



Connecticut Granger



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The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

JANUARY 2014

Want to be right or successful?



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

Many of you remember Carmen Brickner, right? I was just at a training seminar where she told a story from her early years as an accountant, where her boss' boss asked her "Do you want to be RIGHT or SUCCESSFUL?"

Many of us can recall certain instances where we were right and it was important for everyone to know we were right, if for no other reason just to prove

we were right.

We have some situations going on right now in our Grange and our country where all parties involved need to step back, take a deep breath and ask themselves, is it more important that we be right, or we be successful? In every case both parties are right. The reasons they claim to be holding firm to are correct and they all feel this is adequate justification for taking the actions they have taken. That is all well and good, but I do not think either party has truly taken into consideration who benefits from their stance or who ultimately will be "hurt".

I urge everyone to analyze your position and determine if your being right outweighs the success and well being for a stronger, unified Grange.

On the Federal

Government level we are going to see hard times in the Agricultural Industry if we do not reach a deal that will pass the Farm Bill. Again, the differing positions make each party right, but being right is going to be extremely detrimental to those who feed this country and the world.

It is time we separate SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) from the Farm Bill and pass a comprehensive bill that strengthens every aspect of Agriculture.

So I ask every member of Congress and the Senate: is allowing our farmers to have their livelihood be put in jeopardy worth your party can be right?

Not in the America I live in!

PLEASE come together and pass the FARM BILL!

No progress on the Farm Bill



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

Well, we are STILL waiting for Congress to get their act together to pass a Farm Bill and a federal budget. As of mid-December they still disagree on the Farm Bill. There were bills that were previously passed in both the House and Senate and sent on to a joint committee but nothing has come out of the committee since. Because of this inaction, the House had to again pass another extension to continue the existing Farm Bill until January 31st. This meant that Congress will be looking at this again at the end of January. The House

passed this continuance as a stopgap measure to avert the threatened doubling of dairy prices. Apparently a sizable number of Senators oppose the extension of the 2008 farm bill which continues the 'direct payment' subsidies which they feel could trigger about \$5 billion in direct payments. An interesting fact to note is that the new farm bill that they have been working on eliminates direct payment subsidies replacing it with crop insurance. The Democrats also feel that the threatened doubling of dairy prices or 'dairy cliff' is fiction.

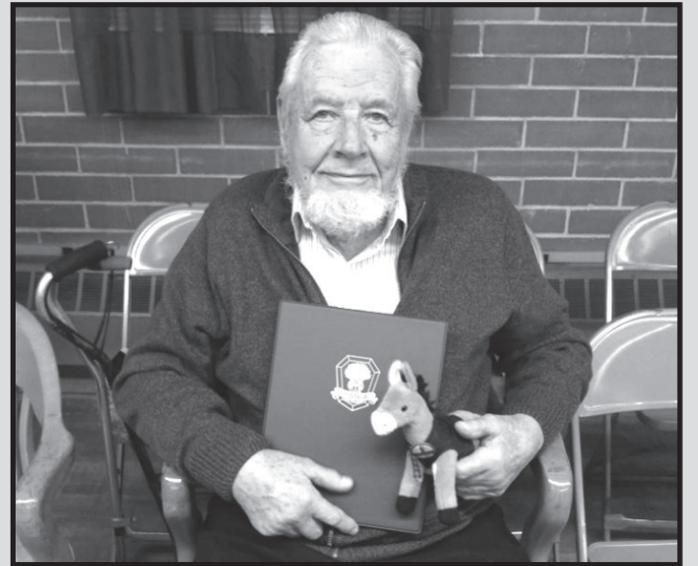
The Farm Bill also includes nutrition programs with includes the SNAP program, previously known as Food Stamps. The new farm bill is proposing cuts to the food stamps. Of course the Democrats in the Senate are opposed to these cuts and expansions so who knows what will be happening in January.

We need all Grange members to contact their Congressman and Senators to let them know how unhappy we are that they have not finalized this bill. The initial bill expired in the fall of 2012 so Congress has been toying with the bill for almost two years.

In mid-December, the House also passed a two year budget which would avert another government shutdown. The deal does set spending levels for the next two years which finally would stop the month to month extensions that they

...Continued on page 2

Don Beard celebrates 80 years of membership



Don Beard, member of Cheshire Grange No. 23, received a certificate in recognition of 80 years of continuous Grange membership. The presentation was made by State Master Cameron at Cheshire's Dec. 4 meeting.

It starts with us



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer
lecturer@ctstategrange.org

It all starts here with you and me and every other Subordinate Grange Lecturer or Community Grange Program Director. To have strong Pomona and State Granges, we need active, healthy local Granges. As Lecturers it is our duty to do all we can to promote our Grange. We are the important ones. As a Lecturer we need

to provide a good program each meeting that meets the interests of our members. No one can tell you what to have for a program. We can only give you guidelines. Do people stay at home when John Doe puts on a slide show or do they come and bring others with them because they know it will be a fun evening? Do you invite members who are not active to participate in your programs hoping they will enjoy themselves and start coming on a regular basis? Do you have something for everyone in your programs or do you try to do everything yourself. A good Grange is a united Grange where everyone works together for the betterment of our Order. It is a new year. Let's all make a resolution to work for the Good of the Order in 2014.

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"Hank"
Pg. 10
Hank's travelog and new column. Like him on Facebook and look for him at a Grange near you!

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

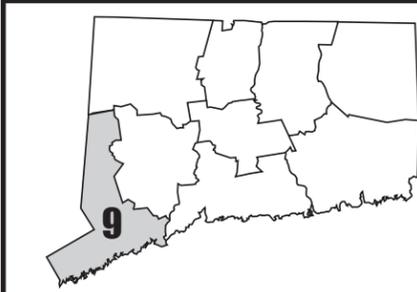


A part of the National Grange
*American Values,
Hometown Roots*

Scan this QR Code and join us on the web!



Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



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

MISSION STATEMENT

Fairfield County Pomona is made up of Community Granges with a special interest in leadership development, who come together to share information and fellowship and through legislative action addresses the needs of all its members and communities.

HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: George Ward

We have been busy the weeks proceeding December 7th, preparing for our Christmas Boutique. Barbara Standley and her faithful workers have spent many hours setting up the straw games, matching numbers with prizes, gathering items for the Chinese auction, and preparing the food basket raffle. Other members have been busy buying food for the lunch we will be serving.

We changed our Insurance company for liability coverage as they wanted us to replace plug type fuses with circuit breakers or our policy would be canceled. Another insurance company was found that would accept the S-Type fuse adapters and fuses, saving the Grange considerable money. The Grange Hall was built in the early thirties and the electrical system is of the same age.

Harmony Grange wishes all of you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

Jan. 11: Pasta Supper, 6 P.M.

Jan. 20: "New Year, Last Year", 7 P.M., Meeting

November saw the beginning of our Winter Farmers Market, which runs on Saturdays from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. until mid-April. Our regular meeting was preceded by a pre-Thanksgiving dinner with turkey and all the fixings and desserts made and provided by many of our members. It was great with members and friends enjoying the meal and the fellowship. The meeting dealt with reports on developments in agriculture, and letter writing with regard to implementation of more reasoned food safety regulations as applicable to farmers.

In January, we have a Pasta Supper scheduled for the 11th, at 6 P.M. R.S.V.P. for details by calling (203) 367-4373. At our regular meeting, we will be involved with planning ahead for Spring and Summer activities as well as garden demo projects and general improvements. Bring your ideas! All of our Grange friends are welcome!

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

Jan. 14: Fair Kick-Off and Planning Meeting (Bring at least one can or non-perishable item for Weston Food Pantry)

Feb. 11: Valentine's Day Celebration, Sweets and Cheers! Wear red or pink.

Mar. 11: Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, 6:30 P.M., \$5 Donation

Who wouldn't want to go to a "Farm to Fork" event? We counted nearly 90 people who definitely did attend ours on Nov. 9, and it was an outstanding success. A fundraiser for the Grange Scholarship Funds and the Farmers' Market, it featured food, wine, cider tasting, art, music and more. A big thank you to all the event planners, chefs, farmers, caterers, helpers, artists, crafters, musicians, and those who helped, attended, donated food, time talent and treasure. It will definitely happen again!

The Winter Farmers' Market began on Nov. 23, and will continue until May 3. And we now have Yoga classes at the Grange Hall, which began on Dec. 2 at 9:00 and 10:30 and will continue every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Classes are being led by Maggie Converse who grew up in Weston and once took Yoga classes at the Grange herself!

And yet "Heavy indeed are the sorrows that so often descend upon us during this earthly pilgrimage." Sue Sulla died on Nov. 6. A member of Cannon Grange, we also counted her as one

of our own. She was the last of an amazing generation of devoted Grangers who took their Degree work very seriously, and always "for the good of the Order." Goodbye, Sue. Thank you for your sense of humor and for being our Lecturer and for keeping us all on track.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

Jan. 16: Business Meeting

Feb. 6: Business Meeting, Program on Nutrition

Feb 8: Silent Movie Night (snow date Feb 22) - 7:30 PM

Feb 20: Business Meeting, Program--what have you been reading?

What a splendid event our Holiday Market was in December! Fabulous vendors and crafts people, delicious food and great decorations. It looked just like one of the Christmas Markets seen across Europe. A very nice crowd, too, of folks from the community and surrounding towns. Great team work by BillieSue Hollingsworth, Julie Wanamaker and Michelle McDonald. We're looking forward to doing the Holiday Market again next year. Proceeds from the event are going towards our kitchen renovation and appliance upgrade.

Coming in February will be our Silent Movie Night, slated for Feb. 8th at 7:30 PM when John Mucci presents live piano accompaniment to a silent film. The snow date will be Feb 22nd. Our Silent Movie Night has become very popular in town, and always a well-attended event by residents in town and the surrounding community.

Please note our meeting and program schedule. Meetings start at 7 PM. Visiting Patrons are always welcome--won't you join us?

Norfield hosts Gingerbread class



(Above) A town of blank gingerbread houses waits for kids and their parents to arrive at Norfield Grange's Gingerbread House Decorating Workshops in December. Proceeds from the workshops benefited the Norfield Grange Scholarship Fund.

Farm Bill

Continued from page one...

have been doing. Some political groups are complaining that this budget does not cut spending. It reportedly does not make any major dents in the US deficit or deal with national borrowing authority. In early 2014 Congress will still have to vote to raise the federal debt limit again.

Connecticut sent five resolutions to the National Grange for action. One of our resolutions was adopted by the delegates and is now Grange Policy. They approved the resolution supporting the reinstatement and continuance of tours of the White House.

State Secretary



Edith Schoell
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

As I start to write my article, the weather outside is frightful-brrrr!

A new year is here and we all look forward to activities planned for our Grange, and community. An exchange of ideas is one way to explore new projects and ways to improve what we are doing. Too many times we say "we have always done it that way." Can we improve? Yes!

Now is the time to have your Grange up-date its by-laws. When was the last time it was done? The Deputy will be looking for a current copy and one should be forwarded to the Central Office.

If you haven't sent in a membership list, please do so as soon as possible. Happy New Year to all.

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!

(USPS 563-220)

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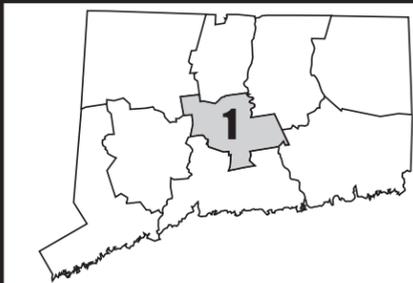
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Vice President Brian Carpenter
Secretary Treasurer. Edith Schoell

Central Pomona No. 1



- ✓ Southington No. 25
- ✓ Meriden No. 29
- Higganum No. 124
- ✓ Hemlock No. 182

MISSION STATEMENT

Central Pomona No. 1 will support its Subordinate/Community Granges through programs and activities by actively contributing its talents and resources. Central Pomona supports local, State and National charities; educational and youth programs.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Jan. 10: Hike Trails

Jan. 24: Omit (Unless the first meeting of the month is canceled)

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Pet Pictures with Santa



(Above) Santa was on hand at Southington Grange #25 on Dec. 8 for their third annual Pet Photos with Santa event at the Southington Grange Hall. (Below) "Dolly" meets Santa at the Meriden Grange #29 Pet Photos with Santa day on December 7 at Meriden Grange Hall.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

New Year's Resolutions for your Grange

As we ring in the new year, there's no better time to take a few minutes and reflect on the last year for your Grange, and to make a few resolutions for 2014.

Staying in touch with your membership keeps everyone in the loop with the activities and projects of your Grange. Good communications creates enthusiasm.

• Resolve to ... get the word out about my Grange.

It only takes a moment to send out a press release, post on Facebook and Twitter, hang a poster or two, or pick up the good old-fashioned telephone. Make the effort and reap the benefits!

• Resolve to ... think outside the box.

Look for new ways to engage your members and the public. Find something that inspires you and then find a way to incorporate that into your Grange. Don't be afraid to try something new.

• Resolve to ... take photos and be more visual.

As the old saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words. Incorporating photos (and even video) into your Grange's marketing efforts can increase the public's interest (and the interest of your existing members too!)

• Resolve to ... be a better Grange!

Have fun as a group. Laugh more. Give to the community. Be curious. Volunteer and lend a hand. Focus. Choose a favorite project to participate in. Exercise your mind. Be tolerant. Discover something new. Say thank you. But most importantly, share your love of the organization with others.

• Resolve to ... communicate with your membership more frequently.

Join the 2014 Poker Run



The Poker Run Starts as soon after January 1, 2014 as possible. Cards will be provided by the State Grange. If your Community Grange chooses to start prior to receiving the State Grange supplied cards, please write your Grange number in permanent marker on the back side of the card. Pomona Granges are to put a "P" in front of your number.

RULES:

- Cards are to be shuffled prior to giving them out.
- Cards are to be given to visitors ONLY.
- Only one card per visitor.
- A Prize will be awarded to the member(s) with the best Poker hand at the 2014 State Grange Session.
- A Prize will be awarded to the Member who has the most cards in their hand.
- Other random Prizes will be awarded

Leadership/Membership Tip: The Origins of a Grange

How the first Grange was chartered in Georgia since 1885



by Michael Martin
Leadership/Membership Director
membership@nationalgrange.org

In January, the South Carolina State Grange staffed an informational booth at the first annual South Carolina Agribusiness and Farm Exposition.

Former National Lecturer Pete Pompper, North Carolina State Grange Membership Director Jessica Horton and I assisted State Master Jerry Martin with this exhibit. Jerry, assisted by Communications Director Amanda Leigh Brozana, purchased a full-page ad in the exposition program, which gained much publicity among this agricultural audience.

In addition to speaking with hundreds of exhibition participants and visitors, we made a connection with a fledgling group of hobby farmers. We spoke frequently throughout the event.

The hobby farmer group had formed via Facebook about four months prior and already had 350 "likes" on their Facebook page. As a result, Jerry Martin invited the hobby farmers to attend a Grange meeting and Jerry attended several hobby farmer meetings and events.

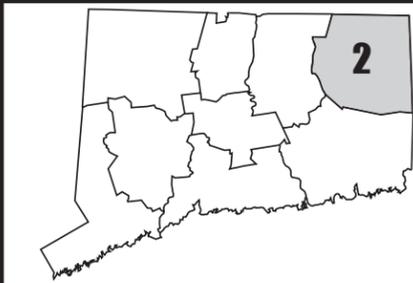
Out of this cross-pollination of experiences and ideas, the hobby farmers, being a very new organization, really liked the organizational structure of the Grange (local, state, national) and were highly enthusiastic about the local autonomy of Subordinate Granges.

Some of the hobby farmers were in nearby Georgia. They started talking with Jerry about how to organize a Grange for their colleagues. Jerry referred them to me, and soon we had a round-robin discussion via telephone and email between David Young, organizer of the Hobby Farmers of the Central Savannah River Area in Georgia and Jerry, Pete, Jessica and myself. Many thanks to Jimmy Gentry and the North Carolina State Grange for allowing the flexibility for Jessica to travel repeatedly to Georgia.

In a matter of several weeks an informational meeting was scheduled in Augusta, Georgia. This was followed two weeks later by an organizational meeting, and on August 8, 2013 Savannah River Grange was organized. This is the first Grange organized in Georgia since 1885!

So, welcome Savannah River Grange to our Order and congratulations to the team effort that made this possible.

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



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

MISSION STATEMENT

Quinebaug Pomona supports and assists the communities within its jurisdiction through a financial and physical presence. We offer the Community Granges assistance and support for their programs and activities.

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Jan. 14: Australia Program

We had a special guest from Day Kimball Homemakers, Susan Esons.

This organization provides service to persons in their homes. They service 42 families in our town. This program was in honor of Family Caregivers Month. They provide seasonal care and homemaking services.

Following this we began the pie making for Thanksgiving sale. We sold them the day before Thanksgiving and had a great line of pies and lots of customers. This is a major fundraiser. Thanks to all who helped.

Next meeting will be a presentation on Australia.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Jan. 6: "Should work be assigned you..." Mtg./Prog. 7:30 P.M.

Jan. 24: Annual FAMILY Casino Night

Feb. 3: "...in our Fraternity, there is work for all..."

At our Dec. meeting, we remembered our roots from 125 years ago, when our Grange organized and dues were \$3.00 for men and \$1.00 for women. It was interesting to find, through research that we have THREE generations having held the position of Master/President: John Molodich Jr.; his son, Michael Molodich and Michael's daughter, Katie Molodich! Mike and Katie both hold office today, while John Jr. is watching from The Great Grange Above. We voted to hold our 125th anniversary in April – date to be announced

Our youth are enjoying Sunday night Volleyball in the Sterling Gym and will soon travel to MA for a snowboarding adventure!

Our pavilion looks FANTASTIC- thanks Chris Sebastian and volunteers: this will be enjoyed by many in the days and years

ahead!

We were saddened to accept (with regrets) the resignation of our A.S., J. Allen Cameron, who has been accepted into the prestigious Miner Institute in Chazy, NY to study agriculture. He is the second student from UConn accepted into this program, the first was Ekonk's own Jon Hermonot! Congratulations, J. Allen! We voted to assist Sterling Family Day with a Spaghetti Supper at our hall on Jan. 18th. We have established a "Commercial Refrigerator Fund." One of our standard refrigerators "died" and our present commercial is over 25 years old and was just restored to full usage. We received a donation of \$200.00 from Bill Sebastian and family and it was voted to put this into the Grange Scholarship Account.

Our Grange placed 4th nationally in the 2013 Community Service Contest and congratulate our Richmond, RI friends, who captured first place. Their 50 mile MS walk was truly an amazing project to undertake and complete!

Eleven from Ekonk attended parts of the National Grange Convention. Jody and Jodi Ann as delegates; Jamie Cameron was a marching candidate for the Seventh Degree; Clifford and Trevor Gervais were members of the Sixth Degree Rose Drill Team and Clifford was on the National Grange Youth Officer Corp. Link Cooper and Paulette Craig, and the three Gervais brothers all took the Seventh Degree. Katie and Mike Molodich represented Ekonk at the National Grange Distinguished Grange Awards Reception, when Ekonk received the plaque for this distinction. Jody Cameron brought (from National Grange), "Hank the Burro" to visit Ekonk. "Hank" will be visiting Granges during the coming year. Jody took a group picture at our Dec. meeting (with GK, Richard Tavalsky holding "Hank"). Visit us

anytime!

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

Jan. 6: New Year Wishes

Jan. 20: Snow Date

By the time this report is in Thanksgiving will be over and everyone will be worrying about all the weight they gained. Well take heart. Christmas is coming and more weight will be packed on. Got to get out and walk, run, jog....

Killingly Grangers have been busy this last month. With a Farmers' Market and vendors, crafters and serving lunch for the same, were very busy. Just this week- today- Nov. 27, Julie, Pat

Lewis, Bernadette, Eleanor and Glenna finished sewing grocery bags (pretty ones) and stuffing them with food for a Thanksgiving meal. Turkey, potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, etc. for three families in need in and around the area.

We will be doing the same for Christmas. So Grangers- Killingly and others, if possible, drop off canned goods and fresh winter veggies (for a needy family) to be put into food baskets for the upcoming Christmas holiday. We never know when we may need help. These are Killingly Grange projects and the families are always

grateful. Upcoming projects – wreath making and sales along with whatever other money making projects our new Master can think up to make money to support the projects. Come join us if you have spare time.

We had a new group playing at our Blue Grass Night and we are hoping to get them for a return gig in the near future.

The Kitchen Crew served up a good meal of soup (homemade) and sandwiches and goodies. Granges always have GOOD COOKS.

Stay warm and healthy and Happy New Year to all.

Ekonk Hill Turkey Can Can



Nine members of Ekonk Community Grange were involved in the First Annual "Turkey Can-Can" 3.5 mile road race with benefited Project Pin (the food pantry for Sterling and Plainfield). Sterling's Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm (owners are also Ekonk Grange members) sponsored the event and the first 50 runners received free t-shirts shown in picture by Ekonk members Robin Cousens (right) and her daughter Ashley, who also ran in the race.

Many of the runners were members of the "169 Society" (runners that attend a race in every town in Connecticut). There were a total of 7 runners from Sterling.

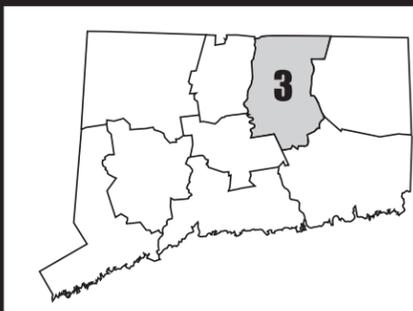
Hanna Rouillard (a teen), from Pine Hill Road in Sterling, placed 2nd in her division and 39th overall. First Selectman (and Grange member) Russell Gray welcomed everyone at the starting line and extended best wishes to all contestants, while thanking everyone for their generosity in supporting Project Pin, which helps the needy in both Sterling and Plainfield.

Killingly Winter Market



Above left: Killingly Grange Master Bernadette Schuster prepares Christmas wreaths for sale at their Winter Farmers' Market in December. Above right: Some of the vegetables and vendors at the Killingly Farmers' Market.

East Central Pomona No. 3



- ✓ Stafford No. 1
- Granby No. 5
- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Tolland No. 51
- ✓ Vernon No. 52
- ✓ Coventry No. 75
- Hillstown No. 87
- Enfield No. 151
- ✓ Simsbury No. 197

MISSION STATEMENT

East Central Pomona supports the Community Granges by helping one another; through legislative advocacy and by supporting community service efforts.

E. CENTRAL POMONA #3

Corr: Noel Miller

Jan. 4: Speak Out (Legislation), Vernon Grange at 7:30 P.M.

Feb: No Meeting

Happy New Year to all. We are meeting at Vernon Grange, which has an elevator, and in the middle of our Pomona so members in the northern part of the Pomona do not have to travel as far. Hope to see you there.

STAFFORD GRANGE #1

Corr: Laura Fonicello

Stafford Grange #1 members donated food items to the Stafford Community Center for their annual food drive. We also donated three complete Thanksgiving dinners and dessert! The donations were well received and distributed to families in need in the Stafford Springs community.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Jan. 2: 7:30 P.M., "Celebrate the New Year"- Potluck Dessert, Chairman Kay Ruff

Jan. 11: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7:00 P.M.

Feb. 6: Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Love is in the Air; Ref. Dan & Ann Posuniak, Jeannine Carini

Feb. 8: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party at 7:00 P.M.

Glastonbury Grange enjoyed our Christmas Party at Olympic Pizza. We had at least 15 in attendance. We collected children's books for the Glastonbury Social Service Department. As I am typing this up I do not have the number of books collected. I will report that at the next issue.

Here we are in 2014 already. Time to think about what we need to accomplish in the new year. One important issue is NEW MEMBERS. We all, need to bring in at least one new member this year. REMEMBER when we are no longer here there needs to be someone here to replace us. If we don't do something about it, who

will? I will be passing out Grange applications for all to use in January and February. Let's see who has the best luck at bringing in a completed application or two.

I will also be calling the Glastonbury Social Service Department to see what they can use during the late winter and early springtime. Maybe non-perishable food items, or something for the needy children.

I am sure we all had a nice Christmas season and are now ready to get into the swing of 2014. Bring a friend or two with you to our card parties. We could use at least two more tables. See you at a meeting and at the card parties.

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Leona Wilson

Jan. 7: Youth Program

Jan. 21: Snow

Feb. 4: Sun or Shadow

We held an open house on November 19th at the grange hall. We welcomed four guests at our open house. At our January 7 meeting we voted on two applications and performed the Welcome Ceremony on two new members. We possibly have two more new members coming in. We also had a long time member who had not attended for many years came to visit. We are continuing our community service project to help the animal shelters. We are also thinking about other projects that we can undertake to assist our community. On January 7, we will have a Youth program. We hope to see some young people at this meeting. Our January 21 program will be all about "Snow" that white stuff that we see this time of year. On February 4, we will learn about "Sun or Shadow". Come and join us.

TOLLAND GRANGE #51

Corr: J. Jordan

Jan. 7: Who Are We?

To date we have learned many interesting things about Cheri Robinson, Dorothy Dimmock, and Jen

Hopkins. This month we will hear from Bernice West.

Join us if you wish. We meet at the Park School Recreational Wing in Tolland. Our meetings start at 7:30 P.M. Happy New Year!

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

Jan. 4: Setting Up for Pomona- Our Own School of Instruction, 7 P.M.

Jan. 5: East Central Pomona meeting at Vernon

On Jan. 4, we will be setting up the hall for East Central Pomona's visit the next night. This will be a good practice for our new officers. In case of snow cancellation, we will meet the next Friday, Jan. 11 and doing a "Good Reads." Members will bring their favorite books and talk about them.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

Jan. 2: New Years

Coventry Grange will celebrate Sister Alice Williams 100th birthday this meeting, a member who still comes to meetings and bakes everyday. God bless you, Alice. We are all hoping for a warm winter but should call before you visit just in case. Happy New Year!

Sleight of hand in Simsbury



On Sunday Nov. 3rd, nationally acclaimed magician Brian Miller performed an afternoon of intimate close-up magic at Simsbury Grange No. 197 in West Simsbury. The event was titled "Brian Miller Magic and Friends," and opened with short performances by two of Miller's finest long-term magic students followed by a full show by Brian. At left a future Junior Granger watches as Brian demonstrates one of his many illusions.

DEPUTY TEAM

INSPECTIONS RITUAL CODE READING SUPPORT INSTRUCTION

Todd A. Gelineau, General Deputy

WINTER MEETINGS

Winter is here and we're already feeling the effects with many Granges having to reschedule or cancel meetings due to weather. We remind all Granges of their obligation to meet once a month per the National Digest:

6.12.1 *A Subordinate Grange must meet regularly once a month and may provide for additional meetings in its By-Laws.*

The calling of a special meeting may be required to meet this obligation but it is one of the things a Grange MUST do to maintain its Charter. Please feel free to contact me and especially the State Master if you have any questions or are having any difficulties. Keeping a line of communication open with the State Grange is always encouraged.

COMMUNITY GRANGE SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION

As was announced at State Session, the Schools of Instruction for the Community Granges will have a new format this year. Rather than having 8 individual Schools in each of the Pomonas, there will be 2 Schools (one in the East and the other in the West). There will be a Leadership presentation by the State Master and then the Masters and Overseers will meet with the State Master and General Deputy while the Lecturers, Secretaries and Treasurers will meet with their State Grange counterparts. All members are encouraged to attend the Schools, but we especially encourage the officers listed above to come with any and all questions they have about their Grange work.

We anticipate holding these Schools in February but the dates and locations were not confirmed by the printing of this issue of the Granger. Communications will be sent out to each Community Grange along with Twitter, Facebook and website notices

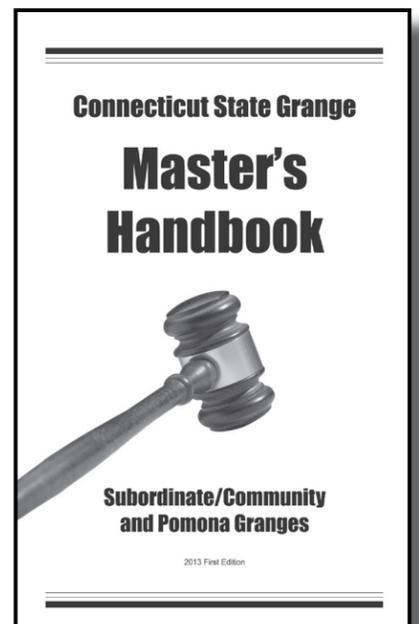
as the information becomes available.

POMONA SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION

Pomona Schools of Instruction will follow the same format of the last couple of years and will be scheduled on a meeting night of each Pomona. We ask all Pomona Lecturers to omit their programs for the evening to allow enough time for the School and to keep the meeting within a reasonable length. Again, the dates were not available at the time of this printing, but we will keep you posted when the information becomes available.

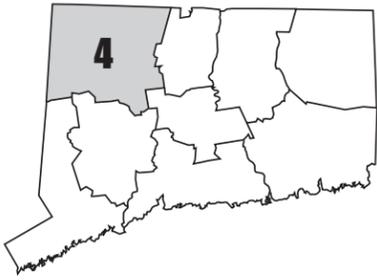
STEWARDS INVENTORY

We remind Granges that copies of your 2013 Steward's Inventory should be submitted at the same time you file your Executive Committee Reports with the General Deputy. Copies should also be available for the Deputy on the night of Inspection.



Copies of the Master's Handbook are still available by contacting the State Secretary or the General Deputy (generaldeputy@ctstategrange.org). Cost is \$5.00 each. Available to all members.

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



- Cawasa No. 34
- ✓ Whigville No. 48
- Eureka No. 62
- ✓ Winchester No. 74
- Taghannuck No. 100
- Litchfield No. 107
- Beacon No. 118
- ✓ Riverton No. 169
- Cherry Brook No. 210

MISSION STATEMENT

Mountain County Pomona No. 4 has strong leadership, a keen sense of community and many skills and talents which we use to promote and support our local Community Granges through citizenship, legislative and agricultural policies within our Pomona.

MT. COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Feb. 11: Wear Your Heart
– Eureka Grange Hall, 7:30 P.M.

It's usually the February meeting that is affected by winter, not the December. Unfortunately the snow and ice fell on our Dec. 9 meeting night at Winchester causing its cancellation. As we do not meet in January, our next meeting will be on Feb. 11 at Eureka Grange Hall when the program will be "Wear Your Heart," presented by the members of Eureka. See you there!

WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

Corr: Debbie Brown

Whigville Grange held its Dec. meeting at the Burlington Town hall. This will be our winter meeting place. Our program was "Gingerbread", a great inspiration for the cookie and chocolates walk, which was soon to come. The walk was held at Terryville Congregational Church, a great place seeing so many of us live in Terryville. Between the cookies, chocolates, country store, and teacup auction, it was indeed a good day. By the time you all read this, Christmas Day will have passed, but remember that day is really only the beginning of Christmas!! With so much going into preparing for the season, we need to enjoy it fully! May the new year bring good things and many blessings to all the Granges. Join us on the 3rd Weds., 7pm for a meeting, laughter and fun!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Jan. 14: "A New Year," Ref. Potluck Supper beginning at 6:00 P.M.

Jan. 28: "Let it Snow," Ref. Women

Feb. 11: "Be My Valentine"
– Country Store, Ref. Sue Addison

Let's hope the Tuesday weather pattern that has dominated November and December will not carry into the new year! Our second meeting of November and our meeting on the second Tuesday of December were both canceled due to snow. In addition, an officer's planning meeting scheduled for Dec. 6 was also canceled due to weather. We were finally able to meet on Thursday, Dec. 19 for a brief business meeting as the next two Tuesdays were Christmas and New Year's Eve. It can be difficult to meet the requirements of the National Digest, but it can be done with perseverance!

Despite our constant activities throughout the spring, summer and fall, the end of year financial picture is always challenging. We were very pleased to receive generous donations from our members that will go a long way towards carrying us through a very expensive heating season. One donation was quite large and the donors asked to remain anonymous, but we know they are subscribers, so THANK YOU for your generous support of YOUR Grange!

We also thank the many members that didn't wait for their dues notices to arrive to send in their checks. It is greatly appreciated, especially by the Secretary!

Hopefully our first meeting of January will go on as scheduled. There will be a potluck supper beginning at 6:00 P.M. followed by the business meeting. That evening we will set a new date for our Planning Meeting that was canceled in Dec.

Christmas in Riverton



This past weekend during the Christmas in Riverton festivities, the Barkhamsted Recreation Commission held its annual Christmas Craft Workshop at the Festival of Trees which was hosted by the Riverton Grange. Children were able to create 3 different ornaments while listening to Christmas carols, enjoying refreshments and viewing trees provided by local organizations and businesses.

The winner of the best dressed tree contest was Denise Wells for The Catnip Mouse Tea room. Despite the weather, the contest enabled the collection of 75 lbs of food and conversion of monetary donations to \$235 in grocery gift cards to benefit the Community Foodbank located in the United Methodist Church of Pleasant Valley. The Riverton Grange would like to thank White Flower Farm in Litchfield for their donation of decorations and the following organizations for their participation in this year's tree contest: Barkhamsted Women's Club, Immaculate Conception Parish, Barkhamsted Historical Society, Barkhamsted Conservation Commission, Barkhamsted Girl Scout Troops, Barkhamsted Boy Scout Pack 40, Barkhamsted Tiger Scouts, Mindy Henry Day Care, Riverton Congregational Church, and The Catnip Mouse Tea Room.

Cookie & Chocolate Walk



The Whigville Grange Cookie and Chocolates Walk, held at the Terryville Congregational Church on Dec. 7 was a big success! Customers chose from dozens of types of cookies, chocolates, and country store items.

Granger Shout Out



To Cannon Grange members (l to r): Julie Wanamaker, Michelle McDonald, BillieSue Hollingsworth for all the great work and fantastic job on organizing, PR, and decorations for the very successful "Holiday Market" on Dec. 7th.

A big thank you to everyone who helped at the Excelsior Pomona Bazaar and Roast Beef Dinner. You were awesome.

A big thank-you to Lin and Maggie for hosting the Past Deputies Christmas Party and meeting. Good time had by all.

Submit your Shout-Outs today!

Granger@CTStateGrange.org

They can also be mailed to 170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790.

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



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

MISSION STATEMENT

New Haven County Pomona through the strength of its Community Granges offers collective wisdom and experience to enhance the individual leadership skills, pride in Grange ritual and camaraderie to all citizens in the communities in which we serve!

NEW HAVEN CTY. POMONA #5

Corr: Wesle Dymoke

Jan. 13: Regular Meeting in Cheshire; Program: Youth Night

Mar. 10: Regular Meeting in Wallingford; Program: Talent & "A Number" Runoffs

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Jan. 1: Happy New Year – No Meeting

Jan. 15: Legislative Round Up – State Rep. Mary Fritz

Cheshire Grange is looking forward to a busy 2014.

Our Christmas Open House was well attended with good refreshments and our annual Christmas Card Exchange. December 7 was our second annual Craft Fair. The committee did a good job putting things together for this event.

We passed out dictionaries to all of the third grade students in Cheshire as part of the "Words for Thirds" program. It is a great project and gives our Grange good publicity in town.

We delivered Christmas items to our shut-in members and others to include a local retirement

home, that were put together throughout the year on our crafts nights. These folks work very diligently and will be starting up again in January.

NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #34

Corr: A. Tolette

Jan. 7: Wheel of Fortune – Youth & CWA

Feb. 4: Did You Know?

We have survived the Thanksgiving Feast. We do have so much to be thankful for.

If Mother Nature will be kind to us we will have our meetings on the first Tuesday of the month.

Sorry to report that John Alexander has had surgery and is now recuperating at the Masonic Home and Hospital. Emily and John are the main gears of our Grange wheel. Be well soon, John, we have your seat warmed for you.

Happy New Year to all and a healthy one too!

OLD LYME GRANGE #162

Corr: Barbara C. Kulisch

Jan. 10: Dow Memory Lane

Jan. 24: Snow Date for Jan. 10

Feb. 14: February Things...

We welcomed State

Agriculture Committee member Ted Powell and Arlie Chapman, Gatekeeper of New London County Pomona #6 at our meeting on Nov. 22. A good time was had by all in attendance. We are always glad to see Sister

Amy Winger, Chaplain of Lyme Grange #147 as well.

We continue our "Surrendering the Charter" process, which is taking us longer than expected, but we are getting through it all.

We celebrated our 108th Anniversary at the Dec. 13th meeting, preceded by potluck supper and a lot of memories along the way.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year!

Granges participate in the Dictionary Project

The idea for The Dictionary Project (commonly referred to as "Words for Thirds") began in 1992 when Annie Plummer of Savannah, Georgia gave 50 dictionaries to children who attended a school close to her home. In her lifetime she raised the money to buy 17,000 dictionaries for children in Savannah, Georgia. Annie Plummer died December 23, 1999, but her dream did not die with her. She inspired the creation of The Dictionary Project, a nonprofit organization.

The Dictionary Project was created in 1995 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Charleston, South Carolina. Its original goal was to provide dictionaries to third graders in the public schools in the three counties surrounding Charleston, and this was accomplished in the 1995-96 school year and every year since. In 2001 the project was expanded to cover the third graders in all of South Carolina's public schools.

The project grew tremendously after it

was featured in an article on the front page of The Wall Street Journal on March 4, 2002 [1] This coverage brought national attention to the project and its founders, Mary and Arno French. As a result, individuals and groups from across the United States became involved with The Dictionary Project and sponsored the donation of dictionaries to children in their local schools.

The project continues to expand and now includes sponsors in all fifty United States, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Canada, and several other countries. The program has been adopted by civic organizations and adapted to local communities through the sponsorship of Rotary Clubs, BPO Elks, Kiwanis Clubs, Granges, Pioneer Volunteer groups, Lions Clubs, the Republican Federation of Women and other service organizations, by educational groups such as PTAs, by businesses, and by individuals. Anyone can participate in this project by sponsoring a program to give dictionaries to children in their community. – from Wikipedia



Ekonk Community Grange participated with Russell Gray attending in his capacity as First Selectman of Sterling. Jim Molodich attended as photographer. Rebecca Gervais, Ekonk's Community Development Director, led in fun "dictionary games" and she and Russell presented all three 3rd grade classes with a dictionaries.



Taghannuck Grange #100 (in Sharon, CT) presented dictionaries to students at Sharon Center School (pictured with Master Barbara Prindle). Dictionaries were also presented by Ed Wathley and Andy Olson at Kent Center School. Cornwall and Warren will also receive dictionaries.

Cheshire sends Christmas cheer



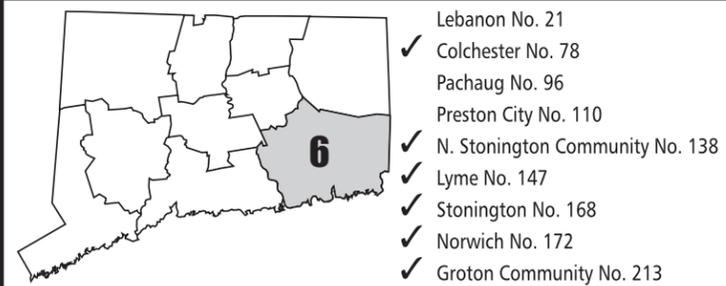
Decorated boxes filled with several gifts and a tin of cookies are being delivered to shut-ins, both Cheshire Grange members and non-members alike. For many the best thing is the visit and a chance to talk about old times.

Cheshire Grange #23 members Liz Ryducha, Rich Bernhardt, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Greg Florio, and Grange members Marge Bernhardt and Ruel Miller pose with students Amber Casner, Isabella Carrito, Marco Donato and Lukas Sargolini at Doolittle Elementary School in Cheshire.

Dictionaries are passed out to students as they leave the assembly.



New London County Pomona No. 6



- Lebanon No. 21
- ✓ Colchester No. 78
- Pachaug No. 96
- Preston City No. 110
- ✓ N. Stonington Community No. 138
- ✓ Lyme No. 147
- ✓ Stonington No. 168
- ✓ Norwich No. 172
- ✓ Groton Community No. 213

MISSION STATEMENT

To cultivate and nurture the flock while encouraging their advancement to the degree of Pomona.

NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Feb. 8: Movie Night & Potluck Dinner @ N. Stonington Grange

Mar. 8: Talent Show @ N. Stonington Grange

As the winter closes in around us we look forward to our annual movie night. This year we will see "Hotel for Dogs" at North Stonington Grange. The evening begins with a potluck dinner at 6:00. The movie follows at 7:00 P.M.

It's not too early to begin planning your talent for our March 8 meeting. This meeting will also be held at North Stonington Grange as they have a stage.

It's time for the movie, so get on your coat.

You might bring a cake or a strawberry float.

The movie is free! It won't cost a dime!

So gather your friends and show up on time.

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Jan. 10: "Snug as a Bug in a Rug"

Jan. 24: "To Get A Charge Out of"

We provided a hearty Thanksgiving dinner to eight needy North Stonington families in November. Our mitten tree is up. We will be collecting hats and mittens for the next couple of months, so be sure to bring some for the tree when you come to a meeting.

Cheree Anne Miner was installed as a member of our Executive Committee at our November 8 meeting. That same evening Chris Pianta treated us to an interesting program on Greenwall Systems.

On Nov. 22 we voted to update our old men's room with modern plumbing and a new floor. We will also replace our kitchen floor and look into a more modern sink. Our program for the evening, on special events in the month of September, convinced us we should have paid more attention in our High School Social

Studies classes.

Our January programs sound very interesting. The first will be on raising silk worms and silk spinning. The second will present the experiences of a senior pyrotechnician with Grucci Fireworks. And if the little downy woodpecker who spent an hour with me on Thanksgiving will just keep from bopping into my window, next time I'll tell you all about delicious December.

LYME GRANGE #147

Feb. 6: Love is in the Air

Mar. 6: In Like a Lamb-CWA in charge of the program.

Apr. 3: Youth & Young at Heart in charge of the program

Our December meeting turned out a wonderful potluck supper. Amazing how they all seem to balance themselves out.

We voted to change insurance companies as our old one dropped us. Option 2 was voted in- the more coverage plan. A full payment was voted so we will not go into payments and possible expense.

Granges with fairs are having problems obtaining coverage due to recent trouble in the Carolina's- we are fully insured for building - volunteers, etc. It took many hours of research by Jim- Chair of the Executive Committee— thank you, Jim!

Our property committee has lots of things that need "fixing"- the valve on the water heater is immediate.

Lyme's Youth Service Bureau does a lot for our youth in our community. This year they adopted single parent families and are attempting to fulfill their small wish lists. A vote was made and we will donate a monetary amount to help them with this project.

With it being Sandy's birthday - a cake was fixed up and the song sung.

Christmas cards were passed out and 18 cards were signed and will be mailed to our oldest member, Virginia Gardner,

age 99.

Note cards were passed out and 22 thank you notes will be sent to Frank Forest who tucks them into packages for our soldiers overseas.

Old wives tales- "as the days begin to lengthen the cold begins to strengthen." I hope they are wrong,

Happy new year to everyone!

STONINGTON GRANGE #168

Corr: Lisa Herzig

Dec. 7: Wreath Making/

Membership Drive Workshop at Dick and Dot Windgate's Voluntown.

Dec. 12: December meeting, "Across the Pond," presented by Lisa Herzig and Ceilidh (kay-lee) Burdick, who traveled extensively in Britain this past Summer. We will have some games and trivia based on British lingo and trivia. A slide show is possible.

In October, Ceilidh Burdick and Lisa Herzig were admitted to the 6th

Degree at the 129th State Session in Norwich.

NORWICH GRANGE #172

Corr: Susan Kenney

The Norwich Grange had its annual Christmas Party. We ate, played games, and exchanged gifts while listening to Christmas carols on the CD player. The food for books event was held on Nov. 30, 2013. Citizens brought foods to donate in exchange for books. Happy Holidays to all from Norwich Grange.

Groton Community Grange



Above left: Richard Tarryl plays accordion at a recent meeting of Groton Community Grange No. 213. He also played "Happy Birthday" for Mike, Natasja (shown at left) and Madeline. Above right: Mike Doyle and Anne Marie Knochenhauer present approximately 140 pounds of food to Groton Services.

Colchester Grange Awards



Left: Pomona Deputy East Jim Palmer presents Colchester Ag. Committee Chair Chris Bourque with a plaque in recognition of the most squash grown and donated to food banks (Granges with 50 members or less). Right: Pat Palmer (left) poses with Eve O'Connell, winner of the Quilt Block Contest from Connecticut. Here winning block went on to National to become part of a quilt.

Oxford's Ajello reaches 75 yrs.



Frank Ajello, Jr. of Oxford Grange and formerly of Seymour Grange, receiving his 75 year membership certificate at his home in Seymour. Frank joined the Grange at the age of 14 and was Master of Seymour Grange in 1949 but has not been active since Seymour merged into Oxford Grange. He was quite active at one time as he and his wife live right down the road from the former Seymour Grange Hall.

Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- Bethlehem No. 121
- ✓ Prospect No. 144
- ✓ Bridgewater No. 153
- Wolcott No. 173
- ✓ Oxford No. 194

MISSION STATEMENT

Excelsior Pomona's collective voice is used as an effective tool to further the Grange's good works locally and throughout the state.

EXCELSIOR POMONA #7

Corr: Jean Meehan

Jan. 15: Going for the Gold

We start out the new year with Going for the Gold at Bethlehem Grange. Everyone will get a chance to get some gold if you have the right answer.

Our 39th Annual Roast Beef Dinner and Bazaar was a great success thanks to the many members that came to help and support this event and the officers for their pie donations.

We hope everyone had a great holiday season and we all look forward to the new year and new projects.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

The January meeting of Beacon Valley Grange will be held on the tenth with a program entitled "Jolly Januaryu." It will be jolly if we don't slip and slide all the way to the meeting. Harriet Sawczuk will be hostess.

Congratulations to Robert Burns who was re-elected to Naugatuck Burgesses in the November election. Gentelman Bob has been a Burgess for 39 years. He will receive his 70 year seal as a member when we celebrate our 125th Anniversary on May 30th.

PROSPECT GRANGE #144

Corr: Jean Meehan

Thanksgiving morning several of our members passed out Thanksgiving favors to each of the patients at our local convalescent home. 150 little turkeys that once flew around our Secretary's home is now flying around the rooms in the convalescent home. They were a hit with the patients.

Prospect Grange members made and donated sandwiches and cookies to the Prospect Historical Society for their Christmas Open House on Dec. 7.

150 stockings were made

and given out for Christmas to each of the patients and 150 snowman favors were made and donated to the members of the Senior Center for their Christmas party.

12 pair of mittens were donated to the National Grange Mitten Tree in

Manchester, NH and we donated gifts to a needy family from the Wish Tree at the local church.

Our Christmas Party was one large Pizza Party where we judged pizzas from the various Pizza restaurants in our town. This was a lot of fun. We also exchanged

Christmas cards and had a grab bag.

At our January 9th meeting we rang in the new year with snowflakes which will be sent to our shut-ins with a new year greetings.

We look forward to finding new projects in the new year to tackle.



Prospect Grange members made 200 of these snowmen filled with candy and passed them out to the employees at Prospect Town Hall and the local convalescent home patients.

Southern CT Past Masters

by Joanne Cipriano

The January meeting of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters will be held at Meriden Grange Hall on January 18th. A slight change from our usual second Saturday meeting. Cindy Charbonneau's program will be "New Year's Resolutions."

Wonder how many will have already

broken their resolutions?

The evening starts with a potluck supper at 6:30 P.M., followed by a meeting as soon as the dishes are done. This is followed by our program and country store. See you in Meriden.

Social Connection

Joanne Cipriano Director

Not much for our Committee to report. The Committee has been busy enjoying all the Christmas parties.

In the next issue of the Granger we will announce our Spring and Fall activities. We know what we are planning for the Fall but we are a little befuddled about the Spring. In the meantime, enjoy our ever-changing Connecticut weather and stay warm and healthy.

CWA Baking Contest

Caramel Rocky Road Bars

(Enter 8 bars for judging)

Crumb Mixture

- 1 Cup flour
- 3/4 Cup quick cooking oats
- 1/2 Cup sugar
- 1/2 Cup butter, softened
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup chopped salted peanuts

Filling

- 1/2 Cup caramel ice cream topping
- 1/2 Cup salted peanuts
- 1-1/2 Cups miniature marshmallows
- 1/2 Cup milk chocolate chips

Makes 2 dozen bars

Heat oven to 350°. For crumb mixture, in a small mixer bowl, combine flour, oats, sugar, butter, baking soda and salt. Beat at low speed, scraping bowl often, until mixture is crumbly – 1 to 2 minutes.

Stir in nuts. Reserve 3/4 cup of the crumb mixture. Press remaining crumb mixture on bottom of greased and floured 9 inch square baking pan. Bake for 12 to 17 minutes, or until lightly browned.

For filling, spread caramel topping evenly over hot crust. Sprinkle nuts, marshmallows and chocolate chips over top. Crumble 3/4 cup reserved crumb mixture over top. Continue baking 20 to 25 minutes, or until crumb mixture is lightly browned. Cover, refrigerate 1 to 2 hours, or until firm. Cut into bars.

Contest is open to Grange members, children and grandchildren of members and Junior Grange members.

Judging for the baking contest is held in the Subordinate Grange with the winners baking again for the State Judging at Let's Celebrate in June at Cheshire Grange Hall.

PRIZES FOR THE CRAFT AND BAKING CONTESTS AT THE STATE LEVEL WILL BE: 1st Place - \$10.00; 2nd Place - \$5.00; 3rd Place - \$3.00.

Do You Remember?



In 2013 we remembered...

- January** Ralph Ingalls
- February** Anne Seger
- March** Evelyn Normand
- April** New England Grange Building
- May** Rudy & Pat McNeal
- June** David W. Seelye
- July** The Bicentennial Quilt
- August** Paul Ziegler
- September** Frank Warner
- October** Betty Jane took a break
- November** Lillian Merrill
- December** Carl P. (Bud) MacLaurin

When Marion Beecher passed, there was only one person who had the ability to pick up the torch (in this case a pen) and carry on Marion's vision for this column. She has done a spectacular job.

This month she has several subjects in the works for upcoming columns but they are difficult to complete for a lack of information and photos... a common problem she has with the column.

If you have a person or subject you would like to see featured in "Do You Remember" please contact me. It would be even more wonderful if you had photos to go along with your suggestion.

Let's make Betty Jane's job a little easier and lend a hand!

Anyone who knows Betty Jane will know that she will be very embarrassed to be featured in the Granger this way but she really cannot be thanked enough for carrying on the monumental task of writing this column each month.

Now I wait. . . for the phone call after she sees this in the Granger!

Todd A. Gelineau,
Connecticut Granger Editor

This month, we take time to thank Sister Betty Jane Gardiner for her tireless work to pull this column together for us each month. It's not an easy task. As you can see from the list, she has covered a wide variety of people and subjects during the past year.



Betty Jane Gardiner

Welcome New Members!

- Anne Cella Wallingford Grange #33
- Robin McCoy Wallingford Grange #33
- Henry Cadett Wallingford Grange #33



Greetings Grange Friends!

Since arriving at my new home in Connecticut after the National Grange Session, I've been a busy Burro!

With the holidays approaching as of this writing, I got to experience my first snow, helped Jaimie make a cool gingerbread house and played a game of hide and seek with my family as we decorated the tree. This is my first Christmas!

I began brushing up on all there is to know about the Grange. I want to be prepared when I travel to Granges across the State. Willy the Sheep was right about there being a lot of work ahead. But my new family has made it fun for me to learn and become a good Grange member - and has provided me with an impressive wardrobe so I can visit in style!

The first Grange I visited was Wolcott Grange. I got to watch their Installation of Officers ceremony. The Schoell Installing Team did a beautiful job. The members of Wolcott Grange sure gave me a warm welcome and I got to meet another Hank too! They have a lot of fun activities planned.

I visited Ekonk Community Grange on December 3rd and learned about all of their Community Service efforts. They are a dedicated bunch and have an active Junior Grange too. This is my family's home Grange - so this is now my home Grange too!

On December 4th I visited Cheshire Grange for their awards night. I was proud to be present when many of their members were honored with seals and certificates. Member Donald Beard received a certificate for being a member for 80 years. I hope I'm around 80 years from now to receive such a great honor.

I sat in during the CT State Grange Executive Committee meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Rocky Hill. Met a flock of "Sheraton Sheep" who told me all about the new hotel location for the CT State Grange Annual Session in October. It looks like a very nice place to me!

It was my pleasure to meet the dedicated ladies of the Connecticut State Grange Scholarship Committee on December 7th. Did you know they awarded \$10,000 in scholarships last year?

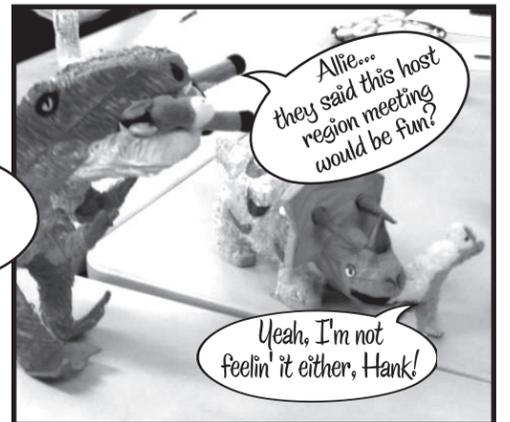
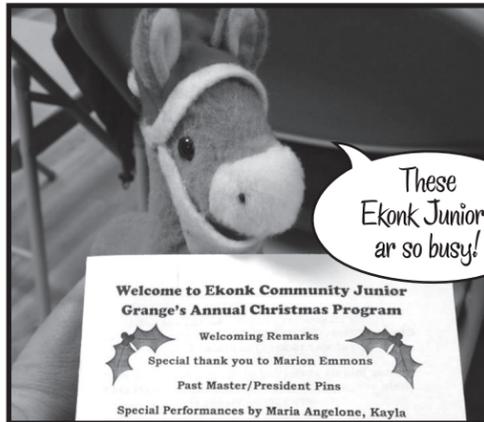
Also on December 7th, I helped peel potatoes for the Quinebaug Pomona Christmas Dinner and helped Jeff and Debbie Barnes present Ekonk Community Grange President Link Copper with the National Grange Community Service Award for placing 4th in the Country for their Community Service work. I met some new friends too. My BFF (Best Furry Friend) Allie the Llama from Rhode Island was there. We had a chance to catch up on all the fun things we've been doing, and party a little too.

On December 8th I went back to New Hampshire where I got to see my friends Allie and Jefferson the Moose from Maine at the Northeast Connection meeting. In addition to the meeting, we had some fun with a couple of colorful dinosaurs at a piñata party.

Ekonk Community Junior Grange held their Annual Christmas Program on December 13th. They did a fine job with their Christmas Play "A Bear-y Merry Holiday." Congratulations to my friend Jake Gervais who received his Past Masters pin that night too. I'm having so much fun meeting new people and making new friends!

Please take a moment and visit my Facebook Page at www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro. While you're there, be sure to click the "Like" button so that you can follow all of my adventures.

If you have a special event, please send me an invitation through my e-mail HanktheBurro@ctstategrange.org with the details, and hopefully I can attend! I'm looking forward to visiting with more Granges and making lots of new friends in 2014.



The rest of Hank's Herd - UPDATED

Alaska Murray the Seal
 Alabama Abe the Hare
 Arkansas Lily the Barn Owl
 California Tucker the Yorkie
 Colorado Claudia the Skunk
 Connecticut Hank the Burro
 D.C. Clark the Eagle
 Delaware Eve the Fox
 Florida Otis the Armadillo
 Georgia Becka the Border Collie
 Idaho Ernie the Mountain Goat
 Illinois Ace the Deer

Indiana Faye the Ferret
 Iowa April the Pig
 Kansas Dusty the Bull
 Louisiana Dalia the Alligator
 Maine Jefferson the Moose
 Maryland Skip the Horse
 Massachusetts Isaac the Owl
 Michigan Chuck the Badger
 Minnesota Wendy the Wolf
 Montana Bruce the Buffalo
 Nebraska Bert the Baby Goat
 Nevada Moe the Tortoise

New Hampshire Noel the Hamster
 New Jersey Sal the Chipmunk
 New York Grant the Beaver
 North Carolina Macy the Raccoon
 Ohio Wade the Mallard
 Oklahoma Penelope the Prairie Dog
 Oregon Hannah the Black Bear
 Pennsylvania Ralph the Groundhog
 Rhode Island Allie the Llama
 South Carolina Liz the Hedgehog
 Tennessee Jolene the Possum
 Texas Lou the Longhorn

Vermont Gabriella the Lamb
 Washington Pierce the Elk
 West Virginia Sid the Squirrel
 Wisconsin Beatrice the Cow
 Virginia Scarlett the Cat
 Wyoming Frederick the Brown Horse
 YOUTH Freeda the Mouse
 MEMBERSHIP Lucy the Cattle dog
 LEGISLATIVE June the Hog
 JUNIOR Sadie the Springer Spaniel
 PRESIDENT Kimber the Coyote
 HIGH PRIEST Rex the T-Rex

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.

This Month



DECEMBER

We heard from Barbara Bartram of Taghannuck Grange on December's photo. She says the woman on the right and the man in the center were known as the "Mandolin Twins" (Merideth and Marion Bierce) and they were from Falls Village Grange.

She does not know the woman with the guitar. She believes the photo was taken at one of the Mountain County Choristers Concerts where they performed, perhaps in the early 1970s.

We welcome your answers and ideas for any of the Window to the Past pictures featured in the Granger. We try to update any and all photos no matter how long ago they were featured as information becomes available.



Grace Boatright,
National Legislative Director

I know that all of us are tired of forwards and chain emails (Ed. – in this case an email reprinted in the Granger), but I promise this one is important and will take less than 5 minutes of your time. The National Grange has recently joined forces with other ag groups around the country in a coalition effort called "10,000

Friends of Rural America." It's pretty simple. We're just trying to get a minimum of 10,000 people to sign the petition as a way of showing legislators, businesses, etc. that Rural America does matter and that they need to invest some time and money in Rural America's future.

All you need to do is go to <http://10000friends.ruralamerica.org/>

nationalgrange.org/, fill out the form and click "submit." Like I said, it shouldn't take more than 5 minutes. Please take the time to do this and encourage your friends and family to do the same.

Together, we're going to highlight Rural America and the incredible contributions they make to our great nation. Thanks, Grangers!!



The National Grange Programs Dept. is very excited to bring you the newest and last edition to this year's program on World War II. This CD includes one PowerPoint, notes on Granges, and a short video.

The PowerPoint deals with legislative issues the Grange dealt with during WWII, particularly agricultural issues. You will also find a word document which includes information on various Granges and what events, projects, and members did during World War II. You will also find a short video to watch on the World War II Memorial. The video is about 5 minutes long and also includes a word document with more information on the memorial.

These CDs are available for FREE at the National Grange, due to the sponsorship of Potomac Grange #1. This will be the last disc in this collection. In 2014, we will focus on the Korean War and its veterans. If you, or your members, have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Samantha Johnson via email at sjohnson@nationalgrange.org or call 1-888-447-2643, ext. 109.

Requests for CDs will be processed beginning January 2, 2014.



EKONK COMM. JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Rebecca Gervais

Ekonk Junior has been busy preparing for our play, A Bear-y Merry Christmas. Will have a full report on that in January.

On November 22nd, we had a fun evening making bear craft decorations for the hall and the tree for our play. We had over 30 show up to enjoy the crafts, a movie, and pizza! LOTS of energy that night! :) Special thanks to Betsy Molodich for

being willing to "run" things, with help from teens Karyn and Brierra! Dianne came in time to help and to run the rehearsal. It is one of the few events that I could not attend. So great to have the support of others!

The dictionaries for Sterling Community School and Voluntown Elementary have been passed out. It is always a treat to go to the schools and hand them out. I had the pleasure of handing them to Jacob Bessette, Allyson DiNola, Jared Gervais, and Lillian Sharpe this year. All are awesome third graders at Sterling school, and all are Junior members. Shout out to Jack and Kathy Wesa who handed them out to third graders at Voluntown.

Our Subordinate Grange had a Bazaar, and our bake sale table made \$54.50. Honorary member sister

Helen Molodich made a pie that never made it to the table, it sold almost from the oven! You know you are a good cook when people come knocking to buy, before the sale. Thanks to her, and to all of the others who baked!

We bought checkers, cards, candy and other board games and donated them to a local home for Veterans. The home in Jewett City provides housing to 18, otherwise homeless Veterans. We owe so much to our Veterans, a simple thank you was the least we could do. Thanks to all of the Junior families who donated towards the "basket" we filled. Lillian Sharpe went with her Grandma, Sue Gray, to deliver our gifts just before Veretan's Day.

On Black Friday, we walked for St. Judes. Totals are not yet in.

We wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!

125 Years of Junior Grange celebrated

by Mandy Bostwick

Pfizer Communication Fellow

mandybostwick@gmail.com

125 years is quite the milestone for any organization. Having 125 years of Junior members in the Grange is an accomplishment we should all be proud of. During the Wednesday evening session, Master Ed Luttrell asked the delegate body and all visiting Grange members what year it was. The crowd responded with "2013." Executive Committee Member Phil Prelli announced that it was the 125th birthday of the Junior Grange.

Master Ed Luttrell asked all Junior Grange alumni to stand and a large number of Grange members stood. He then asked Junior Grange Leaders past and present to stand, followed by supporters the Junior Grange Program. Not a single person was seated at that point. Several rounds of applause were given to these groups as they stood to represent their time spent as a Junior or supporter of the Junior Program. First Lady Celia Luttrell was asked by Master Ed Luttrell to reflect on what being a Junior Granger meant to her. Celia Luttrell has raised three children in the Junior Grange and is encouraging them to include the Junior Grange in the lives of her grandchildren. She said, "Junior Grange

Volunteering part of Grange process

by Ashley Pedersen, Pfizer Communication Fellow

Volunteering was instilled in me at an early age. Whether it was working in the soup kitchen, writing Christmas cards for wounded soldiers or assisting at Red Cross Disaster Relief centers, I have always seized the opportunity to serve. It is one of the many reasons I fell in love with the Grange: the strong value placed on community service.

Volunteering allows us as Grange members to serve our community. We can make connections and gain new skills. There is a chance to always promote worthwhile activities and meet new people.

On Friday, Nov. 15th I found myself joining many fellow Grangers to serve, yet again at the 147th National Grange Convention. The New Hampshire State Grange hosted a blood drive through the American Red Cross. Grange members flowed in from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. to give blood.

The thing that struck me the most was not that everyone gave blood, but rather that those working

is something we all should be proud of." Celia Luttrell, who is one of six children, said she was quiet when she started out as a Junior Granger but growing up in the Junior Grange changed that. She went on to become a Junior Leader.

A young man come up to her long after he had grown out of Junior Grange and said, "Mrs. Luttrell, you have no idea how much of a difference you made in my life because of the Junior Grange."

Following Celia Luttrell's reflection, a few minutes were given to Grange members to share their memories of Junior Grange. Nine Junior Grange Alumni shared their stories from their time spent as Junior Grangers. They told stories of fun times they had at camp and stories about friendships that started in the Junior Grange. There were laughs and teary eyes, and every member of the alumni understood exactly what those who shared their stories were describing.

Master Ed Luttrell directed one final remark to the delegate body, "For the work that you did this year and last year to keep the Junior Grange program vital and growing, I thank you."

To end the 125th year celebration of the Junior Grange, cake was served to all in attendance, starting with the current Junior Grangers.

were interested in the Grange. It reminded me that we should be willing to serve and always eager to share about the Grange.

While I was in the midst of giving blood, I struck up a conversation with my nurse, Sharon. She mentioned that she was from a community that had a Grange, but that she never knew what the organization was.

I chose to share with her my personal story of why I joined the Grange, the opportunity the Grange has given me to be here as a Pfizer Communication Fellow and the influence that Grange has a local communities.

Hearing my personal story, Sharon was more interested in learning about the Grange.

I encouraged her to visit the National Grange website and also Grange Radio to learn more.

By taking 10 minutes to share about my experience in the Grange, I made one more person aware of our amazing organization.

In Memoriam

Sue Sulla
Cannon Grange #152

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



Barbara C. Kulisch
State Chaplain

chaplain@ctstategrange.org



To realize the value of....

To realize the value of a sister/brother;
Ask someone who doesn't have one.

To realize the value of ten years;
Ask a newly divorced couple.

To realize the value of four years;
Ask a graduate.

To realize the value of one year;
Ask a student who has failed a final exam.

To realize the value of a month;
Ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of one week;
Ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of one minute;
Ask a person who has missed the train, bus or plane.

To realize the value of one second;
Ask a person who has survived an accident.

Time waits for no one.
Treasure every moment you have.

You will treasure it even more when
You share it with someone special.

Remember.....
Hold on tight to the ones you love!

To realize the value of a friend or family member;
LOSE ONE.

**Dear Lord, As we begin the new year,
broaden our perspective to recognize
every precious gift, to see every blessing that
strengthens our faith and grows our heart.
Amen.**

Henrietta J. Kulisch

March 19, 1938 ~ December 3, 2013

For those of you who remember Henry's twin sister, Henrietta, she passed away at the Aurora Senior Living Facility, in Cromwell, Ct. on the morning of the 3rd of December, where she had resided since October of 2006. She left her sister-in-law, Barbara C. Kulisch, several cousins, nieces and nephews.