busy during the winter months. We did have to cancel the meeting in February due to bad road conditions. We were pleased to be able to have member Ciri Miller a student at UConn help with the Ag Day at the Capitol in March. We hosted the annual meeting of the Woodstock Agricultural Society at our hall. We are updating our membership list as we have taken on members from Wolf Den. Now that everyone is receiving the Granger we would like to keep all informed. We will continue to meet on the third Wednesday of the month and will probably continue to meet in the afternoon. We made a donation to the Lillian Sharpe fund in support of Lilly. We will be hosting a dinner for the local Dartball team.

Hopefully we will be able to have the upstairs used for an artist during the summer months for a painting project. Members will be making the CWA Peanut Butter cupcakes for our May meeting.

**COVENTRY GRANGE #75**

*Corr: Noel Miller*

**May 4:** 9-1, Town-Wide Tag Sale

**May 8:** Mother's Day

Coventry Grange welcomes members of Manchester Grange #31 who are joining our Grange. We are having a tag sale to clear out the hall and put money in our bank account. Come and join us and see what treasures we have to offer! We draped the charter for Charles Popple a longtime member of Coventry Grange, at our last meeting.

**N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138**

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*

**May 10:** Unsinkable

**May 24:** Memorial Program

Due to circumstances beyond our control our April 26 meeting has been moved to May 10. We hope you can be there to help us honor our Community Citizen and longtime members who will be receiving seals and certificates.

On March 10 our A-Number Skit was presented and we refreshed our memories on Grange Ritual. Lecturer Sue Pianka presented her State Lecturer's Competition Program on March 22 to the enjoyment of all. Did you know that trappers used a 35-foot canoe to carry furs back in the early days? That's about the length of our hall! Her quiz on water expressions had us scratching our heads. And if those April showers will just bring some pretty May flowers, next time we'll tell you all about awesome April.

**STONINGTON GRANGE #168**

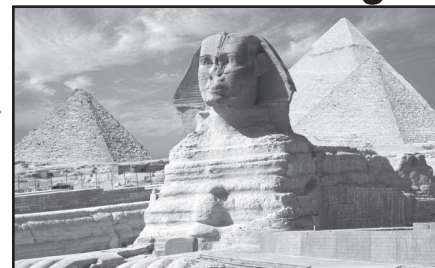
*Corr: Barbara Read*

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**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 0- 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](mailto:crussi45@sbcglobal.net) or 860-887-9621.

*Continued from previous page...*

On April 11, the Worthy Master, Trad Dart, opened the meeting and welcomed the many guests attending the Community Citizen Award Night to honor Marcia Tefft. Trad presented a brief summary of the history of Grange, its purpose and interesting statistics. He also spoke of Marcia's energy and devotion to family farming. The meeting was turned over to the Lecturer, Lila Cleveland, who read a bio of Marcia Tefft, explaining her many daily tasks on her parents' farm and her community activities. Lila then went on a "search" with Bradley, Marcia's son, asking all the officers of the grange, "Have you seen Marcia?" Finally Marcia was located near the secretary's desk. The hunt was enjoyed by all.

A plaque honoring Marcia Tefft for her dedication to Family farming was presented by George Russell, the State Grange Master and his burro, Hank. A monetary donation and a flower bouquet were presented to Marcia by Trad Dart. Marcia thanked the grange for the plaque and donation. Bradley and his sister, Annie, gave their mother wrapped gifts and pansies.

Dick Wingate, grandfather and grange officer, offered some insight and stories about Marcia on the farm. When Marcia was about three years old and visiting the farm, she learned her first words as she heard her grandfather call the cows. She copied the phrase, "Here, Boss" saying "Hir Bi." She also helps out at her children's school as a chaperone and needed to be fingerprinted. The officer asked her, "How does a young girl like you get some many calluses on her hands?" The answer was performing all the daily farm chores!

The meeting retired downstairs for refreshments and fellowship. Punch, sandwiches, chips and a special cake were enjoyed by everyone as Judy Gray entertained with her guitar and singing.

#### **COLCHESTER GRANGE #78**

*Corr: Bonnie Trecarten*

At our April meeting we welcomed Ted Beebe, master Norwich Grange. We always appreciate Ted's contributions to our Grange. Our community service projects continue with our monthly cooking

with seniors at Harrington Court and Bingo at Apple Rehab.

Thanks to Eva O'Connell and Cathy Russi for volunteering their time and representing our Grange. Charters were draped in memorial to two long time members of our Grange, Wilma Zemko and Blanche Bass.

Our CWA representative Cathy Russi has a fabulous travel opportunity for those that love adventure, please contact Cathy for details.

Plans were made for our annual picnic at Polly Leonards farm in August, always a fun time. Spring has finally arrived, hope all are able to get out and enjoy the nicer weather.

#### **VERNON GRANGE #52**

*Corr: Cherie Robinson*

**May 3:** Let's Go Geocache!, Refreshments: Michael

**June 7:** Norwich Grange brings Program to Vernon Grange

**June 12:** Vernon Grange brings Program to Norwich Grange

Our snowbirds are back and we are delighted to have them!

We brought lunch of macaroni and cheese, tossed salad, water, milk and brownies to the veterans and staff of Phelps Village in Rockville. We all enjoyed sharing a meal together. Non-perishable food, toiletries, the two dozen new pillows and pillowcases we brought were appreciated. We will continue to collect toiletries and non-perishable food for Phelps Village.

Root beer was our topic in April; history, recipes, a trivia game and of course root beer floats (brown cows and black cows) with root beer brownies and root beer cookies for good measure!

May will see us draping our charter with a Memorial Service. Our Lecturer's Program will also include a presentation on geocaching. Come on by and learn about this family friendly pastime.

#### **EKONK COMMUNITY & JUNIOR GRANGES**

*Corr: Sue Gray*

Our awards luncheon was very nice, especially since our Junior President, Lillian Sharpe, made her debut back at Grange since diagnosed with Leukemia last October. She was able to receive her Super JG trophy in person,

along with her brother, Russell and cousin, Brianna Gervais! State Junior Director, Michelle DeDominicis, attended and made the presentations. Lillian will be starting back to school on a limited basis after Easter as well as going back and forth to Boston for necessary treatments. Because our 80 year Grange veteran member, Helen Molodich, sustained a fall and was unable to be with us in person, her grand-daughter, Katie Sweet, read the accolades about her grandmother, accepted the awards and flowers and the Molodich family gathered at Helen's home and Katie presented her grandmother with everything t\later than afternoon. Congratulations to 40 year recipients Betsy Chamberland and Mike Dzunak, 50 year recipients Charles "Jim Cole" and Richard and Sandee Wood, also Sue Gray 55 year member and 60 year member, Dennis Ahnberg.

Barbara Bonin, our Treasurer, was our 2019 Granger of the Year: well deserved for all that she does, most notably handling organizing and delivering packages of food regularly to 11 Sterling families in need! Sterling Recreation Director, Judy Gooslin, graciously accepted 2019 Community Citizen of the Year for her many years of service to the youth of Sterling!

We had a full hall when Richmond brought us Jeopardy with Pete Fish aka Alex Trabeck! We voted to buy a large screen television to be mounted on a wall in our Grange hall and feature Grange activities during special events at our hall. 2nd graders at Sterling Community School will each receive a dinosaur book from our Grange, which teachers coordinate with lessons on dinosaurs. In addition to the "L" dollars that we continue collecting for Lillian Sharpe, we have begun collecting "F" dollars to go to Barbara Bonin, towards Food for the Families in need! We voted to run the Ekonk booth at Brooklyn Fair again this August and Jodi Ann Cameron will again serve as Chairman. May 11th we will have our annual roast beef supper for the Veterans Home in Jewett City, May 18th will be our last square dance and June 15th will be our 125th annual Strawberry Supper!





**MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA No. 15**

The next meeting of Mountain Laurel Pomona #15 will be the conferral of the Fifth Degree on May 4 beginning at 4 P.M. at Winchester Grange Hall. Any and all candidates for the Degree of Pomona are welcome. This will also be the annual inspection date by the Deputy. Even if you're not taking the degree, please come out and support the officers as they present the degree for the first time as a new Pomona.

**WINCHESTER GRANGE #74**

*Corr: Todd A. Gelineau*

**May 7:** Music Night - Neighbor's Night - Ref. by All

**May 21:** Plant Your Flowers (Country Store), MaryLou & Peter Keefe.

**June 11:** Strawberries, Fran &

Charlie Cooper

Winchester Grange was delighted to hear from the State Grange they had decided to relocate the State Office to Winchester Grange Hall. The office will be located in what was previously the original Winchester Center Vol. Fire Dept.'s meeting room above the two bay garage. The space is slightly larger than the Glastonbury office space and will provide additional income for the operation of the Grange Hall facility which also includes the Post Office, Fire Dept. and (of course) the Grange Hall. The new office should be up and running by the mid-June.

**BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121**

On Monday April 22, Bethlehem Grange #121 held its annual open house and Community Citizen Award presentation at Memorial Hall in Bethlehem. This year the honoree of the prestigious award went to town resident Dave Wood who is in charge of the Bethlehem Food Pantry. The program of entertainment for the evening was provided by the Chime In With a Mission bell choir, also directed by Mr. Wood. State Grange President, George Russell, of Canaan, was in attendance and presented 50 year Golden Sheaf membership certificated to Albert "Skip" Maddox, Bethlehem Grange President, and member Fred Camp. Receiving 25 year Silver Star membership certificates were Eloise Osuch, and husband Malcolm McDonald (latter in absentia).

**BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153**

*Corr: Charles Perry*

Nancy Mascio of Bridgewater Grange presented a Community Service Award to Carol Wilbur.

The award is an annual event done every April. It took place on Friday April 26 2019, 7 PM at Saint Marks Church in Bridgewater Connecticut. The award recognizes individuals or groups that perform outstanding volunteer work for the community.

Carol is very busy as a leader at Saint

Marks Church. She was a Warden and the Treasurer. Carol does flower arrangements and schedules the duties for worship services. She organizes and cooks for Church dinners and helps with other church events.

For the Bridgewater Auxiliary Carol has been the Membership Chairperson, Vice President and President. She is active on the scholarship committee.

Carol is also an excellent baker. She donates her time baking for other organizations and events. She helps out other groups such as the library and the Grange during their fund raising bake sales. She also shares her good work with friends to brighten their days.

**TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100**

*Corr: Barbara Prindle*

Taghhannuck Grange was very happy to obligate/welcome a new member, Doug Pelletier, into our Grange at our April meeting. We are finding that having events at our Hall is the best way to get people interested in our Grange.

On Saturday, May 4th from 9:30 am until 12:30 pm we will have a booth at the Sharon Classic Road Race on Sharon Green. The Sharon Classic Road Race, a 34-year tradition in Sharon, CT combines small-town charm with big race amenities. This began as a fundraiser for the Sharon Day Care Center and has grown into their major fund raising event. Come down and bring the kids since they have ongoing activities for all ages.

Our May 9th, 8pm meeting will have part of our program recounting the history of the Grange by Sharon Kroeger along with the Maypole theme by Carol Knutson and myself adding to the presentation.

On May 23rd we have our Citizen of the Year presentation. The recipient of this award is from Cornwall this year. We begin with a pot-luck dinner at 6:30. A prospective member who visited out Hall April 11th says he wants to come and will bring bear stew. We welcome everyone to this meeting and just ask them to bring something to add to the food table.

Lastly on Saturday June 1st from 9am to 3pm we have our major fundraiser. This is our annual RUMAGE & PLANT SALE. I know some of you come to our Hall each year to get the heirloom plants and we look forward to seeing you there.



**EUREKA GRANGE**  
presents

**Baked Potato Extravaganza & Bake Sale**

**SATURDAY, MAY 11th**  
**5 - 6:30 PM**

Join us to enjoy delicious baked potatoes with all the toppings, including chili. Beverages are included. There will also be a Bake Sale.  
**Only \$5.00!**



**Eureka Grange Hall**  
777 Litchfield Tpke. (Rte 202)  
in the Nepaug section of New Hartford

For more information:  
CALL (860) 482-1111  
or (860) 307-7000



**CHESHIRE GRANGE #23**

*Corr: A. Ruel Miller*

**May 1:** Open Meeting - Ballroom Dancing

**May 15:** CWA Program- Remembering the Circus

In March and Early April we did three fund raising dinners which were a big help for our treasury. They were two annual hiking club dinners and our corned beef and cabbage dinner. Our annual Cheshire Grange fair pre op is ongoing as are our Monday Craft Nights.

On April 3rd we honored Diane Calabro as our Community Citizen. She is the President of the Cheshire Historical Society. A total of 65 folks filled the hall. A reception followed put on by our CWA committee.

May 15th will be an open meeting by our CWA committee "Remembering the Circus" We will have a circus historian as our speaker and are looking forward to another big crowd at Cheshire Grange

We draped our charter for former fist lady of the Connecticut State Grange Sharyn Wetmore the wife of former State Master Duane Wetmore who died on April 9th.

**MERIDEN GRANGE #29**

*Corr: Cindy Charbonneau*

**May 24:** Reg. meeting - 7:30 PM

**June 14:** Reg. meeting - 7:30 PM

**June 15:** Ham and scalloped potatoes Dinner from 5 to 6:30 PM - \$10 Adults and \$5 for children. Call (203) 237-4617 for info.

Meriden Grange have arranged for major improvements to our parking lot and landscaping. These

improvements will take place over the span of the next several years starting in May. More info. as tasks progress.

Meriden Grange is located at 540 Broad Street in Meriden, CT. Refreshments will be served after the meetings.

**HARMONY GRANGE #92**

*Corr: George Ward*

**May 10:** Meeting, Ref. before each meeting.

Harmony Grange has been holding its meetings in the afternoon instead of the evening. Several members do not drive at night so our attendance is larger. Please call ahead to get our meeting time.

Renovations have been completed on the lower level of the hall and items placed on the upper level have been moved to the lower level. This has permitted us to use the upper level for meetings again.

We held our April meeting upstairs and we finally draped our charter for five members, Henry Barachina, Basil Dikovsky, Susan Sulier, Gloria Ward and Arthur Luldejian. They received that welcome plaudit: "Well done, good and faithful servants." Karen Macdonald was our Ceres for the ceremony. Also in attendance for the meeting was our Deputy, Geno Piacentini and Past Voting Delegates to the National Grange, Robert (Bob) and Marge Sendewicz.

There will be no Spring Fair this year. The effort normally used will be utilized to organize and plan the Agricultural Fair scheduled for August 24. More information will be forthcoming in the coming months.

Spring is here, birds are singing, and the flowers and shrubs are blooming. Enjoy one of the best seasons of the year.

**GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133**

*Corr: Jim & Lori Golias*

The Greenfield Hill Grange is so grateful for having a great scout troop (Troop 90) as its neighbor.

Thanks to Heather Petrecca for setting up our Spring grounds clean-up on April 6. It's amazing the amount of work that can be

accomplished in just a few hours when a dozen or so scouts and their parents work together. Thank you again to Heather, Andrew Hiltz, Scout Master, and all the scouts and family members for their hard work.

Another note: Save the date for our agricultural fair. It will be held September 14, 2019

**LYME GRANGE #147**

*Corr: Lois Evankow*

**May 18:** 9th Annual Plant & Food Sale

**June 6:** Memorial Service - Baking Contest & Election

**July 11:** Celebrating the 4th a week later.

We held our certificate night in April. It's a shame more people did not come, but our 75 year member Ruth Young, came with her granddaughter and hubby. Also, they brought two great grandchildren ages 1-3. So good to see them all. We welcomed Marge Bernhardt who did the honors of presenting. Charles Dimmick, State Chaplain, came as well.

Our own Firefighter of the Year, Skip Beebe, who received his award at Leaders Conference brought his guitar and sang for us. What a treat.

Due to lack of participants, we have canceled the Third & Fourth Degrees in May, as shame as many have never seen them.

Our 9th Annual Plant & Food Sale has been scheduled for May 18. Now to advertise and hopefully we will get a lot of customers.

**HEMLOCK GRANGE #182**

*Corr: Maureen Sanborn*

**May 10:** May Flowers

**May 24:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled

**June 14:** Memorial

**June 28:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

**OXFORD GRANGE #194**

*Corr: Robert Buck*

**May 1:** Business Meeting, 7:30 P.M.

**May 15:** Potluck and Social meeting with program (Alternatives to



Plastic Usage), 6:30 P.M.

**May 31: (Friday)** GOMAD potluck and music, 7:00 P.M.

We have a new tenant in the hall. They are running a yoga studio upstairs and has done some redecorating and freshening up the place. The handicapped ramp is nearing completion after a long road. We mourn Selectman Jeff Haney who passed away from esophageal cancer at the age of 62 in March. He started the physical building of the ramp with the understanding the Grange would supply materials. We remain indebted to his generosity. He served the town of Oxford in an exemplary manner. Work will be starting again in the Three Graces Gardens now that spring has arrived.



Members of Scout Troop #90 pose for a group photo after helping clean up the Greenfield Hill Grange grounds on April 6.



*The following was produced by the Office of the State Historian and published on the web along with an audio recording, available at: [todayinhistory.com/2019/04/16/april-16-the-grange-movement-in-connecticut](http://todayinhistory.com/2019/04/16/april-16-the-grange-movement-in-connecticut)*

As the United States grew exponentially in size and population over the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, formal social groups and fraternal societies of all kinds sprang up across the country with missions that encompassed lofty themes of patriotism, industry, fellowship, and civic service. The National Grange of Patrons of Husbandry was one such organization, founded in 1867 as a community organization for farmers and their families. Unlike the overwhelming majority of fraternal-style societies in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, women were permitted to join the Grange as equal members to men. Acknowledging the primary importance of the family in rural American history and culture, the organization also offered Junior Grange programs for children.

In the decade following the founding of the National Grange, states began to open their own affiliate chapters of the

agricultural society. On April 16, 1875, the Connecticut State Grange was officially founded after two days of meetings among western Connecticut farmers at the Taylor Opera House in Danbury. While it struggled with membership numbers and financial stability during its first decade of existence, the Connecticut State Grange found new life after it was reorganized in 1885 and underwent rapid expansion-encompassing 150 local chapters with 13,000 members by 1890. As part of a vast agricultural social network, Grange members learned how to mobilize for the benefit of their rural communities, sharing state-of-the-art farming practices and techniques, building Grange Halls to serve as community gathering places, and organizing fairs, agricultural competitions, and farmers markets. The Connecticut

State Grange played a significant role in advocating for the Storrs Agricultural School, a higher education institute which would later become the University of Connecticut.

Grange Halls remain an important tenet of Connecticut's agricultural communities, hosting public social events, providing education opportunities for members young and old, sponsoring community drives and fundraisers, and supporting agricultural initiatives throughout the state. While overall membership numbers have declined since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, today there are nearly 60 active local Granges operating under the mantle of the Connecticut State Grange. The seeds of a transformative agricultural movement were first planted today in Connecticut history.



The Taylor Opera House where the CT State Grange was organized





**Dawn Anstett**  
State Youth Director

Riverton Grange #169

Youth@ctstategrange.org

Upcoming Youth Conference:

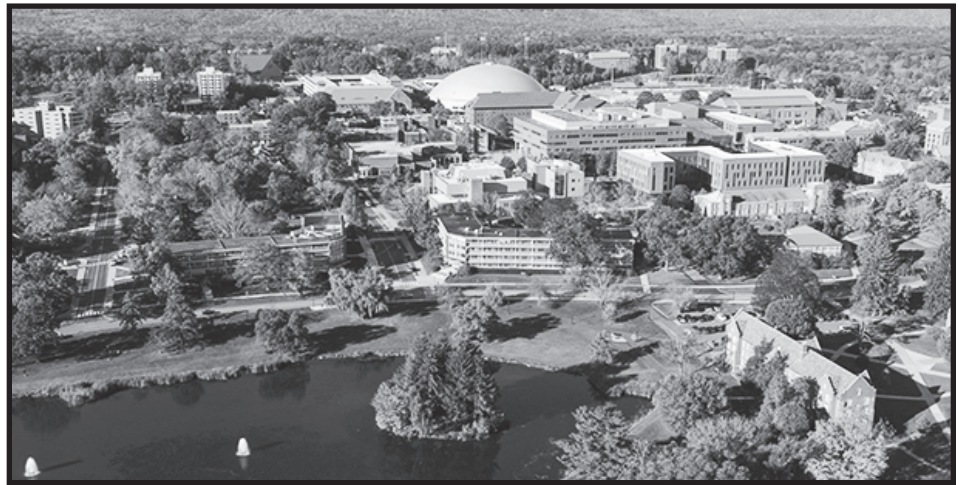
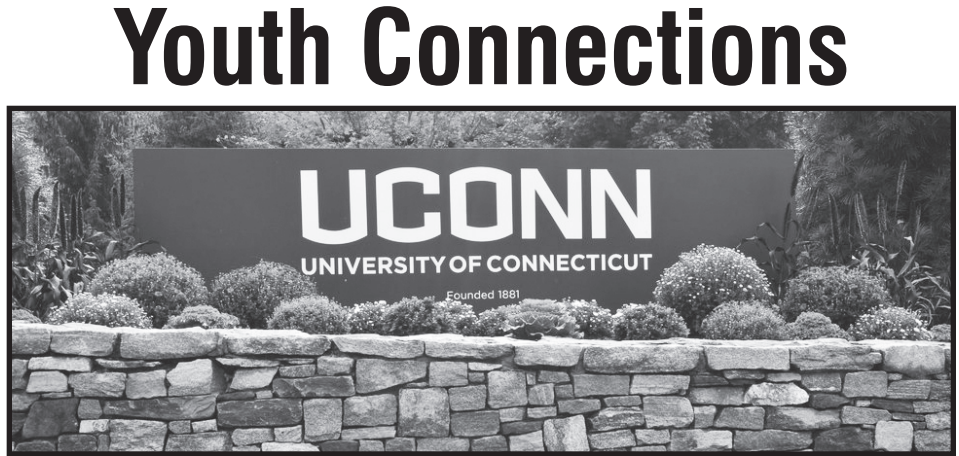
**Save the date: July 12-14, 2019**  
North Eastern Youth Conference @  
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT  
Theme: Our Hero Self

Check out [ctstategrange.org](http://ctstategrange.org) for more info about this event and registration forms

It's time to get the youth, in our community granges, to sign up for drill team, public speaking and sign-a-song contests. Regional conferences are designed for youth and young adults and non-Grange youth are invited to participate in the regional conferences. These conferences are for everyone and age is unimportant, but your enthusiasm and love for the Grange is needed.

Public speaking is a regional contest and the regional winners progress to National to compete. There are 4 categories: Prepared Speech, Elevator Speech, Radio Spot and Impromptu Speaking. If we have more than one person interested in any of these contests, we will need to have a run-off before July. So again if you are interested please contact Dawn Anstett, Youth Director ASAP!

For the sign-a-song contest, participants sign and perform a song



using Pidgen, ASL, ESL, etc. Each state may send one entry in each category to the regional competition. The bluebook goes over in detail the categories and I would encourage anyone interested to contact Dawn Anstett ASAP. In last month's Granger, changes in this contest was

mentioned and the NE youth directors did talk about it during this year's Leaders Conference and we hope to be able to work some workshops into our July conference that familiarize participants with deaf culture and sign-language.

## Community Service

*Noel & Marcia Miller, Directors*

April was Grange month and many Community Granges have opened their Granges with many local activities, pancake breakfasts, chili cook offs, Citizen Award presentations, tag sales, and many more. Many of these events are listed on Facebook and have been picked up by the National Grange Community Service Committee. You can't stop there take the time and take photos and write up the events, hours by Grangers and hours by non Grangers. Start a Community Service Notebook to enter in the contest in September.

Being on Facebook is the start, finish the race and get awarded and recognized for the work your members do in the name of the Grange.

At the March 30th Northeast Leaders Conference banquet hosted by the Connecticut State Grange. Brother Skip Beebe of Lyme Grange received the Firefighter of the year and was presented with a plaque for the recognition. Rhode Island had a RI State Trooper and his K-9 partner, as well as the Teacher of the Year. Congratulations to all the winners of this contest, which has been continued for 2019, so start looking for this year's nomina-

tions.

Our Community Service is the tool that brings new members into the Grange utilize this and reap from which you sow.



**Noel Miller (left) and Skip Beebe.**





# Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

## The power of public relations

*Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director*

Bill Gates once said that he'd spend his last dollar on Public Relations. Did you know that "Research conducted in 2018 revealed that the average person in the US spends 11 hours every day interacting with media"? (source: entrepreneur.com) This encompasses all types of media - from printed newspapers to radio and television - to social media including Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat and more. The modern consumer also spends more time on social media than with a newspaper. What is your Grange doing to explore utilizing these valuable assets? Public relations is what brands resort to in a time of crisis, when they want to increase their presence, and promote their existence as a positive.

Entrepreneur.com sums it up best: "What distinguishes public relations from advertising is that it EARNs its space in the media. ... PR professionals are masterful storytellers and can create strong emotional ties to something as simple as a bar of soap. While it can normally function independently, it is best when complimented with marketing. Just like ketchup is a decent condiment in its own right but reaches a whole new dimension of flavor when paired with mustard."

So how do you use public relations for your Grange? The first step is to find something or someone in your Grange who promotes a positive image for the organization and build public trust. The next step is to capitalize on it by building an emotional connection between "that something or someone" and the public.

Perhaps your Grange has a special and active golden sheaf mem-

ber who just received their 60-year seal. I'm sure that person could tell some great heartwarming stories from their many years and experiences in the Grange. Imagine that person spotlighted in the local newspaper or interviewed on television, discussing your Grange. That's one example of positive public relations working for your Grange.

A second example could be something specific and unique to your Grange, such as holding the same

successful event annually for 50 or 75 years. Find out the background - why this event was started, and how it has evolved over the years. How has/does it effect the community? Ask members their favorites memories of attending and working at the event. All combined, this could be a great article for the local newspaper.

Make it the mission of your Grange to connect to your local community using the power of public relations, through creating stories and conversations that evoke strong emotional connections. Contact the Public Relations committee to guide you through the process. [publicrelations@ctstategrange.org](mailto:publicrelations@ctstategrange.org) or [information@ctstategrange.org](mailto:information@ctstategrange.org).



## Tangy Potato Salad

May is informally known as the start of picnic season. Country Living has a Tangy Potato Recipe that's a must try when you want to bring something a little different to the next picnic, or potluck.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 1/2 lb. new potatoes
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 c. olive oil
- 2 tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp. Dijon mustard
- 1/2 c. chopped half- sour pickles, plus 2 tablespoons pickle brine
- 2 tsp. mustard seeds
- 2 c. watercress
- 1/4 c. chopped fresh chives
- 1/3 c. chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

### DIRECTIONS:

Place potatoes in a large pot; cover with cold salted water. Cover and bring to a boil, reduce heat to low, and simmer until tender, 15 to 18 minutes. Cut into halves or quarters, if large. Meanwhile, whisk together oil, vinegar, Dijon, and pickle brine in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Add potatoes, pickles, and mustard seeds, and toss to coat. Fold in watercress, chives, and parsley.

*SOURCE:* <https://www.countryliving.com/food-drinks/a19041163/tangy-potato-salad-recipe/>

# Letting Congress know your concerns



**Alma Graham**

Legislative Director

Coventry Grange #75

Legislative@ctstategrange.org

At the end of March Connecticut hosted the Northeast Leaders Conference in Norwich. The conference was open to all Grange members, not just State leaders. One of the presenters at this conference was our National Grange Legislative Director, Burton Eller.

Eller's topic was "Engaging Congress." He gave us information on how we can become active in the legislative process for the Grange as well as for ourselves. He said that the Grange is a true grassroots organization. Our legislative actions come from local folks in towns and represents the "Hometown grassroots of America." The following are excerpts from his presentation:

All should communicate with your local and national Senators and Representatives on our concerns and topics. The most effective way is by in person visit; one-on-one. The next best way is individualized personal letters or emails. Include any facts and your thoughts about the topic you are talking about and why you are concerned or supporting the issue. Don't make it too lengthy. Phone calls are also effective. What not to do: Form postal letters, postcards, emails and blast phone calls.

To schedule a meeting, you will probably be asked to submit your initial request via e-mail or web form. The best way to schedule an appointment is to check on the contact tab on the Congressperson's website. Don't

assume that they received the request. Follow-up by calling them, but don't overdo the calls. Getting a meeting with the actual legislator is rare. Go ahead and schedule a meeting with their staff person. All offices have staff who specialize in different subjects of concern. Ask for one of them such as the Agricultural staff member. you will be lucky to get more than 15 minutes for your meeting. Legislators rarely will meet with anyone outside their districts.

If you are going to meet with either the member of Congress or their staff, be prepared with a well formulated policy request. The best time to schedule a meeting on policy issues is when Congress is NOT in session. You may be able to meet with them in their home offices and not travel to Washington.

When you meet with them, keep the topics you are discussing to one or two topics. Limit the number of participants, between 1 and 5 attending. Research the members' history on the topic so you have a basic understanding on their position. Bring data on the impact of the topic on the local constituents and area. Present both the negative and positive consequences of the topic.

Be specific in your request for action. Leave behind additional backgrounds on the issues for future reference. You can talk about what is happening in your community but don't waste a lot of time.

It is important that you know your topic. Know the correct, current bill number if there is one. Include details on the topic when delivering your message. If you can tie it into a personal experience, that will add value to your message. If you are asked something you don't know, say so and that you will get back to them. Then do it.

When you have completed your meeting keep in touch with the staff. Thank them for the meeting and send pertinent updates on your issue. Invite your contacts to meet with you back home when they come home to the district. Stop in the district office and introduce yourself and leave an issue summary with the local staff. Invite the Senator or Representatives or staff members to speak at your Grange or local meeting. Invite them to any special occasions or suppers.

"Remember, advocacy efforts are activities designed to impact public policy."





# State Secretary



**Todd A. Gelineau**  
State Secretary  
Winchester Grange #74  
Secretary@ctstategrange.org

Thank you to all who came to the 2019 Northeast Leaders Conference. The final tally was 117 attendees! The workshops reinforced the theme of the conference: "Leading Leaders 2.0". Thank you to Jody Cameron, Faith Quinlan, Rick Hermonot and Burton Eller for being our speakers. Thanks also to National Master Betsy Huber and National Membership Director Joe Stefanoni for being with us for the weekend. Surveys were sent to all attendees. If you haven't returned yours, please do so soon. Copies of these will be forwarded to the New York State Grange who will host this event in 2020. Some have asked why our conference was named "Leading Leaders 2.0". The answer is simple... the last time we hosted it was called "Leading Leaders." As we developed the program for the conference, it became apparent we were putting together an updated version of the previous one, thus 2.0!

Next up will be the Northeast Youth Conference to be held at UConn this summer. Please refer to the Youth Committee article in this issue for more information.

Well... April 15 has passed and hopefully you have all concluded your interactions with the IRS for the year. Unfortunately, this can't be said for me and the State Grange. In February the 990N Epostcard website was taken down by the IRS for an indefinite amount of time while they repaired it. It's now May and the site is still down. Repeated calls to the IRS have only resulted in the same explanation that the site is down and they don't know anything else, but will when they receive an email from the IT people

that it has been restored. Why am I telling you all of this? Well... this is the site we use to file your Grange returns with the IRS. Every week I make an attempt and will continue to do so until it returns. All 990s will be filed when it is possible to do so. Your status with the IRS is not in jeopardy because it would take three consecutive years of not filing for your non-profit status to be revoked. All Granges will receive receipts of the filing when it is done. Please let me know if you have any questions.

**BLUE BOOKS** – There will be no Blue Books printed in the format we have known for decades this year. There are two problems (well, maybe three!) – 1) Material for the book has been difficult to compile and there are still sections outstanding. 2) When submitted, a good amount of the material does not make for a comprehensive program covering two years. Generally the program material applies more accurately for the immediate program year. Instead, we will be copying the material provided by the various departments and sending packets out to the Granges. The sheets will be provided in a way that Granges can easily make any necessary copies of some or all of the material for their members' use. My apologies, but compiling this book has been extremely difficult this year and there has been a mountain of pressing work for me as State Secretary this year. The Board of Directors will be discussing what to do with the program book and we will let you know what they decide.

**DIRECTORIES** – There's a similar problem with the State Directory as well. However, it is in production and will be out to Granges as soon as possible. It is used by many and will be in the same format you have come to know.

**STATE GRANGE OFFICE** - As we have communicated to all

Granges by letter, the State Grange has been working on finding a new home for the State Grange Office. A new home has been found... it will be located in Winchester Grange Hall in Winchester Center. For those who have not visited Winchester Grange, it is a large complex that houses a post office, Grange Hall, and the Winchester Center Fire Department is located in the back portion of the property. A little known part of the building is known by Winchester members as the "Old Firehouse" which is comprised of the former 1952 two bay firehouse with a meeting room upstairs. Over the years since this part of the building was turned over to the Grange, it has been used mostly for storage. It is large enough to house an office that is slightly bigger than the space we occupy at 43 Naubuc Ave. in Glastonbury. We anticipate moving the office to Winchester during the month of June. Email will remain the best way to contact us, followed by regular mail (at least until a new phone line is installed in Winchester). You can also reach me on my cell (860) 307-1522.

For those sending items to the State Grange, you can begin using our new address. I am currently checking mail at the new P.O. Box. The address is:

Connecticut State Grange  
100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3  
Winchester Center, CT 06094

Once we have vacated Naubuc Ave., meetings of the State Grange Board of Directors will be held at Hillstown Grange Hall in East Hartford. While the new Grange office location will be convenient for me, it will be less so for those members of the Board traveling from the eastern side of the state. We thank Hillstown for making their hall available to us on a monthly basis.

Until next time... enjoy spring, we fought through a long winter to get here!

By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange friends!

Finally - winter appears to be gone and warmer weather has arrived. We attended the Past Deputy's Meeting at Cheshire Grange, where I got to have some Easter fun. I also got to watch the new video our Membership Committee released as one of their promotional tools for their new membership drive. If you haven't seen it, go to the CT State Grange Membership page on Facebook and check it out!

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/CTGrangeHank-theBurro>



## Lyme Community Citizen

### Cheshire Grange



Cheshire Grange is collecting bed rolls for the homeless made from recycled plastic shopping bags.



State Master George Russell (holding Hank) presents Lyme Grange's annual Community Citizen Award to Marcia Tefft. Also pictured are her children Bradley and Annie.





# Super JG's at Ekonk Jr.

Super JG awards were presented to three members of Ekonk Comm. Jr. Grange by Michelle DeDominicis, State Jr. Director. I-r Brianna Gervais, Russell and Lillian Sharpe.

## Bethlehem Grange



Dave Wood of the Bethlehem Food Pantry received Bethlehem Grange's Community Citizen Award on April 22 from Skip Maddox, Master.



Stafford Grange #1 got into the St. Patrick's spirit with a Corned Beef Dinner in March.

### That's Ag-mazing!

## Scoville Scale

Did you know...

**Total chili pepper production in 2016 was 4.7 million pounds on a total of 20,000 acres, valued at \$162.85 million.**

chile  
Pepper  
Heat  
scale

©national-ag-institute.org

Pepper types	Scoville heat units
Carolina Reaper	1,400 000 - 2,200 000
Trinidad Scorpion	1,200 000 - 2,000 000
Ghost Pepper	855 000 - 1,041 427
Chocolate Habanero	425 000 - 577 000
Red Savina Habanero	350 000 - 577 000
Fatali	125 000 - 325 000
Habanero	100 000 - 350 000
Scotch Bonnet	100 000 - 350 000
Thai Pepper	50 000 - 100 000
Cayenne Pepper	30 000 - 50 000
Tabasco Pepper	30 000 - 50 000
Serrano Pepper	10 000 - 23 000
Hungarian	5 000 - 10 000
Jalapeno	2 500 - 8 000
Poblano	1 000 - 1 500
Anaheim	500 - 2 500
Pepperoncini	100 - 500
Bell Pepper	0

Source: NASS USDA.gov

## Chili Cook-Off



Members and guests enjoy the Chili Cook-Off held at Oxford Grange #194 in April.

## Reconciliation



**Charles W. Dimmick**  
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23  
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

*Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and proclaim to her  
that her hard service has been  
completed,  
that her sin has been paid for,  
that she has received from  
the Lord's hand double  
for all her sins.  
Isaiah 40*

These words are spoken by God through the prophet to the Israelites who have been exiled in Babylon and are now prepared to return home to Israel. They are words of reconciliation, Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed Jerusalem around 597 BC and carried away captive to Babylon all the leaders and important families among the Israelites. Sixty years later the Persians conquered Babylon and the Persian rulers allowed the Jews to return and rebuild Jerusalem. According to the prophets God had used Babylon as his agent of judgment against Israel because of their sins. And now the prophet announces that their sins have been "paid for", and God wants to reconcile the people to him.

The theme of reconciliation

occurs many times in the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments. In Hebrew the word used is "Kaphar" [pronounced with a long "a" so that one would say "Kah-phar"] The word "Kippur", as in "Yom Kippur", the day of atonement is closely related to it. In fact, in some contexts the two words are interchangeable. Think of it as "at one ment", It is an elimination of any barriers that might have existed between any two persons or between a person and God, by one party asking forgiveness for wrongs, and the other party granting forgiveness and, in essence, "wiping the slate clean".

Perhaps the most well-known example of reconciliation in the Bible is found in Jesus' parable of the prodigal son, found in the 15th chapter of Luke. The younger son takes his inheritance, travels to a distant land, falls into evil ways, and squanders his inheritance. Realizing that he has run out of luck he returns home, planning to grovel before his father, claim repentance, and ask for forgiveness. But before he has gotten near enough to put his plan into action his father sees him from afar, runs and puts his arms around him, and welcomes him home. Reconciliation comes even before a chance to voice repentance. The message for us is that our Father in Heaven is always waiting to reconcile us to him as soon as we present an opportunity.

## From the National Grange

*Betsy Huber, National Master*

Your National Grange headquarters is gearing up for the annual Fly- in beginning Sunday. A group of 22 Grangers from across the country are traveling to Washington DC to learn about the top Grange issues and then relate them to their Congressmen and Senators on Capitol hill. Watch our Facebook page, website, and emails next week for updates on the speakers and appointments and great times your fellow Grangers are having in the Capitol city.

Just because Grange Month has ended does not mean your Grange activities must! Keep planning those open meetings, community events and fundraisers to involve your neighbors and keep Grange at the top of their minds. People probably won't join your Grange if they don't see any activity there or don't even know it exists—but they WILL join you if they see value and see that you're doing things they're interested in. Keep up the good work as the weather gets nicer and it's easier to get out and about. And let us know what you're doing so we can share it with other Grangers.

### In Memoriam

Sharyn L. Wetmore Burkle  
Cheshire Grange #23

Charles Popple  
Coventry Grange #75

Arthur Zareh Luledjian  
Harmony Grange #92

*"Well done, good and faithful servants."*