



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER



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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

December 2024

From the President's Desk



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

I just returned last night from a very successful 158th National Grange Convention on the Mississippi River in Bettendorf, Iowa. The Grange Strong theme was much in evidence at the event. I hope you all keep trying your best to leave your Granges better tomorrow than they are today. The Seventh Degree motto is *Esto Perpetua*, or “may it be eternal,” which those of you who have taken the degree may remember. Certainly a worthy goal for which to aim.

President Hamp's most recent “Speak like a Champ” phrase is Proactive Approach. This implies the need for a bit of forethought in regards to planning Grange activities so that you may maximize the positive outcome as a result of those programs and events. To help in running your Granges more efficiently and instruct our newer members in proper Grange procedures, we will be planning to hold as many as three Schools of Instruction. Brother Gelineau will be announcing the schedule.

Now, back to the 158th Convention. High Priest of Demeter Roger Bostwick asked me at our State Session to take the part of the

Second Mystagogue in the Seventh Degree. We had a lot of fun at our two rehearsals and the cast is a great bunch under direction of Gene and Maria Edelen of Iowa. My part required memorization of two paragraphs in about three weeks. Being a part of the degree gives one a different vantage point than that

of an outside observer. It was a valuable experience and made the degree come full circle for me. A professionally produced video of the Seventh Degree is planned to be filmed and then shown at the 159th Convention on the Carnival Horizon. This video by decision of the delegate body will not be released to State Granges to be shown otherwise within the states. VP Ted Powell's
...Continued on page 2

Living a Connected Life



**Jody & Jodi Ann
Cameron**
Membership Co-Dir.
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Whenever I hear Christine Hamp, National Grange President speak, she charges us to be “Grange Strong.” While watching the 2024 National FFA President Amara Jackson of Michigan give her final address to the convention last month she asked her members if they lived a “Connected Life.”

Both tag lines really resonated with us.

Are you, as a Grange member, living a connected life? Are you truly CONNECTED to your Grange, your members, your community? Are you CONNECTED with your Grange, do you go to meetings, offer constructive input, participate in discussions, offer guidance and counsel when needed? Do you accept defeat with grace and

dignity? Are you looking to grow your Grange through hard work and support? Are you CONNECTED to your fellow members, supporting their efforts, offering help and support to make every event, meeting or activity a success? Are you including all members, new and old, in all activities, meetings and events? Are you preparing to “pass the baton” to the next leader? If you are the President, Lecturer (Program Director), Treasurer or Secretary, are you preparing for your successor? Is your Grange ensuring that you are not “the last one” to do these things and your Grange is poised for success in the future? Are you and your Grange CONNECTED with your community? Do you do outreach programs or activities. Does your community know you even exist, in a positive way? ARE YOU RELEVANT?

The 2024-2025 Membership
...Continued on page 2



Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange



NEXT ISSUE:
Articles Due December 15

From the President's Desk

Continued from page one...

fiancée Stephanie took the degree. Congratulations, Stephanie!

I want to update you with a recap of the highlights of the 140 or so resolutions all of which were brought to the floor in one fashion or another. Our Connecticut State Grange resolution on honoring 80 year members was withdrawn as the issue has been addressed with the printing of a new and very attractive certificate to accompany the traditional letter from the National Grange President. The resolution on college interest rates was adopted. On the agricultural subject, the National Grange remains opposed to regulatory over reach which can negatively affect our farmers, foreign acquisition of American farmland, labeling lab created meat product as "meat," and favors legal definition of cannabis as a crop for insurance purposes. Conservation policy aims in the same direction so far as to aid farmers without hindering them.

A study committee will be put together to consider options for location of the National Grange headquarters once our three year lease is up at 1616 H Street.

In the Health and Education area a resolution on medications and procedures related to family planning was adopted after quite a little debate on this contentious issue. The Grange continues to support insurance coverage for cancer testing and adopted a resolution covering those in high risk occupations.

Under Grange Growth, resolution requiring use of the electronic payment system BILL for payments made to National was rejected. Also rejected was a resolution making dues collection a top down process instead of bottom up as it is now.

Several resolutions concerning the location of the National Grange Convention at sea as opposed to on land were rejected, and so the next convention will be held at sea on the Carnival Horizon for a change.

Most important was the adopted resolution from Texas concerning a National Grange dues increase. They will now be \$20 per year for Subordinate members and \$40 for a family. This is a needed change considering our membership statistics and the only way to reverse it is if we INCREASE membership.

Another resolution debated at length was one on delegate representation from large versus small Grange states. Decreasing the number of delegates from small Grange states tends to make them feel left out of the conversation at convention. This issue was referred to a committee for study.

Brothers and Sisters, the Subordinate member participation in Zoom programs by Amanda Brozana for Membership/Leadership and Phil Vonada for Communications remain at an all-time low. These programs are well planned, presented by knowledgeable folks, and are fun to attend. You can meet Grangers from the other Grange regions. Because they involve people from around the country, I believe you would find them to be very helpful in planning your work and getting new ideas. Phil and Amanda are very willing to help you all in any way they can. The National Grange does offer you a lot.

There was also discussion on the subject of meeting style as it connects to our IRS tax exemption as a fraternal organization. Some of us meet traditionally with the opening and closing ritual, along with the display of the American flag and book of scripture on the

altar, while other "meet around the kitchen table." Legally to maintain the validity of the IRS exemption, the ritualistic aspects of Grange are a required element and their absence COULD technically lead to a loss of your exemption. Timed out, the rituals take about five to six minutes of meeting time so it is not a large time requirement. They are not that onerous either! This is really what makes a Grange a GRANGE.

Connecticut State Grange is once again an Honor Grange for 2023-2024. Granges in Action included Wallingford #33, Vernon #52, Ekonk Community Junior #101, and Riverton #169.

In National Grange Lecturer Department contests, State Lecturer Dave Roberts won first place in the Design a Program/Adult/External, second place in the State/County/Community Fair photo contest and honorable mention for monument category in photos. I took second place in the Weather Watcher Challenge contest... though there were only two entries! Oh, well.

In January, we have Northeast Leaders' Conference coming up to be held in Danvers, Massachusetts. MSG President Corey Spence has a great event planned with a tour of a local vocational agricultural school. It looks like National Leaders Conference this year will be held in the Sonoma Valley of California. These are always interesting.

Membership

Continued from page one...

Development and Retention Teams theme is "LIVING A CONNECTED LIFE." We will present articles and tidbits as well as some ZOOM Sessions and hopefully we can get back to an in-person session or two on the various aspects of gaining and especially retaining members. Are you ready to LIVE A CONNECTED LIFE? Are you GRANGE STRONG?



Peace On Earth



Wishing Your Grange a
Very Merry Christmas and a
Healthy New Year
Beacon Valley Grange #103

Merry Christmas
and a Wonderful New Year

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year
Dave Roberts & Family

Wishing You a Safe &
Happy Holiday Season
State Family Activities Comm.

Happy Holidays from
Coventry Grange #75

Happy Holidays & New Year
from *Beacon Valley Grange #103*

Happy Holidays from
your friends at
Hillstown Grange #87

Happy Holidays to All!
Vernon Grange #52

Wishing you a happy,
healthy & prosperous
New Year
Taghannuck Grange

May all Grangers & their
families have a Merry Christmas!
Dorothy Vallee, Oxford #194

Happy Holidays from
The Hnaths (CT, MD & FL)

Happy Holiday Season!
Noel & Marcia Miller

Joy to the World!
Greenfield Hill Grange #133

Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year
Denise Barbieri & Donald Tyler

Happy Holidays
from *Stonington Grange #168*

Merry Christmas from
*Todd, Faith, Quinlan, Noelle,
Rajah & Nermal*

May your holidays be
filled with love and happiness
Joanne Cipirano

Holiday Greetings
George & Sharon Russell

Happy Holidays
from
Rob & Maggie Buck

Warmest Holiday Wishes
to All Our Grange Friends
Jane & Ruel Miller

Have a Merry Christmas
and a Healthy New Year
P. Valys

Happy Holidays
Alma & Bruce Graham

Season's Greetings from
Winchester Grange #74





Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

New 2025 Contest Announced

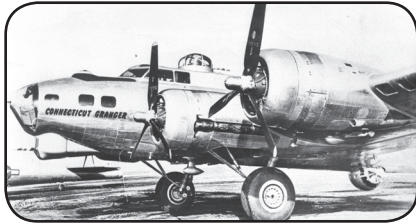
by Terri Fassio,
Public Relations Co-Director

The Public Relations Committee is offering a new contest for the upcoming year, with a deadline of October 1, 2025. It's easy to participate. Let's take a peek:

NEW CONTEST:

**Celebrate a
Grange Milestone**

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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on how your Grange celebrated their milestone, and how it was promoted. (It must be held within the contest year). The milestone celebrated is the choice of the Grange.

There will be three categories —

1. **Grange Anniversary Celebrations**
2. **Grange Anniversary Programs**
3. **Other Grange Milestones**

Submissions should be detailed, and there is no length restriction. Photos, clippings, and social media and website screenshots are encouraged but not required. Submissions must include the Grange name and number, and the name, phone number and email of person submitting the entry.

Email your Grange's submission to publicrelations@ctstategrange.org. You can also USPS mail the submission to Robert Charbonneau, 102 Spring Street, Meriden, CT 06451. Deadline is October 1, 2025.

Whether your Grange has an upcoming milestone year ending in a 0 or 5 – or any year in between – don't let an anniversary milestone pass by without honoring the organization. This is a great opportunity to highlight your Grange's achievements, raise awareness of your Grange's mission, thank your members and community, and reveal exciting updates about your future plans.

Other milestones your Grange can celebrate include the anniversary of the dedication of the Grange Hall, paying off the mortgage, honoring the date of reorganization, anniversary of the Grange's Fair or Festival, recognition of a Grange historical event, honoring members who have passed, or even the birthday of a special member.

Submit a detailed written report

Family Activities Updates

By the time you read this, our Family activities Zoom meetings were held in November. Anyone who would like the materials who could not make the meeting don't worry. I will be sending out a package in the mail as well as electronic copies in an email to all of the Family Activities Chairman. If you are newly elected to this, please be sure to send me an email with your information so that I can get the materials out to you. Be sure to include your Grange, your address and phone number.

The theme for the next 2 years is "Everything Gnome". I really look forward to that contest as there are so many crafts for this topic. Now that the weather has gotten colder, we can get our crafts out and begin making our entries for the Needlework Contests as well.

Don't forget about the National Lecturers contests. I have not seen this year's quilt block contest but here is the link once it's posted. <https://www.nationalgrange.org/lecturer-contests/> There are also virtual Photo contests that you can simply upload your photos and many more that might interest you.

The CFA committee wishes you Happy Holidays. Be safe and enjoy time with friends and family



Dawn Percoski
Family Activities Dir.

Vernon Grange No. 52
CWA@ctstateGrange.org

Legislatively Speaking



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

Hello, I'm back! I promised to turn in my soap box and play nice.

The 2024 elections are over, the ballots are all counted and Donald Trump won the majority of the votes and the Electoral College votes to be the 47th President of the United States. The Senate and House are both led by the Republican Party. The voting machines all work and no fraud was found. The newly-elected President is already filling his staff and department heads, a lot of head scratching on some choices, but he promised to have the best and brightest to lead us into a better Nation. For those who voted for them, I wish you get all that were promised to you. We all need to involve ourselves in community programs and group activities, as there will be a great need for volunteers.

I thank all the Granges for the resolutions at the 140th Session of the Connecticut State Grange. The resolutions on Student Loans and College Tuition passed and went on to National Grange where I heard they passed along with resolutions from other State Granges with similar resolves.

The Eversource billing outcry was met with a petition to the Governor to correct this program to relieve this added cost to electric bills. There should be a course of action that consumers can take against corporations who decide on major investments, but when there is a delay or failure in delivery, the corporation demands the consumer to pay for the failed contracts. The consumer had no voice in the deal so why should we bail the corporation out for a poor deal? This practice is happening more and more, let

the consumer pay for our mistakes, that part of customer service, I don't think so! Let's make corporations responsible for their decisions.

In October and November we had a lot of food recalls in products like Boar's Head cold cuts, waffles, McDonald's Quarter Pounders (e-coli in onions), raw milk, and most recently, carrots. Most of this is related to cleanliness. Many food processing plants are able to hire

14 year olds to clean up facilities. Smithfield Pork was just fined \$20 million for underage workers working in an unsafe environment. The Grange promotes the protection fo our youth from danders and laborious tasks.

I wish to welcome Barbara Prindle of Taghhannuck Grange and Aili McKeen of Wallingford Grange to the committee and will be meeting soon. Happy holidays and an eventful New Year to you all.

Thank you for the honor

Ted Powell, CSG Vice President

This was my second time as a delegate. We started with 140 resolutions and 10 more from committees. Each was brought to the floor to be discussed with 56 passing. Some of the ones that passed were CT 514 regarding Interest Rates for College Loans, PA 316 regarding Student Debt Forgiveness Tax Credit for Ag Business, PA 311 regarding Farmers Who Provide Student Loans to Their Workers Forgiveness. These were some of the student debt resolutions. There were other resolutions that passed like CA 307 Artificial Intelligence, 301 Age Limits for Congress and Senate, OR 504 Medicare and Demential Better Support for Dementia Patients, NC 101 Tracking Carbon Emissions by Farmers. Resolutions were defeated regarding MD 713, National Dues for Junior Grange Members. This resolution was passed last year and required a favorable vote this year to be enacted. Grange Law Bill 726 regarding National Grange Dues Inrease passed but requires a second vote next year for passage. This year budget was clear showing last year's and this year's numbers. We still had to take interest money to balance the budget. There were resolutions that came out of committee to give each delegate \$700 next year towards room costs.

Thank you all again for allowing me to serve the Connecticut State Grange.



The officers of the National Grange in Bettendorf, Iowa.

The views expressed in the Legislative Column are not necessarily those of the Connecticut Granger or the Connecticut State Grange.



Catching up with Grant the Beaver at National Grange.



We met up with Chris & Duane Hamp at Winchester Grange



Here we are with Richard Stonebreaker and fellow equine Skip the Horse from Maryland.



All saddled up to leave Iowa for home.

Trunk or Treat



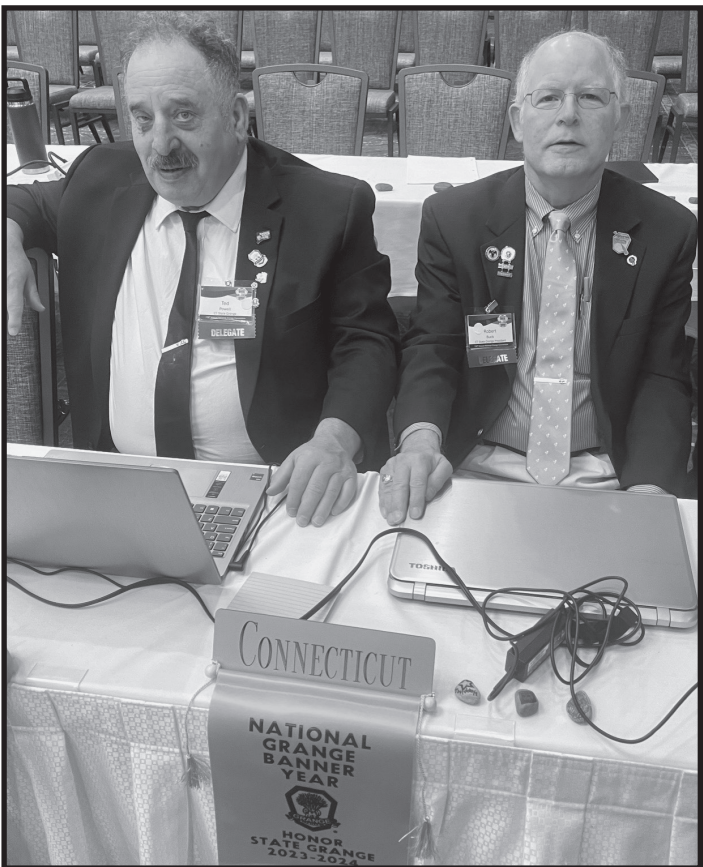
Bridgewater Grange participated in the town's Trunk or Treat event on Halloween night.



Hillstown Grange held a Red, White & Blue Pancake Breakfast on Nov. 2 in honor of Veteran's Day.



National President Chris Hamp with Past President Betsy Huber and Her official portrait.



CT Delegates Ted Powell and Rob Buck in IA.



This year's National Grange Convention kicked off with nearly 250 Grangers aboard the Celebration Belle River Cruises paddleboat.



The view of the Mississippi River from Bettendorf, IA.



Ekonk Turkey Dinner



EASTERN CONNECTICUT POMONA #14

Corr: Carol B. Hnath

Dec. 7: "Peace", Dec. 7 at Ekonk Grange Hall, Sterling

President, Jaimie Cameron, and Secretary, Carol Hnath, served as delegates to the State Session in October. Seven members of our Pomona were re-elected as officers during the biennial election.

All members of Eastern Connecticut Pomona Grange were cordially invited to a dinner to be held on Saturday, December 7, 2024 at Ekonk Grange Hall prior to the next regular meeting. Reservations were required and we hope many of our members will join us.

The meeting will begin at approximately 7 pm following the members' dinner. The Lecturer is in charge of the program, "Peace".

After the successful lighthouse cruise this summer suggestions for another activity will be considered. If you have an idea, please share it so that we may start to plan.

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Dec. 15: Christmas Party and gift exchange this will held on at 1PM,

Dec. 24: Christmas Pie sales

Jan. 22: Making Valentine cards for community at 6PM..

The weather has turned cold and we are in the spirit of the holidays. We had a wonderful dinner that we served for the Windham County Farm Bureau in October. The farmers donated fruit, apple cider,

Members and guests enjoy the Ekonk Community Grange Turkey Dinner held at their hall on November 23.

milk and vegetables as well as beef for the dinner. This has been an annual event. Holiday pies will be made for our fundraisers. The annual Woodstock Winter Festival is also in our holiday plan. We will be making wreaths as well. The Grange held a very successful boot and sock drive for the community with donations to go to the local TEEG center which makes them available to those in need.

Our Grange also is forming a group to get a Woodstock Planning meeting program started for the America 250 year anniversary. Groups continue to use our hall for events. It is great to see many of the community in our hall.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

Dec. 5: Christmas

We congratulate our Plus One member for receiving second place in the National Grange Community Service Program. On December 7 we will be at the Lebanon Senior Center for a Craft Fair.

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Penny Bennett

Come in from the cold and have a bowl of hot clam chowder this Saturday evening November 16. Along with your chowder enjoy a variety of food including clam cakes, French fries, onion rings and cheese sticks. We are expecting a complete sell out so come early or call ahead for reservations 860-884-1813. On Saturday 11/23 we are having our monthly bluegrass concert featuring Nick Anderson and The Shady Creek band. We are trying something new -Terry, our president is going to make BBQ pork sandwiches. It is made with cherry coke cola. Personally, I cannot wait to try it, it sounds yummy. At most of our events we will be selling homemade seasonal pies made by our own baking team. We are having our annual Christmas Potluck party on December 7th Don't forget Santa knows if you have been naughty or nice so be nice and come to meet him personally and maybe even sit on his lap.

Last month we celebrated our friend and grange sister Josie Steinbeck's 100th birthday. Everyone had a great time at her birthday celebration! She has been

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

a long-time member of Killingly Grange and has served as treasurer and flora. She has always been a supporter of vegetable gardening and has always shared her home grown produce.

NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Dec. 13: Here Comes Santa Claus

Dec. 16: Caroling Around Town (Weather Permitting)

When next you visit our hall you will be greeted by our beautiful, blue doors. Jeff and Debbie Barnes are responsible for the beautifully painted railings and doors. Nancy Weissmuller is responsible for the drips!

At our October 11 meeting we learned more about the terrible Civil War. On the 25th we had a happy time at our annual Halloween party. A small but enthusiastic group enjoyed the games of Feed Freddie, Dem Bones, Bowling for Candy Corn and Find the Skeleton, among others. Adults joined the youngsters in the games (and did almost as well)! Our Worthy President finally found the ulna of the purple team's skeleton where Jason Miner had hidden it, taped to the back of the skeleton on the door to the stage.

Our Christmas Party will be preceded by a short meeting at 7:30. If you are bringing a child to the party, please bring a wrapped present with the child's name clearly printed on it. Leave it in the kitchen for Santa's bag and Santa will give the gifts out at the party. And if Mother Nature will please gift us with some rain to end this awful drought, next time we will tell you all about nice November.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Irene Percoski

Dec. 6: This Magical Time of Year

Jan. 3: Sense of Wonder (Zoom)

Feb. 7: Love Language

Our November program featured information on the origin and ways we celebrate Veteran's Day. Americans came together and produced thousands of tons of equipment for the second world war. Our country put 16 million men and women in uniform in various Armed

Services. These men and women served in Europe, Africa and many places in Asia. This was a time when everyone worked together. Today the survivors from that time are getting fewer and fewer. Veteran's Day is not to nonor war but to honor those who served in all wars.

It is our duty to remember their sacrifices and honor them.

There are millions of people, young and old who live in poverty and there again it is our duty to help

the helpless and feed the hungry as per the charge delivered at the end of our Grange meetings. Our collection this evening of non-perishable goods will be delivered to the local food shelf. We played Grocery Bingo games with the winners Joyce Jordan and Charlene Markowski.

Next month will be the last in-person meeting until spring. We will be on Zoom only, thourgh the winter. Come join us in December for festive fraternity, cookies and eggnog.

Terri Fassio receives Connector Award



Connecticut's Public Relations Co-Director Terri Fassio was honored by National Grange with the Connector Award for her work in Grange communications. The award was received on her behalf by State President Rob Buck at the National Convention in Bettendorf, IA.

Senexet holds boot drive



Senexet Grange thanks all who donated to the Woodstock Boot Drive! We are happy to have collected 34 pairs of boots and \$595 that will be available to purchase boots as needed to keep feet warm this winter! In addition to the boots, 6 coats, 22 pairs of socks, 2 hats and 2 pairs of mittens were donated and went directly to Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group (TEEG) for distribution. Thank you also to the Woodstock Trading Post for letting us collect at their location and all the great things they are doing for our community!

WINDOW TO THE PAST

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



No answers were received for last month's photo. A clue for this month: The photo was taken at Beacon Valley Grange Hall.

Super Prize Record



Third Degree; Flora

THAT YOU MAY ENJOY YOUR REWARDS DISPENSE CHARITY,
THE FLOWERS OF BROTHERLY LOVE, AS FREELY AS NATURE
SPREADS HER FLOWERY CARPET OVER ALL THE EARTH. AND
LET YOUR CHARITY EXTEND TO ALL HUMANITY.



Winchester Grange held its Super Prize Party & Bake Sale in November. With a long list of valuable Super Prizes, the Grange realized record profits and a packed house of participants. Thank you to all who made this year's event so successful.



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Dec. 7: Christmas Meeting at Winchester Grange, 2 PM. Catered Lunch at 12:30 PM.

Join us at the next meeting of Mountain Laurel Pomona at Winchester Grange on Dec. 7. The day will begin with a catered luncheon at 12:30 PM. There is no charge for lunch as it is being paid for by the Pomona. The Lecturer reminds all to bring mittens/gloves, scarves, etc. for donation to local schools. They have asked us not to donate hats as they cannot be used.

We will also have a grab big gift exchange. Gifts should be \$10 or less.

Hopefully we'll see you on the sevent, otherwise, have a wonderful holiday season.

GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: Carol Innes

Dec. 8: Christmas Party & Potluck Dinner with \$10 Grab Bag Gift, 3:30 PM.

Dec. 14: Craft Fair, Bake, Tag and Poinsettia Sale, 10-2

Granby Grange met on November 10th for our regular monthly meeting. Kara Marshall provided delicious refreshments for us. The Lecturer's program was led by Sister Raine Petersen where she instructed us on how to make and use lavender sugar scrubs and gave each one along with the recipe.

We have a new slate of officers and look forward to having another successful year with even more fun events and fundraisers for Grangers and our community.

Granby 4H held a fairy and dragon house making workshop at our hall wick everyone loved. Parents were encouraged to have their children enter the project in our fair next fall and it brought some additional awareness to our hall and organization.

At our meeting we voted to have the bake and poinsettia sale along with Grange made crafts sale on Dec. 14th. Hopefully, it will be successful with the short planning time but we will have more in the future. We will be holding craft making workshops for this and future sales.

Brothers Dave and Lucian, Sisters Carol and Raine planted some garlic which we plan to harvest next July. We also gleaned what was left of our garden.

From all of us at Granby Grange to all of you, have a Merry Christmas and happy holidays!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Dec. 10: Christmas Gifts & Party, Ref. Pam Wright. Bring a \$10 (or less) grab bag gift and enjoy the country store

Dec. 24: No Meeting - Merry Christmas

Winchester Grange is working on planning for continued upgrades to the hall. We were pleased to learn the NW Community Foundation awarded a grant to help with the cost of our front façade improvement. This money, combined with the grant from the Connecticut State Grange Foundation will offset a good amount of the cost of removing the front window and repairing/re-siding that section of the hall.

Our AED (defibrillator) has been installed at the hall, with all expenses paid for by a grant from the Winsted Auxiliary grant. We are planning for a CPR course to be held in the coming weeks that will be open to the community. It's not enough to have the equipment. We need to have members trained in the use of the equipment and in CPR.

Join us on Dec. 10 for our Christmas Party/Meeting. If you would like to participate in the Grab Bag, bring

a gift worth \$10 or less. As always, guests are welcome at this meeting. We'll see you there.

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Dec. 12: Cookie Exchange by all. Ref. Cookies & Milk by All. Bring 4 dozen of 1 kind of cookie to make up plates for the food pantries.

Jan. 9: Wreaths Across America by Bill Dinneen and ref. by Bil Dinneen.

Feb. 1: Grange Square & Contra Dance by Dance Comm. Ref. by All.

Feb. 13: Love One Another by Ruth Schnell. Ref. by Ruth Schnell.

Mar. 13: Line Dancing by Barbara Prindle. Ref. by Jill Drew.

Note: Refreshments and Social Time at 7 PM with meeting at 7:30 PM unless otherwise noted.

At our November meeting we heard all about State Session from our delegates. Taghhannuck's CWA committee received a certificate of achievement. Our membership committee received a certificate along with \$5 for having a new member this year. We also received a Lecturer's Appreciation Award. Thomas Eykelhoff was awarded a scholarship from the State Grange with his aunt Debbie Hanlon accepting for him. The results of the resolutions were handed out along with all the original resolutions.

The 2024-2025 program books were handed out and discussed. It was also noted that our Grange member Maria Horn was re-elected State Representative from our district for her fourth term.

We hope to see you at our next dance on Feb. 1 from 7-9 PM. There is a live band and a caller who will walk "newbies" through so everyone can dance.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: David Roberts

Dec. 1: Honoring Our Veteran of the Month (Riverton Grange Hall); 6:00 PM

Dec. 6-8: Christmas in Riverton/Grange Tree Festival; supporting Pleasant Valley Community Food Pantry

Dec. 13: Barkhamsted Seniors

luncheon; Noon

Dec. 20: Zoom Meeting & Program: Holiday Traditions; 6:30 PM – refreshments and 7:00 PM – Meeting

Dec. 27: Barkhamsted Seniors luncheon; Noon

Riverton Grange met on November 1st for our regular monthly meeting, both virtually and in person. Thirty-one attendees filled the hall, including five potential new members. Our special guests were Massachusetts State Grange Lecturer Deb Goodrich, her husband Brad, and Northeast Region SHIPmate Theresa Kinney. Judy Doyle and her family provided refreshments.

President Dave Roberts unveiled the new Hall Dedication Plaque from CT State Grange Vice President Ted Powell, recently engraved with the 1940 hall dedication date. For the first time since the hall was dedicated in 1940, President Dave pointed out that new member Michael Lazzaro had placed the number “17” on the Grange porch for folks to find our hall.

Lecturer Raine Pedersen was presented with the 2023-2024 Honor Lecturer Award. It was highlighted that Riverton Grange was also recognized in second place in the Community Service program and was recognized for positive membership growth during the recent Connecticut State Grange convention in Norwich.

The Lecturer’s Program was led by Sister Raine Pedersen and titled “Thanksgiving Traditions.” During the program, Dave talked about 1939 -1942 when the United States had TWO Thanksgiving holidays thanks to President Franklin Roosevelt moving traditional Thanksgiving one week earlier to give holiday shoppers one additional week to shop.

Dave’s great-grandmother, Riverton Grange Charter Secretary Dora Woodward Roberts, died on “Franksgiving” in 1940 and was buried on traditional Thanksgiving one week later. Connecticut and 21 other states chose not to celebrate “Franksgiving.” Dave’s Dad told him about these two Thanksgiving holidays right before he died in 2018. The Grange voted to continue

partnering with the “Barkhamsted Seniors” volunteer group to use the Riverton Grange Hall as their new home and approved specific meal dates.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Marguerite Smith

On November 14 we conducted our monthly meeting at the grange and discussed several topics. Repair of the grange building - reviewed all of the recent work - painting the outside, new stairs, attic insulation, etc. You name it, we’ve had it done and the building is in top shape for all sorts of events to take place. Current rentals - We currently rent the building to 3 dance groups and would be happy to have more groups on a weekly basis. We also have Friendsgiving, birthday parties, wedding showers, baby showers, etc. New members - Two new members will be welcomed at our meeting

next month. We are very pleased to have new members and new ideas. State session - The Simsbury grange proposed 5 resolutions at the state session in Norwich last month and are pleased to report that 4 of them went forward! Community service - Members attending the meeting reported 95 hours of community service in October. Programming - currently looking into several possibilities to partner with our local library. MLK in Simsbury - a historical organization is researching Martin Luther King’s time in Simsbury during the summers of 1944 and 1947. We are eager to learn more about any time he may have spent at the Simsbury Grange.

Next meeting: December - (Date TBD at 7:00 pm) will be announced/ posted on our website soon as we’re working to find a day when a majority of members can attend.

SPEAK LIKE A “CHAMP”

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

“PROACTIVE APPROACH”

Being *proactive* involves taking initiative, anticipating events, and acting in advance to prevent issues or to create positive outcomes. Proactive individuals and organizations are forward-thinking, strategic, and take control of situations rather than merely responding to them.





NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

It's time to start signing up candidates to take the Fifth Degree in March. Even though it seems a long time away, once we turn the calendar to a new year 2025, the time will fly by.

Congratulations to Aili McKeen of Wallingford Grange who was elected Gatekeeper of the Connecticut State Grange. Re-elected officers from Nutmeg Pomona were Assistant Steward Donald Lanoue, Chaplain Charles Dimmick and Ceres Jane Miller.

The officers and members of Nutmeg Pomona wish our fellow Grangers and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

Nov. 6: December 11-Deck the Halls, Card Exchange and \$5.00 Grab Bag

Final reports and paper work are finished for our fair. Charles Dimmick and Bob Charbonneau will represent our fair at the fall meeting of the Association of Ct Fairs at the Holiday Inn in Norwich. We held a very successful fundraising roast beef dinner in early November. We had a good profit to aid our treasury. All of us at Cheshire Grange extend our wishes to everyone for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Stephen Fengler

To coincide with the time surrounding Veteran's Day, Wallingford Grange has awarded two quilts of honor. We presented one of our completed "Quilts of Valor" to veteran Albert Allen of Derby last

month. It was a wonderful tribute and great privilege to honor him with a quilt made with love and respect. We also awarded Hospitalman Moe Armstrong a Quilt of Valor, thanking him for decades of service to veterans' mental health needs after his deployment to Vietnam as a Navy Corpsman. Moe is an amazing person, and we're happy to have gotten to know him.

Wallingford Grange does have a couple more events in December to close out the year. We will be having a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, December 14th between 8:30am - 11am. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for kids. In addition to this, there will be a soap making class at the Wallingford Grange hall! This class will occur on Wednesday,

December 11, between 6pm - 8pm. Here, you will be able to make your own soap and soap box to hold the soap! Registration for this is \$5 per person. Hope to see you there!

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

As we start a new Grange year, we started a new problem - our oil tank has an unreparable leak and needs to be replaced - price \$4,800.00. With the \$10,000.00 loan we have to pay for the new roof we sure didn't need this news. Our purse strings are pretty thin already. Treasurer Ron Fischer is happy to receive any donations.

Our next meeting is on December 13th and will be our Christmas Party


Continued next page...

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE

BI-MONTHLY ROUND TABLE LUNCH-TIME DISCUSSIONS

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

A SERIES OF 6 LUNCHEONS AND DISCUSSIONS FOR LOCAL GARDENERS, FARMERS, AND EATERS (BEGINNERS AND EXPERIENCED)



JANUARY 11

PLANNING YOUR GARDEN

MARCH 29

PLANTING SEEDS INDOORS

MAY 24

PLANTING SEEDS AND PLANTS OUTDOORS

JULY 19

WEEDING AND WATERING

SEPTEMBER 20

HARVESTING AND REPLANTING FOR A FALL GARDEN

NOVEMBER 15

CLEANUP AND WINTER PREP

CORNELIA OLSEN

GRANGE MEMBER AND BACKYARD FARMER

JAMES FLINT

GRANGE MEMBER, GARDENER, AND COMPOSTER

THE SPEAKERS WILL TELL YOU HOW THEY DO THEIR GARDENS AND THERE WILL BE OPEN DISCUSSIONS OF EACH TOPIC, WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO FOLLOW THE GARDENING YEAR.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133
1873 HILLSIDE ROAD
FAIRFIELD, CT 06824

PARKING IN REAR OF THE GRANGE BUILDING

\$20 PER PERSON PER SESSION

LUNCHEON INCLUDES CHOICE OF SANDWICH (TUNA OR EGG SALAD), BEVERAGE, & DESSERT

RSVP AT LEAST 1 WEEK PRIOR SO WE KNOW HOW MUCH FOOD TO ORDER TO CORNELIA OLSEN 203 571-8873 (TEXT IS OK, TOO) OR JIM GOLIAS 203 259-8023

SEND YOUR \$20 RESERVATION CHECK MADE OUT TO GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE, c/o JAMES GOLIAS, 60 OLDFIELD DR., FAIRFIELD, CT 06824

with a planned supper at 6 o'clock. \$5.00 grab bag for those who wish to participate. Program "Beavers" in charge of Marilyn Maxwell.

Our tag sales continue the third Saturday of each month from 9 to 3. Next sale December 21st. Tag sale items are always welcome. Open Mic the same day from 2 to 5. Come and enjoy the entertainment or participate. During Open Mic we will have the drawing of our raffle at 3 o'clock. Call Joanne at 203-754-5863 or Pat at 203-927-5383 for tickets if you need more or would like to buy some.

From all of us at Beacon Valley to all of you "Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year".

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Jim & Lori Golias

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Cher at Total Look Salon in Southport. She, her clients and colleagues, helped make our latest drop-off of donations to the VA hospital in West Haven extra special. The donations were very appreciated and well received.

Mike at the VA gifted our Grange with special volunteer medals for all we provide to the Vets in need there. **THANK YOU!**

Upcoming Events:

Join us for the first of a bi-monthly series, How does Your Garden Grow? Luncheon Talks. January 11th from 12-2: the topic - Planning your Garden.

Warm up on January 25 at our Souper Supper and Brown Bag Bingo.

Both events reservation only. Call Jim. 203.259.8023.

The Greenfield Hill Grange members would like to wish all members and friends a Happy and Holy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Jan. 10: It's a New Year

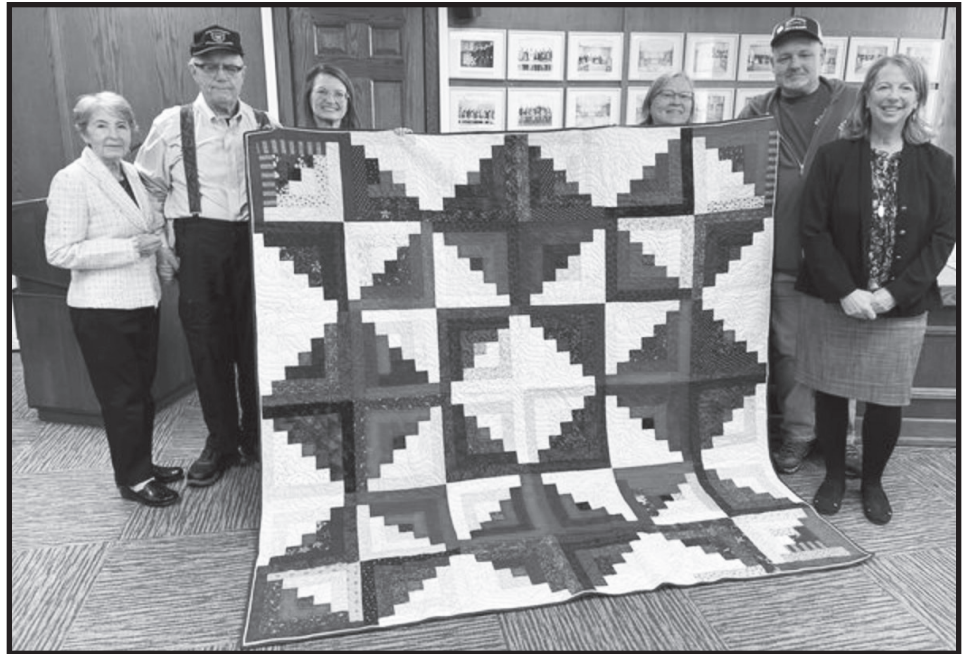
Jan. 24: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Feb. 14: Valentine's Day

Feb. 28: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Wallingford Quilt of Valor



Wallingford Grange presented a Quilt of Valor to Moe Armstrong who served in Vietnam.

Soap Making

Learn to make soap using the cold-lye method

Wednesday, Dec 11, 6 to 8 pm

Wallingford Grange
Community Education Event just \$5



586 Center Street, Wallingford CT



SUPPLY STORE

#GRANGESTRONG

www.grangestore.org

***NEW* GRANGE STRONG SOCKS**

Limited quantity available!

Show and wear your Grange Pride at various events and activities, especially at State and National Conventions!

Featuring the #GrangeStrong logo on a light gray sock.

80% combined cotton, 15% nylon and 5% elastane.

One size fits most

\$16.00 plus shipping

will be available at National Grange Convention

Order online through the Grange Supply Store at grangestore.org or call Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

Lecturer's Department

At the 158th National Grange convention in Bettendorf, Iowa, National Grange President Christine E. Hamp made a significant



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

announcement that marked a new chapter for our fraternal organization. She revealed that the Grange would launch "Project Sustenance" to spotlight the talents and expertise of our members to address food insecurity across the United States. This initiative aims to harness the collective knowledge of other national partners, Grange members and their communities, particularly in the realms of homesteading, agriculture, and food production, to combat one of the nation's most pressing issues: hunger. During her national address, President Hamp said "No organization is better situated than the Grange to better our communities. I am calling on each Grange to make food security and nutrition a priority"

This new focus on food insecurity was highlighted in a series of seminars during the National Convention that featured Grange members sharing their knowledge and strategies. I was honored to be asked to present on this new focus area that directly ties into the Grange's overarching goal of using member expertise to alleviate hunger.

My workshop focused on the broader issue of food insecurity. As a longtime advocate for sustainable food systems and a fourth generation Grange member, I addressed hunger at both the community and national levels. My seminar delved into the root causes of food insecurity, discussing economic, social, and environmental factors that contribute to hunger in rural and urban areas alike.

I stressed the need for a multifaceted approach to solving food insecurity, one that includes not only local food production but also policy advocacy, resource distribution, and support for food banks and other community organizations. I highlighted successful models of food cooperatives, urban gardening projects, and local food hubs, encouraging Grange members to consider these solutions as part of their broader efforts to combat hunger at the local level. I also highlighted that every county in the United States has residents facing food insecurity.

This session on food insecurity exemplifies the Grange's new focus on community-driven solutions to hunger. By providing practical skills and encouraging broader systemic change, my seminar served as a call to action for all Grangers to become more involved in addressing food insecurity in your communities.

President Chris Hamp's announcement and my seminar made it clear that the National Grange is committed to leveraging its collective expertise and resources to address hunger in the U.S. With dedicated members leading the way, the Grange is poised to play a significant role in creating sustainable, long-term solutions to food insecurity across the country.



Wallingford Winners

At the CTagFairs Annual Banquet, where First Place winners from all the member fairs compete against each other for Best in Connecticut in Quilts, Adult Baking, Junior Baking, and Apple Pie. The winners from Wallingford Grange Fair placed notably with Adult Baker Rebecca Auger earning FIRST PLACE! Junior Baker Jax Cofield won 10th Place, and Apple Pie Baker Bill Comerford won an Honorable Mention, and Ruth Palmer won an Honorable Mention with her quilt. Congratulations all!



Cannon Grange's Little Free Library.

You Shall Love the Lord



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstateGrange.org

Deuteronomy 6:5 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

This commandment, both as it appears in Deuteronomy and as it appears in various forms in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, has always bothered me in that I wondered HOW it was possible to “love” because you were commanded to “love”. Doesn’t true love come from the heart? So I went back to how the commandment was interpreted by Rabbinic tradition. And while I am Christian, not Jewish, I perceived that the interpretation seemed to be that one cannot separate the one commandment from the related commandment to love one’s neighbor. We show our love of God by the act of loving others.

Another factor is that we cannot learn to truly love God until we learn to understand God. When we try with all our heart to understand God and God’s commandments we will slowly find ourselves closer to loving God. To use the words of a



song from 1958 “To know him is to love him”. So the command to love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and all your might is a direction to strive with everything you have to truly get to know the Lord and what the Lord expects us to do in following His commandments. And if we try so to do then we will eventually learn to love the Lord.

There is a maxim we use in the art of teaching. “I hear; I forget. I see; I remember. I do; I understand”. If we only hear the command to “love the Lord” we are probably going to forget it within a short period of

time after hearing it. If we observe other people showing their love for the Lord by their actions towards their fellow human beings, we are apt to remember those actions. But when we ourselves show love and caring for all of humanity we will finally begin to understand loving God by loving others.

In Memoriam

Hazel Pitcher
Bridgewater Grange #153

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”