



Happy Thanksgiving!

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# Connecticut Granger



Vol. 52, No. 2

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

NOVEMBER 2011

## Growth is our future



**Jody A. Cameron**  
State Master/President  
president@ctstategrange.org

I don't know about you, but I left State Session totally pumped and ready to face the challenges of 2012. State Session was full of energy and fun. We accomplished A LOT and received our reward of knowledge. I ask every Leader who attended the Session to share what you learned with all

your members. It is our responsibility to be the conduit of this information, if we don't we have neglected our responsibility to ourselves as leaders and have deprived our members the opportunity to this information.

I met with the Pomona Masters for breakfast Friday morning of session and started an open dialog on what the Pomonas need to strengthen and aid their Community Granges. One thing your State Grange will begin improving immediately is communication between the State Grange and Pomona Granges. Your State Grange commits to each Pomona that we will ensure all forms of

communications (that can be shared) are shared with each Pomona Master so they can truly be a partner with the State Grange in growing each Community Grange. I thank each Master or representative that was present, it was a lively discussion and your input is valued.

We heard the National Master, The State FFA Reporter, Alex Puerta and Carmen Brickner motivate us to our own greatness, please seek out your greatness as you move your Grange forward.

Remember, you are the Power of One, you are backed by the Power of Many, together we WILL accomplish greatness.

## A successful legislative year



**Alma Graham**  
Legislative Director  
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

We have reached the end of the Grange year and have held our annual session which wrapped up the programs and projects for the past year. Each committee reported on its accomplishments and many awards were given. The resolutions that the Granges have passed on to their Pomona's and the State Grange have been

voted on by the delegates. The resulting actions will now become State Grange Policies. I have read the resolutions and want to congratulate the many Granges who submitted them this year. We have more resolutions for this session than we have had in many years. Keep up the good work.

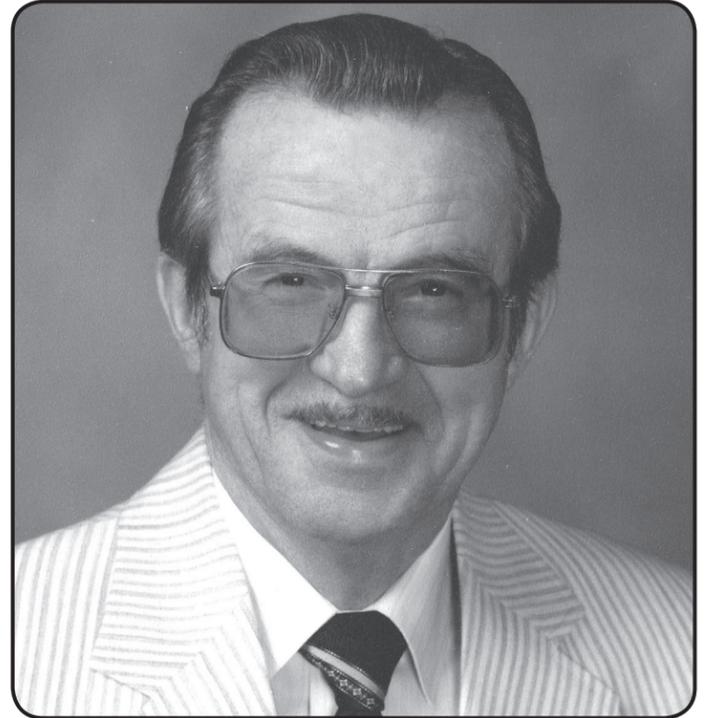
At the annual session I reported on Legislative Committee activities for the year. The Legislative Committee has had a very successful year. Right after last session, the committee got together and rewrote the State Grange Legislative Handbook. We reformatted it into an easier to review booklet. Copies were handed out to

the members of the General Assembly as well to all of the Granges.

Gordon Gibson was our liaison in Hartford for the Connecticut Legislative Session. The Legislative Committee followed various bills as they passed through the General Assembly and Gordon communicated Granges views to appropriate parties. The Grange testified on 6 bills and followed many more. One of the major accomplishments for the agricultural community was the passage of the bonding bill which added an additional \$10 million in bond authorization for farmland preservation. We also supported keeping the

*Continued on page 2*

## Duane K. Wetmore



June 26, 1926 - October 11, 2011

Duane had 3 passions in his life, besides his family, of course, (and that could take volumes) along with being an electrician.

**HIS CHURCH** where he was a Sunday School teacher, Superintendent of the Sunday School, a Deacon, a Trustee, a member of the Choir and the one who kept the light bulbs burning in the chandelier.

**HIS FIRE CO.** where he lived next door for over 55 years with Frank Warner on the other side, was Captain, marched in the Memorial Day parades, drove the antique fire truck with his dad and was the first to respond to hundreds of calls to keep the citizens of Hamden safe. He was also a Fire Commissioner for the Town of Hamden.

**HIS GRANGE** where he had a love and command of the Ritual unsurpassed by many, where being able to call all the members of the Grange his brothers and sisters was an honor (even though he had 9 of his own), an infectious smile, a quick story and a way of getting you to say "I'D BE DELIGHTED" while you were being volunteered. He held many offices in his Subordinate, Pomona and State Grange with being CT State Master his greatest accomplishment. He helped to build "Boys Cabin #6" at Camp Berger along with Frank Warner and others, was coach of the New Haven County Degree Team and then Drill Team along with Frank Warner and Carlton Platt where being "on your left" was the only right and installed thousands of Grange officers across the state.

So, whether you called him Duane, Dad, Grandpa, Great Grandpa, Brother Wetmore, "Coach" or "Daddy Duane" he will be missed.

God looked around His Garden  
And found an empty place  
He then looked down upon this Earth  
And saw your tired face.  
He put His arms around you  
And lifted you to rest  
God's Garden must be beautiful  
He always takes the best.

*With Love your Daughter,  
Pat Wetmore Palmer*

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Deadline for the DECEMBER 2011 issue of the Connecticut Granger: NOVEMBER 5.

# Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- Bethlehem No. 107
- ✓ Watertown No. 122
- ✓ Prospect No. 144
- ✓ Bridgewater No. 153
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- ✓ Oxford No. 194

### EXCELSIOR POMONA #7

Corr: Mary Dubay

**Nov. 16:** Prospect Senior Center

Excelsior Pomona #7 will meet on Nov. 16 at the Prospect Senior Center. Time 7:30 P.M.

The theme for the program by Lecturer Jean is called "Excelsior Pomona Express."

Pomona members always welcome. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

### BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our November activities start with our meeting on November 11th, the program is entitled "Eleven - Eleven- Eleven" to coincide with the date. Gloria Meholik will be hostess. Gloria always has something good to eat.

On November 25th we will be decorating the hall for the holidays at 6 o'clock. We need your help- don't leave it for someone else to do.

On December 9th we will have a catered Christmas party. Reservations must be made to Master Joanne or Lecturer Cindy. Come and have a good time.

### WATERTOWN GRANGE #122

Corr: Mary Dubay

**Nov. 4:** Remember the Vets

**Nov. 18:** Turkey Shoot

In November we have Veterans Day, a time to honor veterans of all wars with parades and laying of wreaths at the monuments. Next, always a favorite holiday, Thanksgiving day, time for family get-togethers, turkey with all the trimmings and to give thanks along the way.

Our first meeting in November is called Remembering the Vets, speaks for itself.

Our second meeting is called Turkey Shoot, time

to talk turkey. We had our fall Tag Sale in October and it went well. Master Sharon thanks all that helped in any way.

Watertown Grange would like to wish all our fellow Grangers a Happy Thanksgiving.

Come and join us when you can, our door is always open!

### PROSPECT GRANGE #144

Corr: Jean Meehan

October 14, 2011 Prospect Granger members will be handing out dictionaries to the third grade students at Algonquin School. This will be the tenth year we have done this. Inez Bramhall our past master worked hard all year making the book worms we have given out with the dictionaries each year. This adds to the excitement by the students of receiving their very own dictionary. Principal Patterson and the students and teachers have been very appreciative of our gift of words to the Third Grade Students. The thank you notes are well worth our efforts. We also have hundreds of Box Tops for Kids to donated to the school to help them get school supplies.

We are happy to have welcomed a new member to our grange. Mary Raymond joined our Grange in September. Some of the older members may remember Mary and her husband, they were members back when Kingsley Beecher was State Master. They dropped their membership due to medical reasons. We are happy Mary decided to join Prospect Grange.

Prospect Grange was very happy to host the Southern Connecticut Past Masters Association's 23 Annual Fun Fair at their last meeting. We would like to thank every one who

helped in any way with the set up and clean up. Joanne Cipriano does such a great job each year planning and executing this fun night. I don't think she knows how much everyone appreciates her efforts. Prospect Grange is holding a raffle to help raise money to purchase more dictionaries for students. We have been asked to help another school (Tinker School) with school supplies and dictionaries in a near by town. This school has many under privileged students and the teachers try very hard to teach without the resources they need. We hope to give dictionaries to these students as well as to the students at Algonquin School.

At our November 10th meeting we remembered the Veterans and on our December 8th meeting we will celebrate our 117th Grange Anniversary along with our Christmas Pot Luck Supper and hope Santa will visit us. We will have a \$2.00 grab bag and Christmas Card Exchange. We would love to have visitors. We meet the second Thursday of the month at the Prospect Senior Center at 7:30 p.m.

### BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Dean Perry

We will continue with the Bridgewater Grange Roast Beef Dinners. The second one will be on Saturday, October 8th at 5:30 and 6:30 P.M. The menu will be Roast Beef (of course!), green beans, mashed potatoes, jell-o salads, tossed salad, tea, coffee and various desserts. There will be music after

7:30. Looking forward to serving you. The Grange Hall is located next to the Bridgewater Post Office off the Bridgewater Green.

We are looking for volunteers for Friday, October 7th and Saturday the 8th.

We had a very successful Roast Beef Dinner on September 10th. Nearly every seat was filled and we almost used up all our food. Afterwards there was a hootenanny with Jeff Case and his friends.

There will be a regular meeting Wednesday, October 12, at 7:30 P.M. at the Bridgewater Grange Hall.

### OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Phil Rowland

**Nov. 4:** EMT Program from local fire department

**Nov. 18:** Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner 7:00 p. m.

The approach of winter is always a downer. but the

holidays therein help boost our spirits to a degree. Thanksgiving is especially a welcome time. Tradition continues at Oxford, with turkey plus pot luck sides to be served as usual at our second November meeting. Do come!

Negotiations are taking place with the Oxford Cultural Arts Committee to update the hall through use of volunteer labor together with grants for funding. The lack of handicap access has prevented use of the hall for many events in the past.

More public events are planned for the coming year to increase visibility of the Grange. Oddly, many people in this area seem unaware of the Grange's existence!

Maybe we need a larger sign up front.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

## Email vs. Snail Mail



**Edith Schoell**  
State Secretary  
secretary@ctstategrange.org

State Session is now history, and it is time to look forward to the future. Changes are bound to occur and we will attempt to encounter them with positive actions. I am referring to the mail.

I, for one, enjoy getting "snail mail" - not the junk kind. I realize e-

mail is quick and supposedly necessary in today's world. However, getting quarterly reports by e-mail does not help when a check should be included. Often the check comes a week or so later and has to be connected with the report, thereby causing more confusion. Also, this happens when the Treasurer doesn't write a check at the meeting to be included with the Secretary's report. It would be nice to receive them together and then my report can be done that much sooner.

I hope that the Blue Books will be available earlier than last year. They will be distributed as soon as possible.

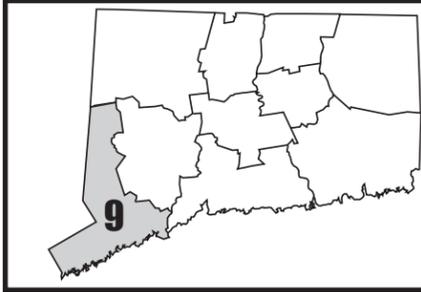
Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.

**PLEASE! Do not send correspondence or any other mail to the Newfield Rd. address listed below. This is the address for Winchester Grange #74 and is only listed to satisfy USPS requirements. Please mail to the Editor's address listed below, right. Thank You!**

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170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790  
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President/Editor . . . . . Todd Gelineau  
Vice President . . . . . Brian Carpenter  
Secretary Treasurer. . . . . Edith Schoell

## Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



- ✓ Redding No. 15
- ✓ Harmony No. 92
- ✓ Greenfield Hill No. 133
- ✓ Norfield No. 146
- ✓ Cannon No. 152

### FAIRFIELD COUNTY POMONA #9

Corr: Bob Sendewicz

The Christmas Program will be held at Norfield Grange Hall. A 6:00 P.M. potluck supper will be followed by the program including a cookie exchange, toys for tots and a country store.

Come to Fairfield County Pomona and enjoy some winter fun. Caution, there may be snow.

### REDDING GRANGE #15

Corr: Marge Sendewicz

Nov. 14: Veterans Night

Nov. 28: We Give Thanks

Dec. 12: Christmas Ideas.

6:30 p.m. supper

I want to thank all my brothers and sisters, my dear friends, for their cards, their kind words to me and their prayers for my unfortunate accident. Your kind expressions have made an uncomfortable recovery bearable. I also want to thank my typist for this newsletter.

We at Redding have a full slate of activities for the fall and it's a beautiful time of year in Fairfield County. If you want to take a ride in the crisp cool air you are welcome to join us on any of the above nights. Our Christmas meeting in Dec. will feature a \$2.00 grab bag if you wish to participate. There is also a rumor that Santa will show up.

This is a wonderful time of year, with all the holidays, and we at Redding Grange wish all of you "A Happy Thanksgiving". Even in times like these we all have something to be thankful for.

### HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: Sue Sulier

Hi fellow Grangers and welcome to November, the month we pay homage to our veterans and celebrate Thanksgiving.

On Tuesday, September 20th, our Master, George Ward, generously donated his time and manned the Big E Grange Booth in Massachusetts. The Big E has historically been an outstanding venue for promoting our fraternity; locally, statewide and nationally. Undoubtedly, the more people who become aware of the good works and social activities of the Grange, the better chance we have of expanding our membership.

During our October meeting, yours truly was sworn in as Lecturer, beginning my term with hosting a Halloween Party, replete with candy, spooky music and of course, a Jack-O-Lantern.

This month we anticipate having a program dedicated to our brave veterans, who risked their lives to protect the greatest nation in the world, The United States of America. To all veterans, wherever dispersed, "We, your countrymen, thank you for serving!"

On a personal note, for Thanksgiving, my family assists in a charitable Annual Masonic Turkey Trot (run). Later in the day, we have several loved ones over for our traditional holiday feast. Helping with the run and hosting our family gathering is our way of showing our "Thanks" to the Lord for "giving" us a life filled with a bounty of his blessings.

In closing, I hope ALL Grangers strive to create "Harmony" within their lives and our fraternity.

### GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

Nov. 21: "Thanksgiving"-Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Busy was the word for September! To begin with, we hosted Fairfield County

Pomona's regular meeting on the 7th. Then it was on to preparing the hall for our Fair on the 17th and our regular meeting two days later.

The Fair was successful, with exhibits of flowers, fruit and vegetables, home baking and canning, and various kinds of crafts. Thank you to our members and friends, who helped with the exhibits, judged and shared their skills.

At our meeting, we had installation of officers, led by Robert and Marge Sendewicz, Ron Gunther and Marianne Nielsen. We enjoyed a continued harvest of members with Ann and Jack Franzen and Becky Purcell joining via the Welcoming Ceremony. Preliminary Fair reports and a short lecturer's program rounded out the evening. In November, we will focus on Thanksgiving.

### NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

Nov. 8: Apple Harvest Festival, 6:30 P.M., Neighbor's Open House

Nov. 29: Christmas Decorating and Tree Trimming

Dec. 13: Christmas Party Buffet Supper, 6:30 P.M., Cookie Exchange

We are looking forward to our Apple Harvest Festival on Nov. 8, which we will celebrate with our neighbors at an Open House at 6:30 P.M. And of course, there is our annual tree trimming and Christmas decorating party on November 29, just before the Pomona meeting at Norfield at the beginning of December. we will leave the decorations up all month, for all to enjoy.

On October 15 our Grange Hall was used by the Nature Conservancy's Saugatuck River Watershed Partnership to train volunteer monitors in rapid bioassessment in wadeable streams and rivers. This is a citizen-based water quality monitoring program developed by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Our Grange Fair on September 11 was a great success. At this writing we can only report that our gross profit was \$2,500. A full report will be presented in the next Granger.

There was so much food remaining after our fair that we all met early on our regular meeting night two days later to enjoy a well-deserved impromptu feast! At our meeting, we welcomed another new member: Lisa Savage.

We also learned that Sue Sulla's dog Nina died. We usually don't report such happenings in the Connecticut Granger, but Nina was a very special dog. And Sue is a very special Granger. As most of us know too well, there is no way to describe the loss of a beloved pet. But we can be genuinely happy that there was a wonderful West Highland Terrier named Nina, and that she belonged to Sue.

## A good time was had



Joanne Cipriano  
Social Connection Director  
social@ctstategrange.org

"A good time was had by all" at least I hope that's a true statement. I'm referring to our Pomona Competitive Night. Good food, fun and fellowship. The Prospect Senior Center proved an excellent location to hold this kind of event and we had a full hall. I thank the Pomona Lecturer's

for heading up the teams in their respective Pomonas. Sorry everyone could not have been a winner. The winners were: First place – New London County Pomona (Nancy Weissmuller, Gene Bromley, Janice Wells, Art Tylenda and Mary Medbery; second place – New Haven County Pomona (Rich Bernhardt, Ruel Miller, Elizabeth Ryducha, Andrea Barlow and Donald Lanoue; Third Place Tie Farmington Valley Pomona (Maggie Schofield, Linea Erickson, Christine Griswold, Joanne Ritchie and Vi Danila and Quinebaug Pomona (Jaimie and Jody Ann Cameron, Joan and Debbie Perry, and Denise Aubin. Farmington Valley won the prize on the tie-breaker.

Special thanks to all who came early for set up and stayed to the end for clean-up. The only hard part of the competition was the naming of one of the songs "When Your Old Wedding Ring Was New". This is a beautiful anniversary song and one I love. I'm sure you will too when you read the lyrics.

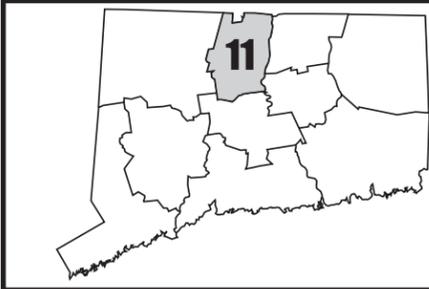
*When your old wedding ring was new  
And each dream that we dreamed came true  
I remember with pride how we stood side by side  
What a beautiful picture you made as my bride.  
Even though silver crowns your hair  
I can still see those gold ringlets there  
Love's old flame is the same  
As the day I changed your name  
When your old wedding ring was new.*

Once again thank you to everyone who has assisted our committee in any way during the past year. This committee thoroughly enjoyed every minute of planning our activities.

## Southern Connecticut Past Masters Association

The November meeting of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters will be held at Oxford Grange on Saturday, Nov. 12. The program is in the charge of Vice President Charles Dimmick and is entitled, "Frogs and Toads." Come and see what it's all about. All Grangers welcome. Starting time 6:30 with a potluck supper. The meeting begins when the dishes are done.

## Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11



Granby No. 5  
Tunxis No. 13  
✓ Cawasa No. 34  
Simsbury No. 197  
Cherry Brook No. 210

### CAWASA GRANGE #34

Corr: Maggie Schofield

Hello Again,  
Last month was very busy for us. State Session went very well 50 + resolutions, some were very interesting. October we did halloween cookies for the food bank.

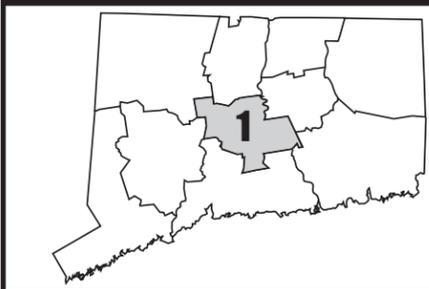
Lin and i left for Florida

with her cousin Oct 31st so we missed handing out candy for the children. Hope everyone had a good month.

See you next month.

Funny quote: "Some cause happiness wherever they go, others, whenever they go."

## Central Pomona No. 1



Southington No. 25  
Meriden No. 29  
Westfield No. 50  
✓ Higganum No. 124  
✓ Hemlock No. 182

### HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: Barbara Smith

Higganum Grange #124 had a booth at the Haddam Riverdays Fair held in September and ribbons were given out for the art displays and for the winter squash contest that the community took part in. Winter squash seeds were given out earlier this summer to grow the squash to be given to the food bank after the fair. We wish everyone a safe fall season in bringing in their bountiful harvest for the winter months.

We also are saddened

by the passing of one of our members, Stanley Hanson who He passed away in September. He was the explementary member who rebuilt our Grange as it appears today. He will surley be missed.

### HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

**Nov. 11:** The Flip Side (Bring something with a front and back)

**Nov. 25:** Omit (for Thanksgiving)

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

# Meriden to host benefit Roast Beef Dinner

Meriden Grange No. 29 of 540 Broad Street, Meriden, will be hosting a Family Style Roast Beef Supper with the Meriden Humane Society on Saturday, November 12, 2011 from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. This is open to the public with the admission price of \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Takeouts will be available. The Grange will be serving string beans, mashed potatoes, roast beef, Cindy's famous coleslaw, and dessert.

This event is a fund raiser to benefit the Meriden Humane Society. Everyone attending is asked to also bring a donation of a food item for a dog or cat (dry or canned food).

For more information, please contact Meriden Grange President Robert Charbonneau at (203) 237-4617, via e-mail at [info@meridengrango.org](mailto:info@meridengrango.org), or visit <http://www.MeridenGrange.org>.

# Legislative success

Continued from page one...

Connecticut Department of Agriculture as a separate agency. At one point the Governor recommended zeroing the budget for the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Grange wrote to the Governor requesting that he continue funding this station.

The Legislative Committee assisted the Agricultural Committee with its booth at the annual Agricultural Day at the Capitol. Members of the Committee attended the Annual Plant Science Day that was held at Lockwood Farms in Hamden. This was sponsored by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. I also attended a couple of meetings of the Working Land Alliance where Gordon is a member of the Steering Committee.

A highlight of the year was the Legislative Fly-In that was held in Washington, DC. We met with staff members from both Senator Blumenthal

and Senator Lieberman's offices as well as with Representative Lawson's office. We had a personal meeting with Representative Joe Courtney and John Hollay, who is his Agricultural Legislative Assistant. Representative Courtney is a member of the Agricultural Committee in Washington so his willingness to meet with us was monumental.

The Legislative Committee has expanded our presence by developing a Twitter page and has many non-grange followers. We also posted all of the testimonies that Gordon Gibson presented to the General Assembly on the State Grange's web page. The Grange was mentioned in a few newspaper articles concerning our legislative positions.

This new year will bring many more challenges. Please feel free to contact any member of the Legislative Committee for guidance with any legislative issues. Keep up the good work with those resolutions.

## And the winners are...



**Marge Bernhardt**  
State Lecturer  
[lecturer@ctstategrange.org](mailto:lecturer@ctstategrange.org)

It was nice seeing so many of you at State Session. My thanks to all who entered the contests this past year. Whether

do to help them this coming year. We elect our Lecturer, but they can't do it alone.

"SHOULD AULD ACQUAINTANCE" AWARDS were presented to the following Granges: Cheshire, Glastonbury, North Haven, Colchester, Taghannuck, Beacon Valley, Killingly, No. Stonington Community, Lyme. Old Lyme.

A WORD FROM HOME AWARDS were received by: Cheshire, North Haven, Colchester, Hillstown, Ekonk Community, Beacon Valley, Killingly, No. Stonington Community, Prospect, Lyme, Enfield, Stonington, Riverton, and, Hemlock.

COMPLETE PROGRAMS winners were:

1st - Susan Pianka, North Stonington Community Grange; 2nd - Debbie Barnes, Stonington Grange; 3rd- Irene Percoski, Enfield Grange

Our ESSAY CONTEST this year was "The Grange Then and Now". The winners were:

1st - Robert Buck, Bethlehem Grange; 2nd- Sue Gray, Ekonk Community Grange; 3rd- Jeff Barnes, Stonington Grange

Now is the time to get started on next years contests and projects. The Lecturers' Newsletter going out on Nov. 1st will include a list of all our contests and projects for 2012. Good Luck.

See you around the State.

or not you took a prize you were the winner. Your Grange was a winner too. Everyone who participates is important to the Grange. Let's lead by example and encourage more members to participate next year.

This years' winners were as follows:

HONOR LECTURER AWARDS went to D. Emily Alexander, No. Haven Grange; Joanne Cipriano, Beacon Valley Grange; Susan Pianka, No. Stonington Community Grange; Lois Evankow, Lyme Grange; Marge Bernhardt, Cheshire Grange; and, Debbie Barnes, Stonington Grange. These Lecturers went above and beyond to lead their Granges and need to be congratulated by their members.

There were thirty LECTURER'S APPRICIATION AWARDS presented this year. Ask your Lecturer if she received one. If they received the award, please thank them for serving your Grange. If they didn't get one, ask them what you can

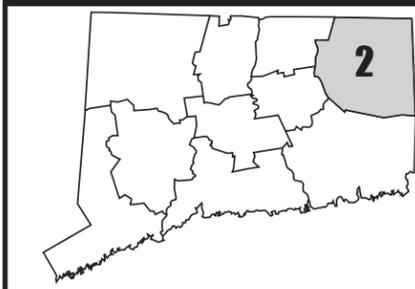
## Southington Waffles

Where can you take a family of four for breakfast that is under \$25? At Southington Grange! Southington Grange #25 is hosting its famous Belgian Waffle Breakfast on Saturday, November 5th.

The breakfast will be held at Southington Grange Hall on the Corner of Summit Street & Knowles Avenue, in the Plantsville section of Southington from 8:30 to 11:30 AM., with a donation of \$6.00 per person at the door.

For more information on the breakfast contact Southington Grange at 860-628-9346. For more information on Southington Grange and the Granges in Connecticut, please visit the Connecticut State Grange website at <http://www.CTStateGrange.org>.

## Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- ✓ Senexet No. 40
- Brooklyn No. 43
- ✓ Wolf Den No. 61
- Ekonk No. 89
- Ashford No. 90
- Putnam No. 97
- Killingly No. 112
- ✓ Echo No. 180

### SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Nov. 16: Indians Attack

Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Pie Sale

We had a very successful food booth at the Woodstock Fair. Thanks to all who helped, especially the Westfield Congregational Church.

Our exhibit at the Fair was also a prize winner.

We held our Grange Fair Oct. 1 with 72 exhibits.

The fall Blue Grass music night is also in October. The annual meeting of the Windham County Farm Bureau was Oct. 19.

A well is being drilled and connected.

Visit us.

### WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Elsie M. Johnson

Nov. 9: Who's In-Legislative Comm.

Everyone has talked about storm Irene and the problems it created, which will take time to recover from, if possible. Gardens are done for the year. Apples are in. Pumpkins maybe. Halloween is likely to be less if they

don't keep. State Session coming. Dues are due beginning October 1st! Squirrels busy collecting walnuts. Deer in the corn fields. Be careful driving. School is in and activity all around. Chimneys should be cleaned now and wood piles ready for what kind of winter we may have. Stay well.

### ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

Nov 8: Valuable Veterans

Nov 22: Talking Turkey

We had a successful Ham and Bean supper in Sept. We are also planning to hold another one in the spring again.

We will be omitting our second meetings in the months of Dec. Jan. Feb. and Mar. We hope the weather cooperates this winter.

We are holding our annual Tag Sale on Nov. 19th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.. We have lots of nice things for sale.

I guess Mother Nature took care of the last day of the Brooklyn Fair. Hope for a better Fair next year.

# We will "Continue to Soar"



**Pat Palmer**  
Family Activities/CWA Director  
CWA@ctstategrange.org

Thank you to all for the support that was given to the Committee this year and for the participation in the projects. Thank you also for the many donations that were made on behalf of the CWA. I hope that everyone will continue to support the committee in the coming year. We will be incorporating the words Family Activities in the title of the committee this year, so don't be surprised when you see it. I am hoping to have the information packets passed out at State Session, but if not they will be available really soon.

We look forward to another year of amazing projects, great participation and hope that everyone will "CONTINUE TO SOAR" in 2012.



**125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
of  
**Quinebaug Pomona No. 2**

Sunday, May 20, 2012  
2:00 P.M.  
Echo Grange Hall

## Excelsior Pomona recognizes Jean Meehan



State Lecturer Marge Bernhardt presents Jean Meehan, Pomona Lecturer, with a plaque in recognition of her contributions to the Grange on behalf of Excelsior Pomona. The presentation was made at Excelsior's 120th Anniversary celebration in October.

## 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 story to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of the faces and places as we look through the Window to the Past. You can contact us by calling (860) 626-5074 or on the web by emailing [submissions@ctstategrange.org](mailto:submissions@ctstategrange.org).

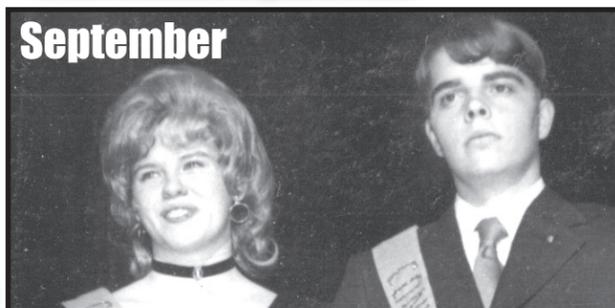


This month's picture...

We received no answers to last month's photo, but as has been the case in recent issues, the answers take several months to trickle in. This was the case with the photo of the Prince and Princess in the September issue. Our thanks to Lois Evankow of Lyme Grange for her detective work on this photo. The Prince is Gordon Frasier, Jr. of Lyme Grange who still resides in the area working as an EMT and his Princess is Lori from the western side of the state, though there is question about that. The photo is believed to be from the 1972 National Session in Hartford. We also heard from Janet Haller who believes the girl at the microphone at the CT Agricultural Fair was Kathy Armstrong Brush.



Last month's picture...

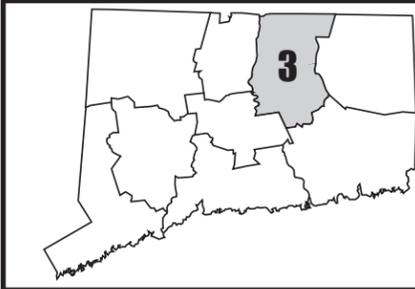


September



July

## East Central Pomona No. 3



- Stafford No. 1
- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Tolland No. 51
- ✓ Vernon No. 52
- ✓ Coventry No. 75
- ✓ Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Enfield No. 151

### EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3

*Corr: Noel Miller*

**Nov. 5:** Apples

East Central Pomona #3 wishes to welcome members and friends of North Central Pomona No. 13, as they have asked to join us and turned in their charter. I welcome you all and hope to continue a strong friendship and working Pomona.

### GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

*Corr: Kay Ruff*

**Nov. 3:** Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Gobble, gobble;

Ref: Queria Sullivan,, Doris Monaco

**Nov. 12:** Monte Carlo Whist Card Party 7:00 p.m.

**Dec. 1:** Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Holiday Books for Kids; Pot Luck- Bob Nordstrom and helpers

Glastonbury has been talking about holding an Open House or Degree day. Members have been asked to bring in a name or two and addresses and the secretary would write to the list of prospective members and invite them to the Open House and have a special program and explain what the grange is all about. Perhaps we could secure some new members from this venture. Hopefully by this issue of the paper it has been accomplished.

As I am writing this our Bake Sale is tomorrow. I want to thank all who helped in any way to make this a success. Hopefully the rain will hold off until after 12:00 p.m.

Several of our members have been busy knitting hats for newborn babies. 20 more were delivered to Manchester Hospital yesterday. That makes 60 hats have been delivered this year.

Master, Bob Nordstrom and wife, Doris, and Mario Accornero and I delivered the dictionaries to the 3rd graders at Nayaug

Elementary School on Sept. 28th. The children were very pleased and enjoyed writing their names in their book. They were also surprised to find at the back of the book the list of 5 "big" words like "superca lifragilisticexpialidocious".

When you receive this paper it will be November. I hope you all enjoyed "Halloween", and I wish you all a wonderful "Thanksgiving".

### MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

*Corr: Diane Small*

We are approaching the holiday season. Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's is fast approaching. Of course, this also means that we are going to have some more weather. With all the rain we've had this spring and summer, umbrellas sure have been put to good use. It is probably time to buy a new snow shovel.

The Big E is over for another year. For the 17 days of the fair, there was rain for 3/4's of it. I believe that the end result was very good. It is still not too soon to remind everyone to plan for next year. Remember if you are doing a project, do an extra one or two for next year. It will be greatly appreciated.

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy your turkey dinner with all the trimmings, especially the pumpkin pie.

### TOLLAND GRANGE #51

*Corr: J. Jordan*

Join us on Tuesday, November 1, to learn about the Leaning Tower of Pisa. We are covering various wonders of the world during our Lecturer's Program. Be sure to call Worthy Master Bob West if you are planning on attending our meeting. Our meeting site will change for the winter months.

Happy Thanksgiving to

all Grangers from Tolland Grange.

### VERNON GRANGE #52

*Corr: Nancy Strong*

**Nov. 4:** The Thanksgiving Cooking Show

Our October program was replaced with a reality wedding show! The President and Chaplain had just returned from the Lecturer Gretchen Hendrick's wedding in Grand Forks, ND. It was quite an adventure with last minute preparations and the President put together a PowerPoint presentation so all could enjoy the wedding and laughs after the fact! We are all happy for Gretchen and Dion and wish them the best. The November program should be fun with a cooking demonstration directed by our youngest member, Christian.

Six members of Vernon Grange put in many fun hours at Eastern States Exposition. It's amazing how many items were made and bought. The beautiful building up there attracts many people and brings awareness about the Grange to all. Congratulations to Dawn Percoski for a successful first year as director.

### COVENTRY GRANGE #75

*Corr: Noel Miller*

**Nov. 3:** Thanksgiving

We wish to congratulate Jacqueline Garland for winning a Grange Scholarship at this year's Grange Session. We are all proud of your accomplishments and wish you good luck. The Grange hall is being used by the Democratic Committee as a campaign headquarters, bringing funds to fill the oil tank. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

### HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

*Corr: Rita J. Schaefer*

**Nov. 12:** Craft Fair

**Nov. 10:** Honor Our Veterans

Summer is gone and I hope those had storms have gone with it.

Now we can get to fall and harvest time. The farmers are disappointed with their crops and we are praying for a better spring for them. The holidays

will soon be here and that wonderful white stuff that goes with winter.

We are now getting items done for our Craft Fair. The fair is held at the hall from 9:00 to 2:00 P.M. There will be many crafts and a home baked goods. We also will have our snack bar open.

November 10 will be our only meeting in November due to Thanksgiving.

Some of our older members are getting better. They are not looking for winter as they should be kept in and no accidents.

Our annual Christmas Party will be in December. No date yet.

More news next time as we go into Winter. Happy Thanksgiving to all our Grange families.

### ENFIELD GRANGE #151

*Corr: Irene Percoski*

**Nov. 12:** The Great Outdoors

A small group of real troopers put together a fine display for our Grange at the Four-Town Fair. The reward was second prize.

Many brochures with application forms were given out to those who were interested and stopped to talk and ask questions. A big thank you to some dedicated workers.

November means the annual collection of hats, mittens and scarves for the kids at the neighborhood center. So bring them to the meeting. Each year they look forward so much for our help. Let's make those kids smile.

With State Session now over it's off to the great outdoors we go. As kids we had some wonderful adventures outside, let's see how we enjoy it today. Keep those recipes coming for the cookbook, you must have some good ones for Thanksgiving and Christmas cookies too.

Starting in December we will also be collecting for the food shelf. The color is white. Some suggestions are, flour, sugar, canned potatoes, rice, noodles, etc. We will do a different color each month to make it fun.



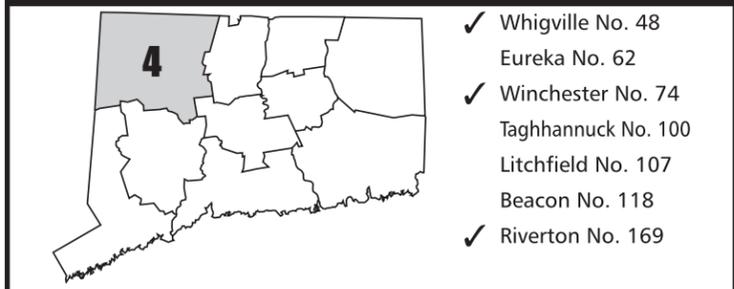
Nancy Skinner Whitman receives her Golden Sheaf for 50 years of continuous membership from Vernon Grange President Nancy Strong.

## Taghannuck places second



Taghannuck Grange placed second in the Bethlehem Fair Grange Exhibit Contest held in September. This year's them was appropriately "Community Grown."

# Mountain County Pomona No. 4



**MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4**

*Corr: Todd Gelineau*

**Nov. 14:** "New Season" at Taghannuck Grange Hall, 7:30 P.M.

Congratulations to Mountain County Pomona No. 4! It was announced at the recent State Session that Mountain County is the Honor Pomona Grange of the Year. It was a great honor for our Pomona Master George Russell to close the Friday evening session of State Grange following the Sixth Degree.

Our first regular meeting of the new Grange year will be at Taghannuck Grange on Monday, November 14. The program is entitled, "New Season." We'd love to see you there!

**WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48**

*Corr: Debbie Brown*

Whigville continues to recover from our flooding. On Sat., Dec. 3 we will host

"Christmas in Whigville" from 10-2 at the Grange hall. Food, crafts and live music will be featured. Admission is free. Spaces available, call 860-582-9863.

We at Whigville have added an item to our meeting agenda. It is called The Thrifty (or cheap) Yankee. Everyone can contribute a money saving tip. We have discussed the best places to buy (or avoid buying) gas, thrift shops that are worth going to, best buys at the grocery stores, etc. Your Grange may want to add this, especially during these tough times. We even know where lobster is \$4.99! Visit us and we'll tell you! May your leaves be easy to rake this month!

**WINCHESTER GRANGE #74**

*Corr: Todd Gelineau*

**Nov. 5:** Holiday Bazaar and Cookie Walk, 9-2

**Nov. 8:** Veteran's Day, Ref. Women

**Nov. 22:** "Giving Thanks", Country Store, Ref. Men, Todd Chr.

One of our biggest events of the year is almost here! Our annual Holiday Bazaar and Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, November 5 from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. at the Grange Hall. Arrive early for the best choice of cookies! There are still vendor spaces available, please call Sue at 860-379-0210 for more information.

**RIVERTON GRANGE #169**

*Corr: Shirley Moore*

Riverton was honored to host Mt. County Pomona on September 12, when Pomona officers were installed by State Master Jody Cameron and his team. We congratulate our own George Russell for being Master of Pomona once again. Then on Friday, Peter Keefe was installed as our Master along with all but three of the officers by Past Master Gail Prelli and her team. Before the installation, everyone enjoyed a bountiful meal. We wish everyone a very successful, productive and

happy term.

Our next meeting will be on Friday, October 7, when we will have a regular business meeting. Our program for the evening will be peeling potatoes and squash as well as setting up the hall for our dinners that weekend. This is an annual event for our grange, which coincides with the Riverton Fair. Members will be very busy beginning Thursday evening, when our pie makers will be at

the hall to make apple and pumpkin pies. Dinners will be served from 11:30 to 1:30 each day. Cost for adults is \$12.00 and \$6.00 for children 12 and under. We hope to see some of you at the Fair as well as at our dinners.

Because of State Session, we will not have another meeting until November 4, when Virginia & Bill King will be in charge of refreshments.

## Winchester Holiday Bazaar & Cookie Walk

On Saturday, November 5, the two floors at Winchester Grange Hall will be transformed into the festive sights, smells and sounds of the North Pole as the Grange holds their annual Holiday Bazaar and Cookie Walk.

The Bazaar will be held at the Grange Hall located on the green in Winchester Center from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM., and will feature over 20 vendors and artisans selling a variety of items such as homemade crafts, jewelry, pottery, and holiday decorations. Winchester Grange will also present a drawing featuring a Christmas Afghan and other homemade creations from members, as well as the famous Cookie Walk. The Cookie Walk gives shoppers a chance to fill a coffee can full of cookies for a low affordable price of \$3.00. One of the highlights of the event is the Soup and Sandwich Luncheon presented by the Grange.

For more information, contact Winchester Grange Secretary Sue Addison at 860-379-0210 or via e-mail at [info@winchestergrange.org](mailto:info@winchestergrange.org). Information is also available by visiting [www.WinchesterGrange.org](http://www.WinchesterGrange.org).

## Do You Remember?

### The Three Little Maids

*by Betty Jane Gardiner*

Ira F. Wilcox

Mildred Bell

Myrtle Thuillard

Marge Regner

A Special Time in Our History - When going through some of Marion Beecher's papers, we found this article she had written telling in verse about the three Juvenile Deputies who came up with the idea of a Juvenile Grange camp. They approached State Master Ira Wilcox, with their plan and the rest is history. We want to share with you what Marion had written.

Three little maids in Grange were we -  
 Each one of us known as a Deputy -  
 Heads altogether, we said with one mind  
 "We want a Camp of the Juvenile kind!"  
 We approached the State Master - knocked on his door  
 Just remember, my friends, this was in days of yore -  
 The State Master ruled- his word was it,  
 No fooling around - not the least bit!  
 State Master Wilcox, dedicated and stern,  
 Looked at us carefully, each one in turn,  
 Then said, "I see no reason not to say Yes.  
 You may have your Camp, good idea, I guess.  
**BUT**  
 You'll earn the money, you'll pay the bills,  
 You'll rent the campground over in the hills  
 And if it succeeds with left over money  
 The State Grange gets it, just like honey."  
And they did!  
 Grangers sold aprons and dishes, towels and candy,  
 Anything salable - it went just dandy  
 Instead of "hello" they'd "want to buy" -  
 You could tell it just by the look in the eye  
 Camp Berger resulted fifty years ago plus,  
 May it continue without any fuss.  
 Started by three little maids in Grange,  
 Whose ideas had a very long range.

*by Marion W. Beecher*

Do Remember them!

## New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- ✓ Cheshire No. 23
- ✓ Wallingford No. 33
- ✓ North Haven No. 35
- ✓ Old Lyme No. 162

### CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Nov. 2: Youth Program 50 Years

Nov. 16: Happy Thanksgiving-Turkey Dinner at 6PM

We are gearing up for our fall activities now that our annual fair is over. Many thanks to everyone for their help concerning the fair. We always have a good turn out of workers.

We enjoyed the Pomona Competition in Prospect in September. New Haven County was well represented.

Again this fall, we will be distributing dictionaries to the four elementary schools in town. We started the project last year and feel it is most worthwhile, providing good visibility for our Grange. We encourage other Granges to look into it if they can. Fund raising dinners are planned to enhance our treasury.

### WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Daniel M. Lauttenbach

Nov 10: Our Veterans' Ref: Joan

Nov 24: Thanksgiving. No Meeting.

Sept 8 was our work night for the fair.

September 17 was our Fair which turned out to be a beautiful Fall-like day. Everything turned out very well. Entries for vegetables doubled from last year. Remarkable considering two weeks before a hurricane blew though. We had good representation in needlework and it seems to be making a comeback. The grounds of our hall were well decorated again with corn stacks, mums, pumpkins, gourds and hay bales by Billy Beaumont. Our snack bar and vendors did very well. We served around 150 dinners and everyone was very pleased with the chicken, corn, tomatoes and pie with their dinner. Vern Grant again

was head of the barbecue pit and afterwards conducted the Auction. There were people that came just for the auction!

At Sept 22 we discussed the Fair and what went right and what could we do better next year.

### NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35

Corr: A. Tolette

Nov. 1: Give Thanks - Bring food for Food Closet

Dec. 6: Holly and Ivy-Bring Food for Food Closet

Jan. 3: Winters remembered - Youth Night

Let's hope that summer is behind us and Autumn will be colorful and pleasant.

State Session and Halloween will be over when this is printed. Then we will be thinking about Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Emily is still coming up with great programs for us and Jack's jokes always perk us up. Members continue to put in many hours of Community Service.

Think spring and make the best of what comes in between.

### OLD LYME GRANGE #162

Corr: Barbara Kulisch

Nov. 11: Veteran's Day

Nov. 25: Omit--Happy Thanksgiving!

Wonder how we made out at State Session this year with all the changes to the programs! It was good to see old friends and we did make new ones as well.

At our September 23rd meeting, we are taking on the American Hero's project and sending them a subscription to Guideposts. The money is being sent from our Penny Jar March. In November we will start bringing in items to be sent overseas to our soldiers. We are hooking up with the Shoreline Community drive this year as they will pay the postage to send the packages!

We will have the written up within this Historical Society using book and we are hoping to our hall for a book signing get some applications that of which the Grange is afternoon.

We wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving.



Terri Fassio, P.R. Co-Director

The Public Relations Committee would like to thank all the Granges who entered our contests this past year. We had a good showing, with at least one entry in each category. The winners are as follows:

**"IN THE NEWS"** - Best Newspaper Article Contest - Entries were of printed or published newspaper articles written by the media. **2nd Place** - Winchester Grange No. 74. **1st Place** - Ekonk Community Grange No. 89

**"LET'S ADVERTISE"** - Best Grange Event Poster - Entries were posters designed, executed, and used by Granges for an event.

**Digital Category -2nd Place** - Ekonk Community Grange No. 89; **1st Place** - Winchester Grange No. 74

**Traditional Category - 1st Place** - Lyme Grange No. 147

**"CONVEY THE MESSAGE"** - Best Grange-written Press Release Contest - Entries were press releases written and used by a Grange. **1st Place** - Winchester Grange No. 74

**"SHOW US YOUR STUFF"** - Grange Marketing Contest - This contest asked for submissions of a report of no more than 10 pages containing a description and photos/

## 127th Annual Session of the CT State Grange

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

The 2011 Convention of the Connecticut State Grange featured many highlights, including awards, scholarships and recognitions, donations, and a renewed dedication and commitment to Grange membership and growth.

With delegates, members, honored guests and visitors in attendance, Connecticut State Grange President Jody Cameron opened the 127th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange, held from October 20 through October 22, at the Hartford Plaza Hotel in East Hartford. Ed Luttrell, President of the National Grange served as the National Grange Representative and was Connecticut's honorary guest for the Session.

Marcia Leclerc, the Mayor of East Hartford, welcomed the Grange to the city. "The Grange in the very simplest form is a strong fraternal organization," she said. "The very core of what the Grange stands for is often missing from not only the state but local communities. The Grange can fill these voids in the communities where they are thriving."

Speaking to Grange members from across the state in his address as State Grange President, Cameron touched on a wide range of subjects including the Grange growth program and community service.

"Each of us has the ability and influence to grow our Granges; the power you hold in that responsibility ensures a rich future for your Grange and your community," Cameron said. "Membership Growth is just the first part of our Grange Growth process."

Delegates and Session Committees addressed over 50 resolutions during the sessions, on such topics Connecticut rest areas, social security, energy production, military pay and handicapped parking. Details and results of these resolutions are available on the Connecticut State Grange website, and will also be available in the Connecticut State Grange Journal of Proceedings, to be published this winter.

Awards and recognitions played a large role throughout the convention, during both the Awards luncheon and the Youth/Junior luncheon, as well as the Celebration Banquet. Scholarships were awarded to Victor Salazar, Shelley St. Jean, Meredith Milligan, and Jacqueline Garland.

scans on how Granges promote themselves through marketing. **2nd Place** - Ekonk Community Grange No. 89; **1st Place** - Winchester Grange No. 74

**"SPREADING THE WORD"** - Connecticut State Grange Website Participation Contest -- This contest is based on numbers of submissions to the CT State Grange website.

**1 to 5 Submissions -**

Cannon, Cawasa, Cheshire, Granby, Higganum, Hillstown, Norfield, Oxford, Prospect, Southington.

**6 or more Submissions -**

Glastonbury, Norwich, Taghannuck

Because both Bob and myself handle the website submissions for our respective Granges, we felt it was not fair to include them in the same running with the other Granges in this category. So we developed a special **President's Award for both Meriden Grange No. 29 and Winchester Grange No. 74.**

**"SPOT ON"** - 30-Second Grange Video Commercial Contest - In this contest we had only one submission. The winner is Winchester Grange No. 74. Their winning video is available for viewing at <http://www.YouTube.com/WinchesterGrange>

The contests for 2012 will have a few changes and additions. All the details will be released soon.

Community Grange of the Year was awarded to both Lyme Grange and Oxford Grange. Pomona (county) Grange of the Year was awarded to Mountain County Pomona No. 4 (Litchfield County). Norfield Grange received the award for most new members, with 18. Community Service awards went to Prospect Grange and Ekonk Community Grange, with Ekonk Community Grange receiving the Community Service Best of Show award. Over 82,000 hours of Community Service were donated by Grange members in Connecticut over the past year.

The Celebration Banquet was also filled with fun and recognition, as the Lecturer's program spotlighted old-fashioned skits, Beatles music, and numerous additional award winners announced. Sue Gray from Ekonk Community Grange was recognized with the Granger of the Year award for her hard work and dedication. North Stonington Grange was the winner of the Complete Program contest, and Robert Buck from Bethlehem Grange was the winner of the Grange essay contest.

The Agriculture Committee presented two awards - the Outstanding Production Award to John Bourdeau of Lyme, and the Outstanding Young Farmer award to Ethan Jordan from Ekonk Community Grange in Sterling.

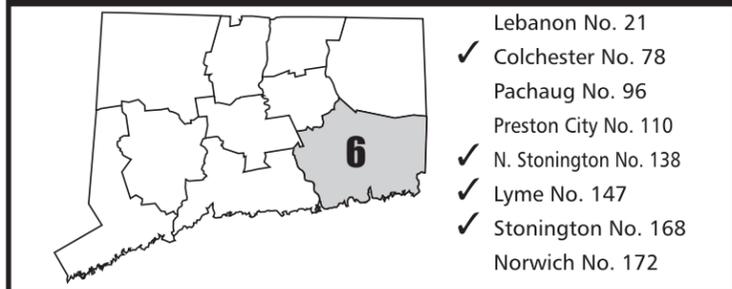
National Grange President Ed Luttrell spoke at the closing of the Celebration Banquet. "We have so much to look forward to," he said. "This is the year we're going to make a difference. The Grange is growing. I believe the Grange will be here in 100 years."

The 128th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange will be held October 18 - 20, 2012, with the Celebration Banquet on October 20. The location of this next convention will be announced in early 2012.

About the Connecticut State Grange: The Connecticut State Grange has been an integral part of rural and non-rural communities across the state for over 125 years, with currently nearly 60 Community Grange chapters in Connecticut. Local Granges are committed to bettering their communities through service projects and family orientated activities.

For more information on the Connecticut State Grange please visit [www.CTStateGrange.org](http://www.CTStateGrange.org).

## New London County Pomona No. 6



### NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

*Corr: Nancy Weissmuller*

**Dec. 10:** We need a little Christmas. Norwich Grange

Seven members of Pomona attended the Pomona Competitive Night at the Prospect Senior Center. We enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner (especially so because our table number was picked first), then went on to win first place in the competition- thanks mostly to Mary, who ignored the cries of the team to quit and persevered to the end. We are all saving our flashlights for the next power outage. Kudos to the Social Connection for putting together a most enjoyable evening.

Our next Pomona meeting will be as guests of Norwich Grange. That's a Saturday Night, so Norwich will not have a meeting before our meeting at 7:30 P.M.

How lovely the brilliant fall colors,

The oranges, reds and golds;

But soon autumn fades into winter,

And the holiday season unfolds.

### COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

*Corr: Joan Toomey*

For one reason September reminds me of meatloaf. There is nothing fancy about the meal. It was a low cost, hearty meal, easy to prepare and in our house became a classic comfort food. Mom's was the best but never the same. She mixed up whatever meat fillers, eggs, tomatoes, ketchup or chili sauce she had handy and could stretch that hamburger to feed the 10 in our family. We never knew we were eating a low cost meal in those days. We simply looked forward to our comfort food always served with mashed potatoes and

a variety of vegetables at supertime with family conversations in a warm kitchen filled with love. Of course, we had a hand powered meat grinder in the pantry but that wasn't unusual, everyone had one. And everyone knew how to make meatloaf, mashed potatoes and milk gravy. I wonder how many mothers today make from scratch meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy and vegetables they grow, harvest and peel before cooking or steaming? Adding a pinch of that and a handful of something else. In my spare time I think I'll write a book about meatloaf and by the way, in case you're hungry, stop over tonight and enjoy it with us!

Soon Halloween will be here, before it comes, it's time to do fall chores around this old place. It's time to close the irrigation system, shut off outside water faucets and take the pump out of the barn well. Soon we will make row covers to protect our vegetables from frost and pick all the winter squash and put in spring bulbs. Bob shreds raked leaves and will add them to our compost pile and I will plant some shallots and garlic for next year. Time moves so fast in our world today. Our Grange meetings seem to come and go so quickly. Our Grange is beginning to grow under Polly's membership drive and the watchful eye of our Master, Jeff. We hope to see you all at State Session, too. Watch out for black cats and witches.

### N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*

**Nov. 11:** I'd Like to Visit Alaska and the Iditarod  
**Nov. 25:** No Meeting - Happy Thanksgiving

On Sept. 9th in an impressive ceremony, Edie Schoell and her team

installed Master Robert Miner and his slate of officers. On September 23rd Gracelyn Guyoll, President of CUSH (Clean Up Stonington Harbors), presented an impressive Power Point program describing the work of this hard-working non-profit group. The members perform an invaluable service to the area by testing water in various estuaries and raising funds to carry on their important work. That same evening Joe Gross presented the Grange with a beautiful plaque thanking us for all the years we have allowed the Juvenile Review Board to use our hall for their meetings. The Board provides an invaluable service to the youth in our town.

We will have a special treat on Nov. 11. Becky Tucker of Outlaw Ridge Sled Dogs will bring her team to our Grange. Please dress for the weather, as a good part of the program will be held outside.

As the holidays begin we turn our attention to the less fortunate. Please bring non-perishable food items to our November and December meetings. The Grange will add the turkeys and the rest of the trimmings to make the season a little happier for some local families who are struggling. If you cannot come to a meeting but have donations for our baskets, please call the Secretary (860-535-2703) and we will come and pick them up.

Please remember to send your dues to the Secretary, and please join us on a second or fourth Friday for fun, food and fellowship. And if the rain will just stay away for a few days so I can get these spring bulbs planted, next time I'll tell you about old October.

### LYME GRANGE #147

**Nov. 3:** Are You Ready?

**Nov. 5:** Craft Sale

**Dec. 1:** Christmas Party, 3rd Annual Roast Pork Dinner, Awards Night

**Jan. 5:** Bring Food for Food Basket, Music Night

Snow date, postponed one week.

October 6 brought our agriculture program

presented by our Lecturer. Our Grange let the church across the street use our hall for part of their rummage sale. Despite, rain, floods and hurricane, we are all well here in Lyme. We had one take the Fifth Degree. Congratulations Isabelle Lewis. Hope everyone had a wonderful fall- and you will enjoy family and friends through the Thanksgiving season.

### STONINGTON GRANGE #168

*Corr: Jeff Barnes*

Tanya and her daughter, Jessica, presented a program on the little-known project of finding letterboxes at our September meeting. Letterboxes are stations hidden around Southeastern, CT which, like a scavenger hunt, must be found and signed off on as you discover them. We

have some clues on where to look for them in our area, and supposedly there is one hidden outside of our hall, but where?

Dot and the CWA committee send a variety of hand-made items to the New England Building for sale in the store during the Big E. Some of our members volunteered as helpers in the store and in the building during the fair.

We continue with our donations to the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center and look forward to Dick's report on the total weight of winter squash our members have sent there.

Our October program is one well calculated to keep us in suspense-Orson Wells' version of the "Hitchhiker." More about that next time.

## Twinkle, Twinkle



(l to r) Mary Medbery of Pachaug Grange, Ted Beebe of Norwich Grange and Jeff Watson of Colchester Grange perform "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

## News from the Deputy Team

Inspections • Code Reading • Ritual • Ritual Challenge • Support • Instruction

*Todd Gelineau, General Deputy*

It was my pleasure to present the awards for the first Deputies' Ritual Challenge at State Session. Congratulations go to Redding Grange for placing first. Look for an announcement soon when arrangements are made for the special meeting to be conducted by the officers of the Connecticut State Grange at one of their meetings. It should be a great event both for Redding and the State Grange. Watertown and Winchester Granges placed second and Hemlock received third in the contest. We thank all Granges for participating in the Challenge. The goal truly was not to receive an award but to learn more about the ritual.

Every Grange will participate in the 2012 Challenge which will involve the opening and closing of the Grange. The deputies will automatically score each Grange, so you have nothing to do other than your best.

A letter went out to all Secretaries early in October announcing a change in the filing requirements for the annual Executive Committee reports. Starting with the report due Dec. 31, 2011, all reports should be filed directly with the General Deputy, rather than with the State Secretary. In the past we have waited to review these reports until inspection season, and then it becomes difficult to make changes. Under this new system, the General Deputy will review the reports and request changes/corrections (if necessary) before filing with the State Secretary. If all is correct, the reports will be forwarded by the G.D. to the State Secretary. A copy of this report is still required on inspection night.

# Youth & Junior Grange



**Lisa Lamoureux**  
State Youth & Junior Director  
youth@ctstategrange.org  
juniors@ctstategrange.org

## HILLSTOWN JUNIOR GRANGE #87

Corr: Rita Schaefer

Nov. 17: Meeting at the Hall

The Jrs. had a busy summer. They will wait until they meet so they will know what they will be doing this winter.

## EKONK JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Rebecca Gervais

Thanks to Irene, we had to postpone our September meeting. However, we have a dedicated bunch and we were able squeeze a

meeting in.

We harvested our garden. We picked over 500 pounds of butternut squash!!! The squash was donated to Friends of Assissi, a local food pantry. They were most appreciative. We also planted a few sugar pumpkins and watermelons. We had enough of each for any interested families, as well as watermelon for refreshments AND sugar pumpkins for the food pantry. The garden was a fun learning experience! We had, almost, no weeds! Thanks to Molodich Farms for a piece of their "corn silage" plastic. We look forward to planting again next spring.

We sponsored a pie-eating contest at Sterling's Family Day. AKA, pudding and whipped cream eating contest. A bit messy, but

such a blast! Juniors also helped the Family Day committee, throughout the day in various capacities.

5 Juniors and three adults helped Sterling's Historical Society clean up a local cemetery. It was a damp Saturday. Spirits, however, were NOT dampened. Pizza, chips, and drinks were provided by our Junior Grange, and the Subordinate. We look forward to doing another clean up in the spring.

We had hoped to go hiking during September, but the rain, rain would NOT go away! Hopefully, weekends in October are drier, and we'll try again another day. We also plan on going to a corn maze this month. Feel free to call, and check on what's going on here on Ekonk Hill. We love company!

## Results of Action on Resolutions

- Res. #1 - Merging of North Central & E. Central Pomonas: Adopted
- Res. #2 - Special Needs Youth at Regional & National Grange Youth Activities: Adopted
- Res. #3 - Youth at Regional and National Grange Youth Activities: Adopted
- Res. #4 - Membership Recognition: Rejected
- Res. #5 - State Legislators: Adopted
- Res. #6 - Recall of Elected State Officials: Rejected for Substitute
- Res. #7 - Rest Areas: Adopted
- Res. #8 - Social Security Numbers: Rejected
- Res. #9 - Deputy By-Laws Change: Rejected for Substitute
- Res. #10 - Alternate Delegates to State Session: Rejected
- Res. #11 - Alternate Meeting Date: Adopted
- Res. #12 - Finding More Economical Ways to Produce Energy: Rejected
- Res. #13 - Military Pay: Adopted
- Res. #14 - Handicap Parking Areas: Rejected
- Res. #15 - Save the Rocky Hill/Glastonbury Ferry: Rejected for Substitute
- Res. #16 - Session Committee By-Law Change: Adopted
- Res. #17 - Crosswalks: Adopted
- Res. #18 - Sale of Plants Classified as Invasive Species: Rejected for Substitute
- Res. #19 - Power Priorities: Rejected
- Res. #20 - CT Agricultural Experiment Station: Rejected
- Res. #21 - CT Technical Schools: Adopted
- Res. #22 - CT-Scan Level of Radiation: Rejected
- Res. #23 - Grange E-Membership and Grange Money Transfers: Rejected
- Res. #24 - Family Musical Instrument: Rejected
- Res. #25 - Retention of Grangers Who are Students: Adopted
- Res. #26 - Removal of Oil as a Commodity on the Futures Market: Rejected
- Res. #27 - Obligation Ceremony: Adopted
- Res. #28 - Handicapped Accessible Medical Buildings, Hotels & Inns: Rejected
- Res. #29 - Delivery of Mail: Rejected
- Res. #30 - Reaffirmation of Support for the CT Agric. Exp. Station: Adopted
- Res. #31 - USDOT Decision to Uphold States Rights to Reg. Farm Oper.: Adopted
- Res. #32 - Obligation Ceremony (Use of): Rejected
- Res. #33 - Low Interest Loans to Granges: Rejected
- Res. #34 - Usage of the Grange Emblem on Grange Comm. and Documents: Adopted
- Res. #35 - Email Address Usage for Each Community Grange: Adopted
- Res. #36 - Community Granges on Facebook: Adopted
- Res. #37 - Increasing the Dues to the Connecticut State Grange: Adopted
- Res. #38 - Establishing Penmanship Instruction in Public Schools: Adopted
- Res. #39 - Creation of Vo-Ag Programs in Elem. and Middle School Grades: Rejected
- Res. #40 - No Smoking In Outdoor Dining Areas: Rejected
- Res. #41 - Master's Address: Adopted
- Res. #42 - Substitute Res. on Invasive Plants: Rejected
- Res. #43 - Handicap Parking Areas: Adopted
- Res. #44 - Recall of Elected State Officials: Adopted
- Res. #45 - Handicapped Accessible Medical Buildings, Hotels and Inns: Adopted
- Res. #46 - Emergency Preparedness for Emergency Weather Situations: Adopted
- Res. #47 - Save the Rocky Hill/Glastonbury Ferry: Adopted
- Res. #48 - Invasive Plants: Adopted
- Res. #49 - Deputy By-Laws Change: Adopted
- Res. #50 - Alternate Delegates to State Session: Rejected
- Res. #51 - Alternate Delegates to State Session: Adopted

## In Memoriam

Duane K. Wetmore, G.S.	Cheshire Grange #23
Barbara Spahl, G.S.	Senexet Grange #40
Stanley Hanson	Higganum Grange #124
Eva Williams	Echo Grange #180
Hadley Williams	Echo Grange #180

Please keep us notified of deceased members. Use the email or the regular mailing address listed in the Granger Staff list in this issue.

## Chaplain's Message



**Amy Whitcomb**  
State Chaplain  
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

State Session has finished and we are on our way to a New Year in the Grange. All of us are grateful for the blessings we have received during the year. This month let us discuss gratitude as we enter the Thanksgiving season. Gratitude is not just for specific material

things, careers or relationships that we enjoy. It is a practice to cultivate for a lifetime. You are not obligated to thank God for your life, for your job, or for your prosperity. However, giving thanks is an important state of your consciousness which keeps you in an awareness of oneness with divine flow.

When you understand this you see that a grateful heart does not need something to be grateful for. One can be grateful with the same spontaneity as being happy. It simply flows forth from within and becomes a causative energy. When we have an attitude of gratitude we are like a magnet attracting goodness. It does not mean we do not have challenges to overcome or never lose things that matter to us. It means that we cultivate a consciousness of gratitude and acknowledge our blessings in the midst of the myriad events of our lives. "Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more it turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, and confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, and a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow."

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough. Blessings can be counted in many ways. Each of us should reflect on our blessings and show the gratitude they deserve. As you reflect you will find a feeling of peace for what your life has brought you. As an exercise in gratitude try journaling about your blessings and what you have to be thankful for. As I close my column, I wish for each of you a blessed holiday season.

## 2012 Pomona Theme:



# Address of State Master Jody A. Cameron

To the Members of the Connecticut State Grange,

It is with pleasure I submit my first President's Address to you.

The theme set for 2011 was Community Grown and how we grew our community Granges. On October 23, 2010 I set a goal for the Connecticut State Grange to double our membership in four years, I challenged every member to secure one new member each, and for each Community Grange to secure twelve new members per year. As I visited I gave each member in attendance a slip of paper, I would like the Deputies to hand these out again tonight. Please take a quick moment and write down the name of a friend, coworker or relative that does not currently belong to the Grange, then next time you see this person, ask them to join YOUR Grange.

Have you assumed the responsibility for growing your Grange, or is it someone else's? I hope we each have taken the responsibility of growing our membership seriously; when you do, Brothers and Sisters that is the "Power of One." Each of us has the ability and influence to grow our Granges; the power you hold in that responsibility ensures a rich future for your Grange and your community.

Membership Growth is just the first part of our Grange Growth process. This past year we had a very successful (in house) Grange Growth Summit. This group of members, along with Steve and Claire Logan, Master and First Lady of the Rhode Island State Grange, went through a "crash" course on the Grange Growth process. Their talents will be in demand very soon. I was interviewed shortly after my installation and was asked about our "declining organization," my response to this report was, "I see communities that are familiar with the Grange; these communities are ripe for us to go into and reorganize new Granges in. We have seen a decline in the number of Granges, that is true, but not everything is negative. I firmly believe there is great opportunity for us in these communities. We have a very long road ahead of us, organizing, reorganizing and revitalizations are not an overnight process. We are currently working with 5 Granges; two of these are now reorganizations. How can you help in this process? We need each member to continually focus on securing your one new member, if you do that, State Grange revitalization teams are not needed. Our energy as a State Grange is best spent going into communities and organizing Granges. Like I said in the beginning of the address, you have the POWER; you are the POWER OF ONE!

## COMMUNITY GRANGES

I want to commend all of our Community Granges. Many Granges in Connecticut have been faced with many challenges, the cost of maintaining your halls (especially heating oil), the weather this past winter and fall, or be it an aging membership. You have all done very well, and I thank you for your efforts.

This year we changed many of our processes Schools of Instructions were conducted in each Community Grange and we introduced a two inspection process. I know our Granges do their best for the Deputies inspection. I also know Granges put on all of the bells and whistles for the inspection. Bells and whistles are not who we are. It is the day to day operations of your Grange that the community sees, so, I want the Deputy force to see the same thing. You received the Deputy with open arms; for that I thank you. These folks have dedicated their time for you and are invested in improving your Grange and Grange work.

I received many reports and many forms of communications regarding various requirements to maintain your Charter. Patrons, I did not make these rules. I am obligated, as is your Deputy, to enforce these basic rules that are spelled out in the Digest of Laws. You MUST have a quorum; you MUST meet at least once a month. If you do not, you are in violation of the Digest and your Deputy is required to address this with you as well as bring it to the attention of the General Deputy and myself.

Let's talk about the "ritual." I do not have a preference of which format your Grange uses, be it the traditional manual or the alternative manual. But let me be very clear. I believe in our ritual, I support the use of our ritual; I also support your Granges right to decide which format you use. I will adamantly oppose major changes that diminish the value of our ritual at the National level, and insist each Grange perform their chosen format to the best of their ability. Our ritual is NOT an obstacle. It has been reviewed over the years to modernize the language without reducing its importance and relevance to our organization. Brothers and Sisters, I believe if you take away the meaning and values of our ritual we are nothing less than a generic social club. The Delegate body of National Grange in my opinion made one HUGE mistake when the approved an alternative Installation Ceremony. I do not and will not promote this format in Connecticut. Our Installation Ceremony is beautiful and meaningful. I wish every Grange in Connecticut saw to their Officers being installed. This is one of the most impressive ceremonies we have. What does it say to the importance of our Offices and the role they play in our Grange when we just set the Installation of Officers aside?

This year West Suffield, Westfield and Trumbull all surrendered their Charters; I suspended the Charter of Wolcott Grange and worked with Litchfield Grange on suspending theirs. Brothers and Sisters, we do not need to close Granges, we need to always be working on membership and leadership growth. There is NO reason for a Grange to close today. We have invested a lot of time and money on developing a Grange Growth System, use it.

## POMONA GRANGES

The preamble for Pomona Granges in the Digest states, "Pomona Grange is intended and designed to "strengthen and aid" the Subordinate Granges." This point has been stressed all year long. At the Pomona Schools of Instruction each Pomona chose an initiative for them to work on to strengthen and aid the Subordinate Granges. Did your Pomona follow through? I hope so. We need to build up our Pomona's making them again relevant to our organization. We need to make our Pomona the first place Community Granges go to for assistance. This is why Pomona Grange will be the main focus for 2012. Tomorrow I will be unveiling the 2012 theme and its priorities.

## JUNIOR GRANGES

Junior Granges are important to the future of our Granges developing GREAT leaders. Young ladies and gentlemen have the opportunity to learn,

develop maturity, and above all else, have fun. We need to strengthen all Community Granges so they are in a position to sponsor a Junior Grange. I challenge your Grange to investigate the possibility of having a Junior Grange. I am aware of one Community Grange beginning the process of organizing a Junior Grange; I wish them much success in this venture.

Over the years there has been debate over when should one's years of service to the Grange begin. Our current system begins when one joins a Community Grange. It is my hope this Delegate Body will acknowledge the important role of the Junior level of the Grange. It is our duty to ensure that those members who have held continuous membership and remain in good standing from the time they joined Junior Grange are afforded the opportunity to have all of their years of Grange membership recorded. This does not financially impact our organization as we no longer grant a dues waiver to those whose membership spans over 50 years. Brothers and Sisters, it is my opinion that now is the right time to recognize these years of service.

Please join me in extending our appreciation to the Leaders, Assistant Leaders, parents and supporters of Ekonk Community, North Stonington Community and Hillstown Junior Granges.

I want to commend our Junior Team for the activities planned for the Juniors this weekend. This is the first time I am aware of a Junior Grange trip at State Session. Please pledge your support to the Junior Team or any of the Junior Granges, this is our program; it can only grow if each of us and each of our Granges support it.

## YOUTH

Many of our Granges struggle with attracting members in the age group of 14 to 21. We claim there are too many other activities for them and they are just not joiners. I beg to partially disagree. Yes, there are a plethora of activities for all ages, I agree, but you can't tell me they are not joiners. Did you know there are 523,309 FFA members, aged 14 to 21? As a matter of fact there are at least four of our Grange youth attending the National FFA Convention right now. One of them is Victor Salazar. Victor is representing Connecticut as a National FFA Officer candidate. Please join me in wishing Victor well in hoping his dream comes true.

We can no longer make excuses for ourselves, the 14 to 21 age group are joiners, and there are 523,000 of them that believe in our Grange values, our goals and our traditions. Many of our communities are served by a Regional Agricultural School. Connecticut Granges need to partner with these schools, and develop working relationships that serve both groups well. I can assure you these young people are exactly what our Granges need, they are hard workers and dedicated students, and best of all many of them are trained leaders.

Last May, Sister Nancy Weissmuller and Sister Jaimie Cameron manned a booth at the Connecticut State FFA Convention; they did a great job, they met many young adults, advisors and parents and introduced them to the Grange. We are continuing to build our relationship with the Connecticut FFA.

I challenge every Community and Pomona Grange to build programming that is geared toward the 14 to 21 age group. Be creative, be open minded and have fun.

In 2011 Connecticut again sponsored a Youth Drill Team; let us congratulate them on being the first place Youth Drill Team in the Northeast.

2012 will bring the regional Youth Conference to Connecticut. Your help and support is needed. Once a location is confirmed, a lot of work has to begin, immediately thereafter. Sister Lisa Lamoureux and her team really need all of us to do whatever we can to help and thus show the region why Connecticut is the place to be in July of 2012.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

I think we can all agree one of the fundamental responsibilities of a Community Grange is to better the community in which they serve. Our Granges do amazing work. Members give thousands of hours of their time and talents individually every year, and collectively this number climbs into the hundreds of thousands. I do not know what was reported to Brother and Sister Barnes this year, but I am certain that number will again amaze me. If your Grange is not focusing on its service to the Community I ask you to examine your goals and objectives as a Grange and as a member.

It is time our State Grange implement a state wide Community Service project. The Family Activities Committee built into their program support to local food banks. I hope all Granges participated in supporting both the committee's initiative and your local food banks. If we can all change the lives in our communities, just imagine the difference we can make by going from the Power of One to the Power of Many.

As you will see in the proposed budget, there is no surplus for us to draw from to institute new programs. I challenge you to look for ways to obtain our goals in bettering our communities on a state wide level. There is money out there; there are ways for us to accomplish greatness in each community. You will hear later in this session that we are in the process of formulating a 501 (c) (3) Foundation; this foundation will enable us as a State Grange to assist our Community and Pomona Granges in serving your communities to the fullest.

## MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION

Membership growth is the single means in which we can ensure a long and healthy future for our Granges. The beginning of this address touched upon the role each of us must play in building our membership. There are other areas we must be attentive to; one of them is membership retention. Yes, we must gain new members, but we must also keep all members engaged and involved. Your State Grange Membership Committee is focusing on this issue this coming year. It has been suggested, many times, that we have an "exit interview" for members who have chosen to no longer maintain their membership. The decision of these members needs to be assessed and considered as we cannot experience true growth without also understanding our losses. I ask this Delegate Body to look at this issue and offer guidance and input into this important issue.

I encourage every Community and Pomona Grange to take a look at and complete the Save My Grange form. A systematic process has been developed that allows Granges to take a clear look at your strengths and weaknesses and develop a plan to build the overall health of your Grange.

I encourage all Granges to contact the Grange Growth Team, headed by



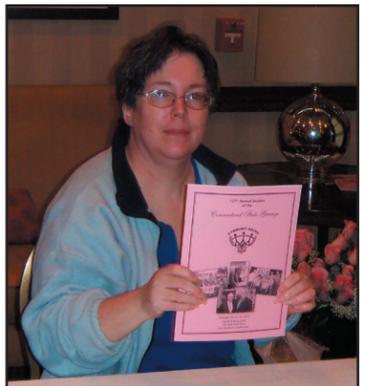
State Ag. Committee Director Jonathan Russell and committee member Maggie Buck.



State Master Jody Cameron with Rhode Island State Master Steve Logan during Friday's lunch.



East Hartford Mayor Marcia Leclerc greeted the State Grange on Thursday evening.



Marcia Miller greeting members at the Registration table.



Deputies J. Allen Cameron and Joan Ziegler.



National Master Ed Luttrell addresses delegates Friday morning.



State FFA Reporter Aleixander Puerta poses for a photo with State Master Cameron.



New Fairfield County Deputy Geno Piacentini performs "Here Comes the Sun" during the Lecturer's program.



Ex. Comm. member Gordon Gibson takes a lunch ticket from Hillstown member Helene Forrest as Enfield member Brian Carpenter looks on.



Lois Evankow of Lyme Grange models some of the many t-shirts won by members for recruiting new members.



George Russell, Master of Mountain County Pomona is recognized for his Pomona being Honor Pomona of the Year.



Phil Prelli calls the winners during the Past Deputies' Raffle on Saturday evening.



Ethan Joran receives the Young Professional Award from Ag Director Jonathan Russell.

*Continued from page 11...*

Brother Jeff Barnes, and explore your possibilities.

Please join me congratulating the members of Norfield Grange # 146, as they took the challenge of securing 12 new members a year seriously and did just that. Norfield Grange representatives will be my guests at the Celebration Banquet, Congratulations.

You each must take a bow as well, for the quarter ending June 30, 2011 we posted a net gain in membership. This is the first quarterly gain in a very long time. I congratulate each and every one of you who stepped up to the challenge all of your hard work is paying off.

We are beginning to address the issue of membership retention. We believe it is the responsibility of the State Grange to develop social activities that strengthen the programming of Community and Pomona Granges. In 2011 I established a new committee, the Social Connection. This team has out done themselves! They have held two very successful events, the Mystery Dinner was sold out and the Competitive Night drew a capacity crowd. On July 16, 2011, we held a joint picnic with our friends to the east, the Rhode Island State Grange, as part of the National Grange sponsored Grange Day Out. This event was well attended with around 200 from both states in attendance; it was a picture perfect weather day, good food, good entertainment, and best of all great friends. Events like these are essential to membership retention. Every Grange can and should offer program that brings its members together in a social setting, think out of the box, don't be afraid to try something new and have fun.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS

Public Relations are, in my opinion, the most important area we must continue to advance in. Our Public Relations Department is doing an outstanding, no INCREDIBLE job keeping the Connecticut State Grange in the front of the media. I lose track of the number of articles that are sent to the media each week and that is on top of the countless updates and Facebook posts keeping the world informed of the activities of the Granges that make up the Connecticut State Grange. They have taken our State Grange into the twenty first century through the social media. We were paid one of the biggest compliments. I was told when the National Grange hired a new Communication Director; the New Director was told one of her main objectives was to make sure the Connecticut State Grange was not the number one hit on the internet when searching the Grange. What a testimony to the advancement of our team here in Connecticut. Please join me in thanking the Public Relations Team for their tireless efforts.

The *Connecticut Granger* is one the premier Grange newspapers in the country. With virtually no staff and virtually no subscription fee, they continue to print a high quality and informative monthly periodical amidst rising expenses in paper and printing. 2011 brought us twelve full issues. This is due to the abundance of information supplied by our Grange correspondence, the many articles reprinted from other media and from the National Grange. Keep up the good reporting and support of our Granger.

#### LEGISLATIVE

The Legislative Committee has done an outstanding job updating our Legislative Policy Book, but there is still quite a bit of work to be done to keep our policy statements current. The Legislative Policy Book is a living document. It is each member's responsibility to review the annual policy book, as these are the policies you initiated and enacted. I encourage all session committees to review the Legislative Policy Book and make sure these policies are in line where you feel your State Grange needs to be focus. Remember, it is not a policy of the Connecticut State Grange unless you, the delegates, vote it as such.

The Grange has always been well respected at the State Capitol; we must continue to have an active and involved presence in Hartford. It is our responsibility as a State Grange to advocate on behalf of our Community Granges and members. We are the collective voice for our members, bringing your policies to the proper agency or committee.

After Tropical Storm Irene rolled through, she left most of the state without power and telecommunications. Some areas were affected for over eight days. We need to congratulate the leadership and emergency personnel from every town in Connecticut for how they handled the aftermath of this storm. The Town of Sterling was without any electricity, telephone, or cell service, for close to ten days. These outages included no access to 911, so if a resident had an emergency they needed to go to the town hall and report it. We cannot allow, in the twenty first century and with all of the modern technology, to have areas of our state left without any communication access, especially availability to 911. We, as a State Grange, must ensure all areas of our state have unobstructed access to emergency services regardless of circumstances.

#### AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the foundation in which our organization was founded. With this in mind, we must continue developing coalitions with like agricultural organizations. We should be joining as supporting members in these other organizations.

We must inform the public of our policies and promoting our support in the various areas of agriculture, especially the right to farm and preservation of open space.

Obesity is becoming an epidemic problem in the United States, and we need to better promote good nutrition and healthy eating. Grangers love to cook and eat, so let's set the example of healthier eating through our public dinners, contests and programs. Would it not be a great thing to partner with the apple industries and have a contest open to everyone, Grange members and the public?

The Connecticut State Grange once again had a booth at Ag Day at the Capitol; this is an excellent opportunity for us to interact with our State Officials and Legislators. We need to continue this event, always raising the bar on our exhibit and the message we are promoting.

Your State Grange Agriculture Team out did themselves this year, as they took our traditional contests and stepped them up, thus helping the community. I can't wait to see the total pounds of butternut squash which has been donated to local soup kitchens and food banks.

#### CAMP BERGER

Camp Maud Isbell Berger, our gem on the lake. I want to thank Dorian Lockett and Richard Lemieux for all of their efforts to improve the infrastructure, programming and financial health of our Camp Berger. We are in year three of our five year plan, and I for one am very pleased with the performance of the Camp's Leadership, Staff and Trustees to date.

We entrusted young people to their care, and they perform their jobs with maturity, respect and dignity. There is a long road ahead of us as to the financial stability of the Camp, but I firmly believe we are on the right track and will exceed the expectations we set in the five year plan.

Brothers and Sisters, this is your Camp, we must get back to the point where our Pomona's are showing an interest in the wellbeing of the cabins that hold their name. I encourage each of you to visit your Camp, and enjoy all its beauty has to offer. Then, I am sure you too will have a renewed interest in its possibilities.

This year, after the passing of Sister Marion Beecher, the Trustees formed the Marion W. Beecher Campership Fund. I encourage every member and every Grange to contribute to this fund as its proceeds are used to send children who could not otherwise afford to go to camp to attend.

#### LEADERSHIP

The Officers, Directors, Deputies and Pomona Masters make up the leadership team of the CT State Grange. Early in the Grange year we had a Leadership meeting with all Officers and Directors, each Director presented their program, where we participated in a Leadership PowerPoint and Team Building exercises. While Rusty Hunt was visiting last February, he asked the question, "How many State Granges consider Pomona Master as part of the leadership team?" That really stuck with me. If we expect the Pomonas to be the "go between" for the Community Granges and the State Grange, why aren't they part of the Leadership Team of this State Grange? In the spring we held our second Leadership Team workshop, including the Pomona Masters and the attendance was not as strong as I had hoped. We had the President and Vice President of the State FFA presented the workshops, if you were not there, you missed out. They did a great job and we thank them for their efforts. We will again have Leadership Training for the State Grange Leadership Team. This training will remain a major focus of the administration to build the Leadership Team of this State Grange, and you as members must expect them to share with you at the Community Grange level the lessons learned. One of the greatest investments we can make is in leadership development. If we do not continue to build and develop great leadership skills we will quickly fall behind in meeting our communities needs and slip away into nonexistence.

I challenge every leader, past, current or future, to raise the bar on your current leadership and yourself. I absolutely love serving you as President, but if I do not continue to grow as a leader, I fail. I do not fail myself, I fail you! You should expect from this administration the best, at all times. You need to hold us accountable for our actions, and our visibility. If we do not perform our duties to your satisfaction, it is your responsibility to make the necessary adjustments at the next election. I met with the Officers elect prior to our Installation last year where I reiterated to them that we serve you, we are accountable to you, and if we are not able to perform the duties of our office we should not seek reelection. No member of this administration is above the rules, we must live by and act in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws at all times, there are NO exceptions!

#### IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness this paragraph needed to be added, we lost Brother Duane K. Wetmore, Past Master of the Connecticut State Grange on October 10, 2011. He loved and respected the Grange and his Brothers and Sisters; he made a lasting impression on many of us with his ability to recite ritual and the beautiful manner in which he did so. He gave me my first opportunity to serve as a member of the Pink Sash Family, and for that I am forever grateful. Brother Duane, you served this State Grange with honor and dignity, we thank you for your kindness, your friendship and leadership.

#### IN CONCLUSION

As we look ahead to 2012 I know we will accomplish greatness in many areas. I also know we will suffer defeat and loss. But it is how we overcome those times of defeat and loss that will dictate our future. I know I have made decisions this year that have not made some members happy; I agonized over some of these decisions, as I knew they affected people, my Brothers and Sisters. At all times I acted in accordance with the Digest, and sometimes I sought the advice and counsel from the National Grange President. It is not easy realizing one must suspend a Charter. But it is my obligation to uphold the Digest, and it is my obligation to act in the best interest of the Grange and its members. I believe I have done that in all instances.

I want to thank the Board of Directors for their support and guidance, especially Brothers Phil Prelli and Russell Gray for their counsel.

Sister Edith Schoell is one of the greatest assets of this State Grange. She was not prepared for me I am sure, and I drive her absolutely bonkers at times, but the friendship we have developed over this past year will last me a lifetime. Edith, I cannot thank you enough for all you do, there are not enough words to express the gratitude this State Grange has for you and your efforts.

I thank every member of every Grange who received me and my family with open arms, it is truly a great feeling going to a Grange and always felling like you are home. There were many occasions Sister Jodi Ann was unable to accompany me on visiting Granges and I thank Sister Joan Perry for "holding down her side of the car." You have always been a dear friend and I thank you.

I could not have been prouder to have my family install this State Grange last year, they have been my rock. I discovered right away you do not do this job alone; my family has taken the back seat many times due to my obligations to the Grange. Last fall Jaimie started high school and J. Allen started college, a time in both their lives they need both parents a lot, and there were many time I was not there for them. I thank them for their support and love and for understanding and encouraging me.

There is one person, without whom I could never do this job. She puts up with me, my moods, my temper, my humor even when it may not be funny. I never give her the credit she deserves; she is my rock, my sanity and insanity, she is my best friend and the love of my life. Please join me in thanking Jodi Ann for all she does for our family and her support of me and the Grange.

Brothers and Sisters It has been my greatest honor to serve you as President of the Connecticut State Grange. I know there are greater days before us and I can't wait to celebrate them with you.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jody A. Cameron  
President  
Connecticut State Grange