

CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

Vol. 65, No. 1

The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

October 2024

From the President's Desk



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

From the Grange Declaration of Purposes and featured as the October quote from the Heirloom Program, we have: "We desire a proper equality, and fairness; protection for the weak restraint upon the strong; in short justly distributed power. These are Amercian ideals, the very essence of American independence, and to advocate the contrary is unworthy of the sons and daughters of our Republic". Now what constitutes these ideals and how they are put into practice may differ in our varying opinions so remember to be charitable in your expression of views with the upcoming election. Remember that Speak Like a Champ buzzword from National President Chris Hamp, "to be Grange Strong, we must be unified."

With the Big E starting as I write this, it will be over by the time you read it. We sponsored the vaccine (both flu and COVID-19) booth once again with Families Fighting Flu and PharMerica. Thanks to Ted, Noel and Dawn for all their hard work. Ted sent me a picture of the wooden base he built for the vaccine project. Thanks to all the Grangers for donated craft items what will be sold to fund the New England

Grange Building. I will try to make a few days to work in the store, but am not able to get up there every weekend as last year.

I submitted a letter of support from the Connecticut State Grange to National Grange Legislative Director Burton Eller (1 of 108 from the Grange) urging Congress to pass the bill HR 2407, the Nancy Gardner Sewell Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act. As of this writing, it has bipartisan support in the House Ways and Means Committee. This is an important issue in rural America where many don't have access to decent health care. Hopefully, this will become law. It is good to see National Grange taking the initiative on so many health care related issues and programs.

Fair season is on and I have heard good things about several Grange fair successes; Hillstown, Cheshire, Granby, Winchester, Riverton, Senexet and Wallingford Granges to name a few. Taghhannuck had a booth at the Cornwall Agricultural Fair with a display on birding as a hobby. I held two 15-20 minute talks on some of the process I use when out birding to figure out what birds I am seeing.

Elizabeth Jensen of Redding Grange#15 had an article in *Grange Today* Vol. 1, Issue 7 (09/13/2024) about their Grange's collaboration with the US Food Rescue wherein local produce is collected at the Grange Hall and distributed to local food pantries. Many of us don't tend to think of the necessity of food pantries in the more affluent towns of Fairfield County. There is a more widespread need for these services than we can imagine. This was a great way to highlight the Grange's agricultural roots and provide community service.

While on the subject of community service, I would like to mention that Grangers in Connecticut have contributed over 50,000 service hours in the past year. When you think back on all you do for your communities, this is quite substantial and something in which you can take pride.

With the 140th Annual State Session coming up, as I write, about 40 have registered. Resolutions are coming in (six so far) and hopefully there will be a good number of them by the time of the convention. We have a good class of candidates (at least 9) for the Sixth Degree for which I have been diligently preparing. The cost of the event continues to concern your Board of Directors and is a large portion of the deficit budget of the State Grange requiring sales of stock from our porfolio to fund. A committee is in existence to explore ways to cut costs of our convention. Many other State Granges hold their conventions in different formats costing a fraction of what ours costs. More details on this at the convention I am sure.

...Continued on page 9





From the President's Desk

Continued from page one...

While on vacation in Vermont from September 9-14, we had the good luck to visit Bridgewater Grange #284 in Bridgewater Corners not far from where we stayed in Brownsville. I called the President Alice Paglia and explained that we wanted to visit. Alice couldn't make that meeting as she was recuperating from shoulder surgery. So, Thursday night on the way back from St. Johnsbury, we made our way to the Grange where we were welcomed by ten Grangers who were preparing for their Saturday flea market and bake sale. They have the oldest Grange Hall in Vermont dating to 1876. They are an active and dedicated group of mostly newer and a few longtime Grangers holding Bingo as well as potluck dinners with open mic music programs. We had a wonderful visit and tour of their delightful facility. No matter where you go, if you show up at a Grange Hall, you will be welcomed by Brothers and Sisters. Next time you are out of state, think about looking up and visiting a Grange. This is the meaning of Fraternity!

My affiliate Grange, Oxford

#194, continues to clean up after the historic flooding of August 18 that inundated Oxford, Southbury and surrounding towns. These two towns it is now known experienced 14-16 inches of rain in 4-5 hours. Route 67 is still closed in three places between Southbury and Seymour. Clean up is proceeding and drying the place out to prevent mold was most important. We ran heavy duty fans 24 hours a day with all windows open for some time to do that which boosted our electric bill over \$100.00 for the month. I have written an article on this and submitted it to Good Day! Magazine.

Sign up to receive Grange Today, the National Grange electronic newsletter and you can see some of the programs available to you (e.g. Membership Matters and Communications tutorials via Zoom), Burton's legislative efforts and other items important to the Grange, and see some of what Grangers in other states are doing. National President Hamp also shares her thoughts in this newsletter giving insight into her goals as a leader. It's a good read!

Connecticut Granger



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

STAFF

President/Editor . . . Todd A. Gelineau Vice President Terri Fassio Treasurer. Jody Cameron Secretary Noel Miller

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c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	•	1546	1546
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c × 100)	•	100	100
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Dawn Percoski Family Activities Dir. Vernon Grange No. 52 CWA@ctstateGrange.org

We are done with this year's contests and I want to thank those of you who attended this year's Ct Grange Family Festival and for all of your beautiful entries. The first-place winners went up to the Big E for judging. The food was fabulous and everyone had a great time. I'd Like to thank Granby Grange for allowing us to use your Hall.

I thank you for all your help during the June and Labor Day clean up and set up help. The Labor Day was a huge success, we had over 25 volunteers during the day. It truly made me happy to have so many of you take time out of your holiday weekend. I can't tell you how much I appreciated it.

The Big E started on Friday Sept. 13th and ran through the 29th. All September dates! Clean up will be the following Monday, October 1st and then we will close up the building.

Hospitality Room Help.

I will be coordinating the Hospitality Room this year. We can not accept home baked goods which is a shame because as Grangers, we do know how to make great food! If you would like to donate snack items, please send it along with someone who is coming to state session. Big hits were the fresh fruit. Other than that, all food must be individually packaged such as Family packs.

I would like to congratulate all

Winners at Eastern States





of the participants and winners in the 2024 Northeast Needlework Contest at the Eastern States. They were all very close, sometimes only 1 point separated the winners. Here are the Connecticut winners:

Class A Afghan: Irene Percoski-Vernon Grange - 1st Place

Class D Counted Cross Stitch: Mariellen Baxter, Vernon Grange – 3rd Place

Class I Quilted Wall Hanging: Alma Graham, Coventry Grange – 2nd Place

Class J Stuffed Toy: Diane Calabro, Cheshire Grange – 2nd Place

Class K Baby Afghan: Ellen Pettit, Winchester Grange – 3rd Place Class M Craft (teacup), Carol Innes, Granby Grange – 1st Place

I can't wait to see your entries for next year!



CT members helping with set-up at the New England Grange Building

2024 Session Resolutions

Resolutions 1-6 were printed in their entirety in the September issue. Since then, the State President has assigned all known resolutions to Session Committees. The assignments for resolutions 1-6 are printed below followed by the resolutions received since the last issue.

1) RE: RISING COLLEGE COSTS CORRECTION

REFERRED: Legislative/Insurance

2) RE: CONTROLLING INTEREST RATES FOR COLLEGE LOANS

REFERRED: Legislative/Insurance

3) RE: STATE GRANGE FAMILY DUES

REFERRED: Good of Order/ Membership/President's Address

4) RE: STUDENT LOAN BANKRUPTCY RESTRICTIONS

REFERRED: Legislative/Insurance

5) RE: TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY RELATED TO QUARTERLY DUES TO CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

REFERRED: Good of Order/ Membership/President's Address

6) RE: CHANGESTORECOGNITION OF 80 YEAR GRANGE MEMBERS

REFERRED: Good of Order/ Membership/President's Address

7) RE: BEAR-PROOF TRASH BARRELS

WHEREAS enticing black bears with food is the root cause of bears developing a habit of foraging in neighborhoods, and

WHEREAS trash is a favorite food,

WHEREAS bear-proof trash barrels are a proven solution, and are available for purchase or from most haulers with a small additional charge.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Connecticut State Grange urge the Connecticut General Assembly and/ or the Department of Agriculture and/or the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to promote

strategies to thwart bears from accessing trash, including subsidizing bear-proof trash barrels in areas with documented conflicts.

SOURCE: Simsbury Grange #197 REFERRED: Agriculture, Conservation and Environment

8) RE: LIGHT POLLUTION

WHEREAS light pollution and light trespass are increasing, and excess light wastes energy, harms wildlife, and harms and endangers human health, and

WHEREAS aligning with existing statutes and best-practice recommendations from Dark Sky International will save money and dramatically reduces these problems.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Connecticut General Assembly and the Governor make preventing and reducing light pollution and light trespass a high priority, and work with engineers, ecologists, and health experts on public education and policies and recommendations.

SOURCE: Simsbury Grange #197 REFERRED: Agriculture, Conservation and Environment

9) RE: PROTECT CRITICAL HABITAT

WHEREAS nature and clean water are the foundation of healthy communities, and

WHEREAS natural areas prevent flooding, provide clean water, and support local resource production (i.e. food, water, timber) and health of all species, and

WHEREAS disruption of soil, flora, and fauna can degrade critical habitats.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that special areas like headwaters, natural buffers on water, wetlands, and critical habitats such as old-growth forests on public lands be prioritized in a natural condition, like a national park, and prioritized for health and well-being and on-going science and data collection.

SOURCE: Simsbury Grange #197 REFERRED: Agriculture, Conservation and Environment

10) RE: LOCAL FARMS AND LOCAL FOOD

WHEREAS nutritious food is required for good heath, and food prices and chronic diseases are increasing, and

WHEREAS even experienced local farmers are struggling to survive based on growing and producing food, and

WHEREAS even experienced local farmers are struggling to survive based on growing and producing food, and

WHEREAS food assistance programs (such as Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) can and should support individual and community health.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that SNAP program recipients can purchase \$2 in local whole foods \$1 at any SNAP-accepting vendor, year-round, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that "local whole food" is defined as any Connecticut-grown meat, dairy, vegetables, grains, or fruits.

SOURCE: Simsbury Grange #197 REFERRED: Agriculture, Conservation, and Environment

11) RE: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

WHEREAS affordable housing is referred to as a "crisis," and despite a large state budget surplus, there is a years-long waiting list for rental assistance, and

WHEREAS many local farms can house farmworkers (and others) very affordably, and

WHEREAS existing public and private buildings across the state could be repurposed for housing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the General Assembly recognizes that immediate and low cost options to provide affordable housing in this crisis include expanding access to full or partial rental assistance, workforce housing, and adaptive reuse of current buildings, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the General Assembly incentivizes cities and towns that develop such options because they are socially, financially, and ecologically beneficial, and exist within our current infrastructure, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we

prioritize funding intended to address the affordable housing crisis toward rental and mortgage assistance, incentives for farmers and others providing workforce housing, and reimagining and repurposing our current infrastructure.

SOURCE: Simsbury Grange #197 REFERRED: Legislative/Insurance

12) STUDENT LOAN BANKRUPTCY RESTRICTIONS

WHEREAS students graduating from college often have a debt amounting to many thousands of dollars facing them, and

WHEREAS these students often cannot find jobs with a sufficient salary to repay these debts, and

WHEREAS students have been banned from the ability to bankrupt out of these debts.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Connecticut State Grange urge Congress to rethink the student loan program and this hardship on those debtors and allow them to bankrupt out of loans they are unable to repay.

SOURCE: Eastern Connecticut Pomona Grange #14 (Res. #4 was submitted to E. CT Pomona after being submitted to the State Grange) REFERRED: Legislative/Insurance

13) RE: BALANCED BUDGET

WHEREAS the proposal of an annual budget with a deficit bottom line is unsustainable, and

WHEREAS the proposal of a budget deficit is not favorable to the long-term survival of the Connecticut State Grange.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Connecticut State Grange annual budget proposal shall always end in break-even or reasonable profit figure.

SOURCE: Wallingford Grange #33 REFERRED: Credentials/ Constitution and By-Laws

14) RE: HARD TO FIND POLICIES

WHEREAS it is difficult to find written operating and financial policies and procedures of the Connecticut State Grange that are not included in the Constitution and By-Laws, without going through 139 individual Journals of Proceedings of past State Sessions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that

volunteer assistance in compiling past adopted resolutions which pertain to such into a document that will serve as an addendum to current governing documents.

SOURCE: Wallingford Grange #33 REFERRED: Credentials/ Constitution and By-Laws

15) ELECTIONS BY POPULAR VOTE

WHEREAS in far too many recent elections the Electoral College has not matched the popular vote, and

WHEREAS the current system favors "battleground" or "swing" states where candidates spend a disproportionate amount of time catering to those states while the vote in "spectator" states is suppressed due to a feeling that votes in smaller states with fewer electoral votes don't matter, and

WHEREAS 17 states, and the District of Columbia have signed on to the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact in which each state pledges to assign their Electoral College votes to the popular vote winner, once the Compact reaches the 270 vote total from the member states, and

WHEREAS the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact returns the power of the vote to all Americans without eliminating the Electoral College which would have required the difficult process of passing a Constitutional Amendment, and

WHEREAS the current policy of the National Grange "supports the current Electoral College system for presidential and vice presidential elections."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Connecticut State Grange and the National Grange support the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact and advocate for its passage in all 50 states and Washington, D.C.

NOTE: States that have adopted the Compact: CT, ME, VT, NY, NJ, MD, DE, IL, MN, CO, NM, CA, OR, WA and HI (Representing 209 votes). Passage is pending in MI, VA, NC and NV (Representing an additional 50 votes).

SOURCE: Winchester Grange #74 REFERRED: Legislative/Insurance

16) RE: INITIATION OF MEMBERS

VIA ELECTRONIC MEANS

WHEREAS it has become practice to hold hybrid or online Grange meetings, and

WHEREAS this has been beneficial to many Granges and Granges, allowing those who are unable to attend physically due to personal or distance issues, and

WHEREAS there are certain aspects of our organization that should only be done in person such as Installation of Officers and the various means of being initiated into membership.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED no Grange in Connecticut within the jurisdiction of the Connecticut State Grange be permitted to initiate anyone into full membership via electronic means, nor perform the Installation of Officers via electronic means.

SOURCE: Ekonk Community Grange #89

REFERRED: Credentials, Constitution and By-Laws

17) RE: RESOLUTIONS TO STATE GRANGE

WHEREAS the Connecticut State Grange has made continuous effort to make the level of Pomona more relevant, and

WHEREAS one of the fundamental purposes of the Pomona is to be a legislative component to the Granges within its jurisdiction.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED starting with the 2025 Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange, all resolutions presented to the delegate body for consideration MUST be submitted by a Community Grange through its respective Pomona within the jurisdiction of the Connecticut State Grange.

SOURCE: Ekonk Community Grange #89

REFERRED: Credentials, Constitution and By-Laws

18) SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTIONS TO STATE GRANGE

WHEREAS resolutions have been submitted to the State Grange without having been passed by a Community or Pomona Grange, and

WHEREAS resolutions have also been submitted to the State Grange

and then submitted to Pomona, resulting in duplicate resolutions, and

WHEREAS it is difficult for the State Grange to determine the authenticity of resolutions when not submitted to the Grange Secretary. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED all resolutions to be considered by the Delegates of the State Grange shall be submitted by the Secretary of the adopting Grange with the date of adoption and the name(s) of the

Grange(s) adopting the resolution clearly noted on the resolutions.

SOURCE: Winchester Grange #74
REFERRED: Good of Order/
Membership/President's Address

Tentative Convention Schedule THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024

Ballroom, Holiday Inn, 10 Laura Blvd., Norwich, CT 7:00 P.M. Opening in form in the Sixth Degree

Introduction of National Representatives, Roger Bostwick, High Priest of Demeter of the

National Grange and Melanie Bostwick Roll Call of Officers, Deputies, Committees

Lower Grange to Fourth Degree

Presentation of Fourth Degree Delegates

Roll Call of Granges

Report of Credentials Committee

Session Committee Announcements

Introd. of Business to be referred without debate

8:00 P.M. Address of State President Robert Buck

Response of Overseer Theodore Powell III

Report of Treasurer Jody A. Cameron Report of Secretary Todd A. Gelineau

Report of Executive Committee/Board of Dir.

Report of Lecturer David Roberts

9:00 P.M. Closing

9:05 P.M. Annual Meeting of the Connecticut State Grange Foundation, Inc. including the annual report

of the President of the Foundation

(Please remain seated for this brief meeting)

9:30 P.M. Time for Committee Meetings (if necessary)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024

7:30 A.M. FREE Continental Breakfast provided by the Connecticut State Grange (Chelsearose Room)

9:00 A.M. Opening & Introductions

Roll Call of Officers

Minutes of Previous Day's Session

Introd. of Business to be referred without debate

9:15 A.M. Special Order of Business: Election of Officers

of the Connecticut State Grange

9:30 A.M. Report of Legislative Committee

Report of Agriculture Committee

Report of General Deputy

Reports of Pomona Deputies

10:45 A.M. BREAK

11:30 A.M. Report of Connecticut Granger

Business Session (Resolutions)

12:00 P.M. Luncheon (Nutmeg Ballroom), Hosts: TBD

- Blessing by State Chaplain
- Family Activities Awards & Report
- Membership Awards
- Public Relations Awards
- Agriculture Contest Awards

2:00 P.M.	Recognition of Past Voting Delegates
2:15 P.M.	Address of National Representative

2:45 P.M. Business Session

3:15 P.M. BREAK

3:30 P.M. Report of New England Grange Building

4:30 P.M. Closing

7:00 P.M. Celebration Banquet (Ballroom)

- Professional Agriculture Awards
- Scholarship Awards

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024

7:30 A.M. FREE Continental Breakfast provided by the Connecticut State Grange (Chelsearose Room)

9:00 A.M. Opening & Introductions Roll Call of Officers

Minutes of Previous Day's Sessions

Introd. of Business to be referred without debate

9:15 A.M. Memorial Service

Closing in form in the Fourth Degree

9:45 A.M. Break for Preparation of Sixth Degree

10:00 A.M. Conferral of the Sixth Degree, Ballroom (NEW LAST YEAR) Open to all Sixth Degree

members, registration not required to attend.

Opening in form in the Sixth Degree

Escorting National Representatives

Recognition of Honored Guests and Past Voting

Delegates to National Grange

Conferral of the Sixth Degree in full form

Recognition of Golden Sheaf Members

11:15 A.M. BREAK (or 15 min. break at the conclusion of the degree, if earlier).

Committee Reports (Resolutions)

12:00 P.M. Youth & Junior Recognition Luncheon, Hosts: TBD

- Blessing by State Chaplain
- Introduction of guests from the CT FFA
- Presentation by FFA
- Junior Recognition
- Youth Recognition

1:30 P.M. Budget Approval (tentative)

2:00 P.M. Business Session

Community Service Report Honor Grange Awards

3:00 P.M. Closing in Form in the Fourth Degree

3:30 P.M. Installation of Officers

Degree candidates much be at the Holiday Inn by 9:30 A.M. with the Fourth and Fifth Degree Words and the Sixth Degree ticket stub to be admitted. Applications are \$10 and can be purchased from the State Secretary.

This Schedule is Tentative and subject to change.

Session Committee Assignments

Credentials/Constitution & By-Laws

Chairperson: George Russell Vice Chair: Robin Hettrick

Bethlehem #121 Riverton #169 Oxford #194
Cannon #152 Hemlock #184 Wallingford #33
Glastonbury #26 Taghhannuck #100

Good of Order/Membership/President's Address

Chairperson: Jaimie Cameron Vice Chair: Susan Masino

Beacon Valley #103 Harmony #92 Simsbury #197
Ekonk Community #89 N. Stonington Comm.#138 Wolcott #173
Granby #5 Norfield #146 Senexet #40

Legislative/Insurance

Chairperson: Noel Miller Vice Chair: Debbie Vail

Coventry #75 Lyme #147 Stafford #1
Winchester #74 Killingly #112 Hillstown #87
Greenfield Hill #133 Vernon #52 Hillstown Jr. #87

Agriculture, Conservation & Environment

Chairperson: Donald Lanoue Vice Chair: Ruel Miller

Bridgewater #153 Higganum #124 Preston City #110
Cheshire #23 Whigville #48 Stonington #168
Groton Community #213 Redding #15 Ekonk Jr. #101

Legislatively Speaking



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

This will be my last article for the *Granger*. Some felt I over-stepped the line with my articles, but many time my personal experiences are the background for what I write about. We are going through trying times where lies and misinformation are the new rule. I was raised that truth will always win over evil, both in church and in life. It is not for me to judge, but when you stand before the pearly gates, that's where you are judged.

It looks like we may have a Government Shutdown, just what

we need before an election. If this happens the Farm Bill will never get past in time.

The Harvest is on and weather has had great effect on yields, yet the USDA states production is up. Yet our farmers are getting the shaft in contracted prices. As grocery prices are still high, farmers never get bonuses. As I've stated in past articles corporate greed is the driving force in these increased prices. We need a Theodore Roosevelt type to break these monopolies that make their wealth on the backs of employees and customers. If it worked then it surely will work today.

The two candidates talk about tax free tips as part of income, one says yes for bartenders and wait staff, those making below minimum wages. While the other candidate

Visit State Session on Zoom!

If you are unable to join us in Norwich, you are welcome to visit State Session virtually on Zoom. (Delegates are required to attend Session in person for their votes to be counted). To attend on zoom simply type in Zoom. us into your web browser and click on "Join Meeting" where you will be asked for the meeting ID and passcode for the meeting you are attending. Please note the ID and Password is different each day.

DAY ONE:

Thursday, October 17, 7:00 PM Meeting ID: 824 7243 8589 Passcode: 489629

DAY TWO:

Friday, October 18, 9:00 AM Meeting ID: 869 8366 1592 Passcode: 464322

DAY THREE:

Saturday, October 19, 9:00 AM Meeting ID: 814 0572 4856 Passcode: 431675

favors corporate tax breaks. We need Term Limits for Congress and the Supreme Court. Let's get back to WE THE PEOPLE.

This will be my last pet peeve to you all. Dear Mister John Kennedy, of Louisiana. Mr. Haney from *Green Acres* would wish you stop imitating his shtick, you are a joke to the people of Louisiana. We all know you were a Democrat and worked on the Bill Clinton campaign, and you graduated from Oxford University, (the one in England). We all can see right through your Southern drawl and posture. Your state deserves better.

It has been a pleasure to visit with you all and thanks for the comments, both good and bad. We as Grangers are obligated to uphold and defend the Constitution, so do your part and get out and vote.

God bless the United States and my fellow Grangers.



SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller Oct. 23: Halloween

Another busy quarter for our Grange. Regular meetings held with plans being worked on. Starting in October the town Recreation Committee has asked us to host Coffee Hours for seniors. We will open the Grange hall on Mondays and Fridays from 9-11AM. We will offer activity suggestions for the groups. These may include hands on workshops, board games and discussions by invited presenters. There are many activities being put on by the town and we want to be part of them. Our pollinator garden is doing well and attracts wildlife as well as visitors. We are working on getting approval from the historical district to replace our front door. Also to get the emergency exit stairs installed.

We are grateful to have groups interested in using our hall including the Yoga group and especially the line dancing that is very popular. We have been asked to take over the Annual Boot Drive to benefit the local community support group TEEG. The tentative date is Nov. 2, probably at the local radio station parking lot.

We had a very informative exhibit at the annual Woodstock Fair that included projects we do, products we grow and the symbols of the Grange. We have had an exhibit at the fair for many decades. Promoting what the Grange does is so important to our future.



Past Voting Delegate Noel Miller recently installed the officers of Vernon Grange #52. He is pictured with Vernon President Nancy Strong, who is also a member of the State Grange Exec. Comm.

As always we welcome members and guests to help us in many ways.

NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Oct. 11: Civil War Part II & Reunification

Oct. 25: All Ghosts and Goblins Invited to the Halloween Party, 7:30

The summer has been fairly quiet, with few meetings due to our grounds being busy with Fairs and other activities. We continue to learn about our country's wars through Sue's excellent programs.

Our hall will be spruced up a bit with doors due for painting in a lovely Grange blue.

Fall is upon us and the stores are already displaying Halloween wares. Our party on the 25th begins at 7:30, with games, prizes and refreshments for all. Hope to see you there. And if the predicted hurricane season will just, please, prove to be erroneous, next time we will tell you all about sweet September.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Irene Percoski

Oct. 4: A New Grange Year

Nov. 1: Food Insecurity, Grocery

Bingo Bring items for prizes **Dec. 6:** This Magical Time of Year

All reports have been turned in. Family Activities has finished and been judged for the year. By the time this letter comes out the Big E will be a memory. Our New Community Service projects are under way, Cherie gave instructions and several members took pieces of material to work on at home. We had installation of Officers done very well by State Executive board member Noel Miller assisted by Deputy Ted Beebe. State Overseer Ted Powell and 2 members of Coventry Grange were also there as visitors. Nancy Strong and Dawn Percoski will be delegates for the State Session. A short Lecturer's program about the origins of Labor Day and some blackout skits were followed by tasty refreshments. Next month starts the new Grange Year. Our door is always open and we love visitors.

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Penny Bennett

Here at Killingly Grange, we

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believe the customer is always right. Our customers did want to wait until November 16 for Leon's delicious clam chowder and clam cake dinner. So, we are going to serve it again this coming Saturday September 21, 2024 from 5-7PM, so get there early or you can pre order by calling 860-884-1813.

Last Saturday many chickens did not make it crossing the road, so we had our very first chicken BBQ with all the fixings. It was a sellout- Everyone except the chickens enjoyed the meal.

A friend of our Grange, Bill is going to give a class to learn how to pressure cook the safe and easy way and help us to save money and with the cost of groceries we need all the help we can get. The class will be on September 28 at 10:00am To help you save even more dollars it is free. In case you see wild turkeys in your yard tell them to run because the Killingly Grange is having a pre-Thanksgiving meal. It will be held on October 19, 2024. Join us for a delicious turkey dinner with all the fixings including pumpkin pie for dessert and we will be selling a various of whole pies (made by our own members).

Plan on coming to our monthly blue grass concerts staring the famous Nick Anderson and Company the 4th Saturday of each month. The first concert will be Saturday October 26,6pm to 930 pm. So, grab your toe tapping boots and join us. We will be busy in the kitchen making different kinds of food and I am sure they will please everyone's taste buds.

And guess what on November 16 we are planning another Clam chowder and clam cake dinner. Remember Leon makes 3 kinds of chowder (New England, Manhattan and Rhode Island) and if you are anything like me you will try all 3. And don't forget his delicious French rings and onion rings.

Our member Josie Steinbeck is turning 100 years old!!!! Please join me in wishing her the happiest of birthdays.

Enjoy our beautiful New England Fall with the leaves turning color and the bright Indian summer sun ,we can all enjoy Mother Nature's beauty right here in our own backyard.

Get creative and have fun with food

by Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

It's no secret - Granges are known for their amazing food. From picnics to potlucks, from refreshments to fundraising suppers, from baking contest entries to chili cook-offs, to bake sales - there is an abundance of food that has been surrounding Granges since their beginnings nearly 160 years ago.

Perhaps Grange members were ahead of their time knowing about the benefits of eating and sharing food with others. In actuality, food sharing dates back to the earliest days of our existence. In prehistoric times, early humans gathered around fires to share the day's hunt or forage as a way to celebrate skill and survival. There is rich Biblical symbolism around sharing food. Royalty demonstrated their status by throwing banquets with large amounts of food and drink. You will find shared meals in every country in the world. Norman Rockwell's iconic Family Thanksgiving painting shows generations gathered around the table.

The psychology of sharing food is well documented through various professional and education studies. It's proven that regular family meals together contribute to positive dynamics and strengthening relationships through improved communication. (1) The Center of Disease Control states that "Eating with others helps reduce isolation, which in turn reduces the risk of anxiety and depression." (2) According to the Administration for Community Living, "...coming together over food also allows people to create meaningful connections with others as they share beliefs, cultural practices, and interests. It provides a sense of structure and belonging while offering greater opportunities for improved nutrition." (3)

Sharing food is an easy and simple means of fellowship... and one of the many benefits of Grange membership - is fellowship. Can food serve as a tool to build Grange membership, and a sense of community? Yes, it can.

Appetite for Change MN says it best (4) - "Connection over food extends far beyond two people on a date or a family having dinner. Food can also unite communities in powerful and compelling ways. It can be used to bring people together, find commonalities, share knowledge and wisdom, and promote healthy local food systems!"

Here's a few food-centric ideas for your Grange to try:

- · Chili Cook-Off / Meatball Cook-off
- Dairy Dinner
- Pasta Supper
- · Grange Picnic
- Potluck
- · Grinder Sale
- · Mad Hatter Tea Party
- · Pizza Party
- · Pancake Breakfast
- · Pie Baking Contest / Pie Auction
- Ice Cream Social
- · Eating Contests
- International Cuisine Night
- · Gala Dinner Event
- · Food Themed Gift Baskets Auction
- · Jam & Jelly Making Workshop
- Breakfast Bagel Bar

- Cooking Class
- Chocolate Workshop
- Fruit Picking and Canning Event
- Food Truck Event
- Guess the sweets' Jar Competition (i.e Jelly Beans, Hard Candies, etc)
- · Boxed Lunch Swap
- Seasonal/Holiday Celebrations (i.e. Ginger Bread House Decorating)
- · Cookie Exchange
- · Gourmet Dinner Drawing
- Theme Refreshments or Supper
- · Host a Bake Sale at a Grange event
- Grange Coffee House with musical entertainment and finger foods
- · and so much more...

The possibilities are endless. Food-related fundraisers are attractive to a wide audience, foster a sense of community within your Grange, and they present an opportunity to partner with local businesses, restaurants, and experts as well, plus, they are an efficient way to raise funds. Think outside the box and try a food-oriented fundraiser for your Grange!

Sources: (1) United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Grant: 90CT0151, ©2014; (2) https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-aging; (3) https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/nutrition/BenefitsOfEatingTogether_IG-508.pdf; (4) https://appetiteforchangemn.org/social-eating-how-sharing-meals-builds-connection

VINDOW 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 the September Window Picture, however, it does appear the presenter is Donald Shaw of Tunxis Grange No. 13. We heard from Dianne Collette -- "The 3 women in June 2024 Vol.64 No9 are from right to left Irene Brown, Bonnie Buscaglie, and Pauline Collette with the papers in her hands. The picture was taken in the home of Bonnie. They were members of Coventry Grange. Irene has since passed away. I am the daughter of Pauline Collette submitting this." For this month there are two clues: 1) It was taken at a State Session. 2) (less helpful) The person peeking beyond her shoulder is Betty Jane Gardiner.





MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Debbie Vail

Thank you to the members in Mountain Laurel Pomona and the Granges for their generosity in collecting children's books for the book mobile in the Region 1 School District. Our donation was at the right time so that children would have books for summer reading.

Our next Pomona meeting will be on Saturday, December 7th at 2 PM. We will be having a luncheon before our meeting at 12:30. As with our tradition we will again collect mittens, gloves, and underwear for area school children. A new project this year for the pet lovers is on the list below from Little Guild animal shelter. They are currently building a new shelter and I will arrange for a tour for anyone interested once it is open. Needs: blankets, towels (in good condition, thick would be ideal), dog treats, cat beds, cat litter, food for both cats and dogs (they use Purina Pro Plan, but our pet pantry could always use more), durable dog toys, Fancy Feast cat food, Delectable cat treats.

Also at our Pomona we will have an ugly Christmas sweater contest and the person wearing the most red and green both win prizes. We also will be welcoming the season with some Christmas carols.

Again, thank you for your continued generosity with our community service. Remember, if your Grange collects items it counts for your community service.

GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: Dave Roberts



Fair-goers enjoy the bubble blowing at the Taghhannuck Grange booth during the Cornwall Agricultural Fair in September.

In a heartfelt recognition of his outstanding contributions to the community, Cliff Burrell, Commander of the Granby American Legion Post, has been honored as the Granby Grange #5 Community Citizen of the Year. This award highlights Cliff's unwavering support and dedication to local initiatives, particularly in his work with the Grange.

Cliff Burrell has been a tremendous asset to the Granby Grange, lending his time and expertise to support various projects, including the community garden and landscape management. His commitment to these endeavors has been instrumental in the Grange's success and the enhancement of the local community spaces, a fact that we can all take pride in.

"The Grange has always valued the support and collaboration of individuals like Cliff," said Dave Roberts, Chair of the Exec. Comm. "Any time we seek assistance, Cliff is always there, ready to help. His generosity and dedication have made a significant impact, and no one is more deserving of this honor."

Cliff's involvement goes beyond just his practical contributions. His selfless willingness to lend a hand whenever needed reflects his deep commitment to community service and his genuine concern for the wellbeing of his neighbors. His efforts have not only helped maintain the physical spaces managed by the Grange but have also fostered a spirit of camaraderie and cooperation within the community.

Congratulations to Cliff Burrell for this well-deserved accolade. His commitment to service and community exemplifies what it means to be a dedicated citizen.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Oct. 8: Cookie Month - All members bring cookies to share (with recipe) Oct. 22: Pumpkins & Stuff, Potluck Supper at 6 PM

Nov. 12: National Peanut Butter Lovers Month, Ref. Pam Wright Nov. 26: Sweet Potato Awareness Month

Congratulations to all of the new officers of Winchester Grange led by incoming President Patrick O'Brien. Our thanks go to outgoing President Craig Leifert for concluding another stint leading Winchester. We also welcome our new Secretary Ellen Pettit who takes over the role from Sue Addison who has held the job for some time now. Thank you Sue for all your hard work... we know you are relieved!

Looking ahead, join us on November 8 for our Holiday Penny Auction & Super Prize Party with Bake Sale. Doors open at 6 and the drawing of tickets begins at 7. It's a super-sized tea cup auction with the addition of high value prizes donated by area businesses and friends of the Grange. Join us!

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Oct. 10: Halloween Costume Party by Debbie Hanlon Ref. Debbie Hanlon Oct. 24: Awards/Harvest Dinner/ Potluck by ALL bring a covered dish. Nov. 2: Grange Dance 7PM-9PM by Dance committee. Ref. ALL

Nov. 14: Baseball by Dennis Jasmine Ref: Dennis Jasmine

Dec. 12: Cookie Exchange bring 4 dozen of 1 kind of cookie. Ref. ALL

Please note: Refreshments & Social time at 7PM. Meeting at 7:30PM unless otherwise noted.

At our September meeting we voted on the application for membership from Sandy Williams. We will Obligate her at our next meeting if she is available.

As I am writing this, we have not yet counted how many leads we have gotten from people who visited our booth at the Cornwall Agricultural Fair yesterday. The bubbles were again a big hit and allowed us to talk about our Grange while the kids made giant bubbles. On the free raffle ticket, they marked off if they were interested in "Grange Information", "Grange Programs" and/or "Dance Information". Each will be contacted by email with this information and hopefully attract new members.

Also, yesterday (Saturday) and today actors from the Sharon Playhouse are using our Grange Hall to rehearse since their usual Hall was not available. The Ellsworth Cemetery Association will also be using our Hall for their September meeting. We believe the more people we get into our Hall the higher the chance of getting a new member.

Len Rosenberg will take the school supplies we collected to the Eastern Provence of Zambia later this month. His group consists of medical and business professionals who are bringing medical supplies



Cliff Burrell, recipient of the Granby Grange Community Citizen Award.

and clothing to distribute. He was asked to bring school supplies and a photo printer for the children.

We invite you to attend our October meeting, in costume, as it is always lots of fun and has great refreshments.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Dorothy Fairchild

It was our State President's turn to be our September Lecturer. Robert Buck's very knowledgeable subject was "horses." I always come out smarter because of the lectures that are presented.

We voted to continue our tradition of contributing dictionaries to a grammar school. I also plan to purchase a few to give to youngsters in my family. Dictionaries will never go out of style. Bye for now.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Marguerite Smith

Oct. 11: Line Dancing with free chili and cornbread (6-8:30 PM)

Oct. 18 (Tues): Next Grange meeting at 7 PM at the Grange

On September 12 we held our monthly meeting at the Grange with lots of items to discuss.

We are getting better at recognizing how each member is helping in their community and will be working at keeping track of our hours and activities each month. Pat Tarca brought us up to date on the Family Activities celebration held in August at Granby Grange. She is certainly keeping very busy with all of the work she does for local and State Granges. After talking through financial information we applauded the efforts of a local contractor in the pruning of our shrubs surrounding our building and painting the Grange hall. The building looks wonderful! We are also revamping our weathered staircase and making it safer and more stable for all our visitors. We are thrilled to have this work done! Thanks to Grange member, Susan Masino, for recommending this particular contractor. We also finalized several resolutions being sent in for the State Session in October.

And... our local celebrity among line dancing fans, Mary Root, is back! Our April line dance event was so popular, we had to do another! Please join us on Friday, Oct. 11 at 6 PM for free chili and cornbread and then meet us upstairs at 7 PM to show off your line dance moves. Don't worry if you haven't ever done this type of dancing. Mary is an excellent teach and you'll get lots of practice. Be ready for lots of fun!

Last but not least, we have a few more community members interested in joining our Grange and have invited them to next month's meeting.



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

It seems that almost every time I write news from Pomona for the Granger our meeting is one month away and our last meeting is three months past all out dated news.

Our Delegates to the State Grange Session will be President Donald Lanoue and Overseer Charles Dimmick. They will report at our December meeting.

The 2024-25 handbooks were distributed at the September meeting, if your Grange didn't get some check with Secretary Joanne.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

Oct. 2: Changing Colors

Oct. 16: Omitted-State Grange

Our 139th Cheshire Grange community Fair is in the books. My thanks to everyone who made our fair a success this year. It even resulted in a new member anxious to join us.

Our installation of officers went well. We welcome Diane and Dave Calabro as our new treasurer and Assistant Steward. They are a great Grange couple. There isn't anything they cannot do for us. Several of our members will be attending the annual Connecticut State Grange Session in Norwich October 17th -19th. Our best to all our Connecticut Granges as we move forward into the new Grange year.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Stephen Fengler

Wallingford Grange had a highly successful fair in September with a beautiful sunny day to host the fair, the building and Grange grounds

were full of happy people exploring the fair and the many activities offered. Thank you to all who came out for the fair, musician BobbyLoo for putting on wonderful live music, our fair exhibit judges, the nonprofits and craft vendors who came out, and all who helped run the many different booths at the fair. Finally, a huge congratulations goes out to our Wallingford Grange Fair committee including Kathy Bergonzi, the head chairperson, and all members of it for putting out another amazing fair! We look forward to hosting the fair again next year on Saturday, Sept. 13.

Coming up in October, Wallingford Grange will be hosting a couple of events. First, a presentation about "The Complexities of Cheese," on Tuesday, October 22nd at 6pm-8pm, will be led by Caseus Provisions. Registration for the event will be opening soon with tickets \$5 per person. At this event, you will be able to learn about the many different types of chesses and the history of cheese. You will even be able to try some samples of cheese during this discussion. Second, we will be hosting a FREE Halloween themed Ghost Lanterns Activity on October 29th. If you want to add a little bit of extra spook to your front door on Halloween night or have fun creating a new Halloween decoration, come make a recycled milk jug into a spooky fun ghost lantern.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

We finally had our picnic and the weatherman didn't interfere this time. The weather was fine and the food and fun was everything I said it would be in the last Granger.

We met in August and had the last of our Fruit theme programs. Marilyn Maxwell put on the program "Dragon Fruit". We learned a lot about it and was able to sample some. Most of us had never seen or tasted one.

We are now starting our new theme "Animals". Our next meeting is October 11th. Ceres Carol Brooks in charge of the program "Horses". Marianne Nielsen and Ron Gunther will provide the refreshments. Ron and Marianne will be our Delegates to the State Grange Session.

We are now planning our next raffle for December 21st. We could use some prizes from our stay-athome members.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Jim & Lori Golias

Our 131st Annual Agricultural Fair was a great success. God blessed us with amazing picture - perfect weather and a good time was had by all! Save the date for next year's fair- August 23, 2025.

Here is a list of upcoming events. Mark your calendars:

Bake, Bulbs, Pumpkins & Mum Sale - October 5th, 10am - 2pm. For info call Nancy 203 331 5640

Holiday Boutique, Sat., November 16, 10am - 3pm. All things holiday, Thanksgiving to Christmas to New Year's. Vendors, Crafts, Food. For info call Steve 203 367 4373

Happy Autumn and may your harvest be abundant!

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: John J. Kriz

Cannon Grange held its 92nd annual Agricultural Fair on Sunday, August 25. With well over 500 attendees, nearly 200 exhibits in competition, music, vendors, charities, food and more, the weather cooperated in creating a wonderful community event, helping to celebrate Cannon Grange's 125nd anniversary. The Norwalk River, which borders Cannon Grange's historic 1899 hall, chose to flood badly the week before, washing away our picnic table and nearly entering the Hall. Fortunately it did not, though our small barn was damaged. The degree of damage is being assessed. Many thanks to all the volunteers and others who made it a great day.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Oct. 11: Trick or Treat

Oct. 25: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled

Nov. 8: Let's Talk Turkey

Nov. 22: Omitted for Thanksgiving

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.



On September 16th, we went to Greenfield Hill Grange for the installation. Rob, Maggie, and I installed the new officers with Steve Golias as President. Thanks to the Goliases for feeding us before the ceremony as we rushed down there after work. Congratulations to all and our best hopes and wishes for a successful year.



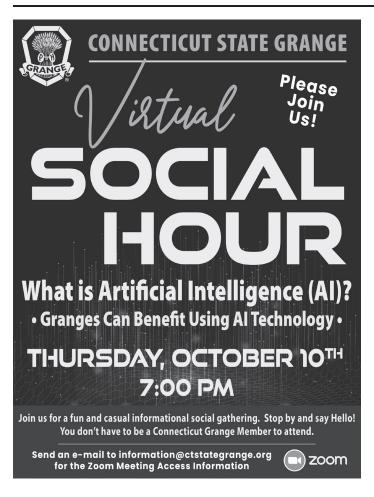


5th Generation Granger



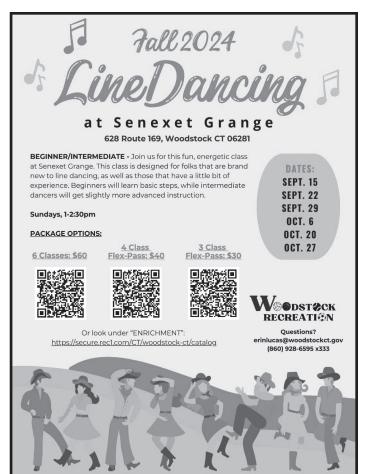
Ekonk Community Grange held its Installation of Officers in September. Our President Jaimie, who was installed by her dad Jody, installed her brother J Allen as Assistant Steward with the help of their mom Jodi Ann, who was installed as secretary, and the youngest Ekonk Grange "member" her niece a 5th generation future Granger.











Connecticut Granger

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The Seven Pillars of Wisdom



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

Wisdom has built her house. She has carved out her seven pillars. Proverbs 9:1

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One

and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. - Proverbs 9:10

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

- James 3:17

Last month's column was a discussion of the difference between Heavenly Wisdom and the Wisdom of the World. This month I want to look at the concept of Wisdom as described in the Book of Proverbs. While stating that there are seven pillars of Wisdom, Proverbs does not explicitly list what they are, and for over two thousand years various scholars have tried to identify and

NOTE: Daniel Levangie was listed in the In Memoriam list last month. Unfortunately, he was mistakenly listed as deceased by Preston City Grange on their Quarterly Report. We apologize for this error.

name them, based on other parts of the book. One common list is:

- 1. Counsel
- 2. Knowledge
- 3. Understanding
- 4. Might or Strength
- 5. Power or Authority
- 6. Riches
- 7. Honor

But if we look at the Letter of James, we come up with a somewhat different list: Purity, Peacefulness, Gentleness, Open to Reason, Mercy and good fruits, Impartiality, Sincerity.

Continuing on last month's theme of the difference between earthly and heavenly wisdom, I find the second list more in accord with heavenly wisdom. However, there is no reason other than tradition to limit us to only seven. I would add from the first list the ability to

give counsel and the seeking after knowledge and understanding. And let us not forget that all pillars need a base to support them. In this case Proverbs tells us that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." "Fear" should be interpreted as "profound reverence". If we have profound reverence in the Lord, then we have the first step in understanding God's instruction as to how we should lead our lives as a foundation of true wisdom. As we read in Matthew's Gospel "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Remember Solomon, who in his youth prayed to God for understanding, and God gave him "a wise and discerning mind", wiser than all others. Let us also pray for wisdom and understanding.



Whigville Grange #48 thanks Jill Jarrett of Jillybean's Farmstand for donating these beautiful fall decorations for Whigville Grange!