



Connecticut Granger



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NOVEMBER 2014

New State President Noel Miller



Noel T. Miller
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

At the 130th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange, a new State Master was elected and installed. My name is Noel Miller, your next State Master (President) of the Connecticut State Grange. I am a 40 year member of Coventry Grange #75, Master of East Central Pomona #3 for the past 18 years, and past State Ag. Director, East Central Pomona Deputy, and Assistant Steward and Steward.

My wife is Marcia, we have been married for 14 years, she had two children from previous marriage, our oldest lives in Seattle, WA and works for Google, and your youngest just moved to Boston and works at Lessall College in Newton, MA.

My family members are all Grangers, I am the youngest of six (the baby). I was in 4H with a sheep project. This taught me hard work and record keeping skills. I was in the FFA, at Storrs Regional, as President I gained public speaking and parliamentary skills. I have belonged to my local volunteer fire department for 34 years, serving as Chief two different times. I graduated from UConn's Radcliffe Hicks School of Ag. And worked on a commercial dairy farm before working at the Dairy Farm at UConn's Storrs campus. In 2013 I

retired from there after 31.7 years of milking cows there. I am old school in values and lifestyle. I go to Sunday family dinners. My father taught us kids life skills, community service, church, family and hard work (he taught me ditch digging so I had a backup skill).

I have asked Don Lanoue of Cheshire Grange #23 to be my General Deputy. As State Session we have filled man committee slots but many are empty. Please be patient while we pull together the State Grange Pink Sash team together.

I was asked how I slept after the elections, I told them that I had a dream like "A Christmas Carol" but with Grangers past, present and future. I hear people talk about Grange ritual as old and outdated, in some ways you're right but the lessons that they teach us is life changing. It gives us instruction on how to improve ourselves, its simplicity has withstood time.

In last month's Granger, Past President Jody Cameron wrote of Respect and team players. I agree the feuding has to stop, we have all taken the Obligation in the Grange to protect a Brother and Sister from harm, this includes bullying in the Grange. Individuals have to work out their differences, because you don't want me to decide! A resolution from Oxford Grange was about harmony within the Grange, the call is to "PLAY NICE."

I wish to thank the Camerons for their help, support and assistance with the transfer of leadership of the State Grange. I also wish to thank the Nicholson's of Montana, our

National Representatives, for their offers of friendship and guidance through the National Grange Convention in Ohio. Thank you all.

I wish to congratulate every Grange that received awards at State Session, through your hard work and dedication to your projects, everyone is a winner, your members, the community and the Grange. Good luck in the upcoming year.

I wish to thank Edith Schoell and Philip Bergquist, for their service as Secretary and Treasurer, and congratulate them on receiving their titles of Emeritus to their respective offices.

As Thanksgiving approaches we must take time to spend with family and friends to enjoy all that we are thankful for in this past year, but we should also look to help neighbors and strangers who have struggled to make ends meet. I know through Grangers generous donations that we will brighten others Thanksgiving Day with food donations and fuel assistance. This is what makes me proud to be a Granger in Connecticut, your heartfelt giving to others.

In closing, I and my family wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving, and a great new Grange year. God Bless all!

Noel

130th State Session Highlights

The 2014 Session of the Connecticut State Grange featured many highlights, including a transition in Presidents, awards and recognitions, donations, and a dedication and commitment to Grange growth.

With delegates, members, honored guests and visitors in attendance, outgoing Connecticut State Grange President Jody Cameron opened the 130th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel in Rocky Hill. Scott & Marie Nicholson served as the National Grange Representatives. Marie currently serves as National Flora and Scott is Master of the Montana State Grange.

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

"In the past four years we have seen the greatest interest in the Grange that we have seen in decades. We organized our first new Grange in over 60 years; and have successfully revitalized two Granges," Cameron said. "True growth takes work, not only in planning and recruiting, but making newer members an intricate part of the group, thus making them feel welcome and included."

Election of Officers was held on day two of the session, where delegates from over 50 communities across Connecticut elected Noel Miller from Coventry as the new Connecticut State Grange President. Miller replaces Cameron, who had served as the President of the Connecticut State Grange for the past four years.

Over half of the State Grange officers changed - either by moving up the ranks or with the addition of new faces. Miller introduced his new directors, committees and deputy force after the installation of officers on day three of the Session.

Delegates and Session Committees addressed over 35 resolutions during the Session, on such topics as handicapped accessibility, traffic safety and the school milk program.

Granger of the Year was awarded to Link Cooper of Ekonk Community Grange and Ann Duval of Killingly Grange. Pomona (county) Grange of the Year was awarded to East Central Pomona No. 3. Community Service awards went to Prospect Grange (Granges with 50 or fewer members) and Ekonk Community Grange (Granges with 50 or more members).

The Celebration Banquet was filled with fun and recognition, as the Lecturer's program spotlighted old-fashioned country music with a performance by the Bristol Old Tyme Fiddlers, and numerous additional award winners were announced. Ekonk Community Grange was the winner of the Complete Program contest, and Cindy Legg from Beacon Valley Grange was the winner of the essay contest.

The Agriculture Committee presented awards for the Outstanding Agriculture Professional Award to Erika Marczak, and the Outstanding Young Agriculture Professional Award to both Graham Baldwin and Riva Martin from Sullivan Farms. The Banquet concluded with the Past Deputies Raffle.

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December

Articles and Photos for the next issue are due on November 5.

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE



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

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2014-2016 Officers & Committees of the Connecticut State Grange

Master	Noel T. Miller	Coventry Grange
Overseer	George Russell	Riverton Grange
Lecturer	Marge Bernhardt	Cheshire Grange
Steward	Rob Buck	Oxford Grange
A. Steward	Ted Powell	Lyme Grange
L.A. Steward	Eloise Osuch	Bethlehem Grange
Chaplain	Charles Dimmick	Cheshire Grange
Treasurer	Jody A. Cameron	Ekonk Grange
Secretary	Todd A. Gelineau	Winchester Grange
Gatekeeper	Ross Stands	Cheshire Grange
Ceres	Karen Macdonald	Redding Grange
Pomona	Debbie Barnes	N. Stonington Grange
Flora	Carol Hnath	Echo Grange
Ex. Comm.	Gordon Gibson	Vernon Grange
Ex. Comm.	Jeff Barnes	N. Stonington Grange
Ex. Comm.	F. Philip Prelli	Riverton Grange
Ex. Comm.	A. Ruel Miller	Cheshire Grange
Ex. Comm.	Robert Sendewicz	Redding Grange
Pianist	Mary Lou Keefe	Winchester Grange
Sec. Emeritus	Edith Schoell	Manchester Grange
Treas. Emeritus	Philip Bergquist	Redding Grange

DEPUTIES

General Deputy	Donald Lanoue	Cheshire Grange
Deputy East	James Palmer	Echo Grange
Deputy West	Peter Keefe	Riverton Grange
E. Central	Kay Ruff	Glastonbury Grange
New Haven	Carl Bernhardt	Cheshire Grange
New London	Jeff Barnes	N. Stonington Grange
Excelsior	Ron Fischer	Beacon Valley Grange
Fairfield	Geno Piacentini	Redding Grange

COMMITTEES

CWA	Irene Percoski (Dir.)	Enfield Grange
Membership	Maggie Buck	Oxford Grange
Junior	Michelle DeDominicis (Dir.)	Hillstown Gr.
Legislative	Alma Graham (Dir.)	Echo Grange
	Charles Dimmick	Cheshire Grange
	Russell Gray	Ekonk Comm. Grange
	Gordon Gibson	Vernon Grange
	George Ward	Harmony Grange
Public Relations	Terri Fassio (Co-Dir.)	Winchester Grange
	Bob Charbonneau (Co-Dir.)	Meriden Gr.
	Frank Forrest	Hillstown Grange
	Don Offinger	Cannon Grange
	Martha Trask	Cheshire Grange
Social Connection	Joanne Cipriano (Dir.)	Beacon Valley
	Betty Jane Gardiner	Simsbury Grange
	Barbara Robert	Prospect Grange
Comm. Service	George & Sharon Russell	Riverton

** Additional appointments will be made/announced as information becomes available.



Marie Nicholson addresses the delegates during State Session.

Resolutions Adopted at State Session

2) RE: REVISING THE BY-LAWS OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE TO DELETE THE PAYMENT OF PER DIEM AND MILEAGE TO VOTING DELEGATES

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Article 4, Section 7 of the By-Laws be deleted.

4) RE: CHIROPTERA, DEFENDERS OF ECOLOGY

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange and the National Grange be in favor of the promotion of the placement of bat houses as a worthy cause to pursue, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every Grange should take similar action to promote the welfare of bats.

5) RE: STATEWIDE CT GRANGE HERITAGE DAY

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all Granges that own their halls have a Grange Heritage Day and Granges without halls to assist their fellow Grangers.

6) RE: ATTRACTING BUSINESSES

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange urge our legislators to encourage new businesses by offering tax incentives and deferments only when existing buildings are used, thereby saving open space, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to East Central Pomona for action and forwarded to the Connecticut State Grange for further action.

7) RE: REDUCING COSTS OF NATIONAL SESSION

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Grange no longer cover the cost of travel, meals, and lodging for non-essential staff and Honorary Delegates that are not elected National Grange Officers.

9) RE: LOCATION OF HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE ROOMS IN HOTELS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that handicapped accessible rooms be located on the ground floor of all hotels, thus giving direct access to the exterior.

10) RE: SCHOOL MILK PROGRAM

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Grange support efforts to increase the sale of dairy products in the school lunch program including the continuation of the sale of flavored milk drinks,

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we oppose any changes to regulations of the School Lunch Program that would curtail the sale of flavored milk as part of the program.

12) RE: FARMERS FACE GMO-RELATED ECONOMIC LOSS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange and the National Grange urge legislators to address the issue of liability for the contamination of non-GMO and organic fields, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the passage of legislation requiring the cost of GMO contamination be borne by biotech companies that hold the patents on these seeds.

13) RE: CAMP MAUD ISBELL BERGER BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEE

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Section 3 of Article IX with reference to the Camp Maud Isbell Berger Board of Trustees be eliminated from the By-Laws of the Connecticut State Grange and the remaining sections of the article be re-numbered.

14) RE: DUES INCREASE TO NATIONAL GRANGE

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange oppose the pending \$2.00 dues increase and any other dues increase proposed or adopted by the National Grange until adequate financial controls a put in place to ensure the National Grange will not out-spend its current financial means or at the very least has a sound plan that will considerably improve its current financial condition.

20) RE: VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Grange urge legislation favoring the reinstatement of motor vehicle registration expiration stickers affixed to the inside of the vehicle windshield or to the license plate itself or other appropriate location.

23) RE: HARMONY IN OUR GRANGES

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of this 130th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange pledge to abstain from negative behavior and encourage cooperation by discouraging factional infighting among members by adopting this resolution and rededicating themselves to upholding our obligations and core principles, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED

that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Granges to be read at their next meeting.

25) RE: IMPROVING DRIVER SAFETY RELATED TO HIGHWAY BILLBOARDS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange support stronger regulation on billboard advertising, especially as it relates to the font size of the letters used, so they are legible from a highway distance, as well as other items such as flashing lights and changing screens.

28) RE: MASTER'S ADDRESS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Credential/Master's Address Committee commends the Master on his fine Master's address and his leadership for the past 4 years of dedication and his hard work fostering growth, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED we would like to recommend the membership to take his advice to heart, and follow them to the best of their ability.

30) FUNDING FOR LIVESTOCK HEALTH INSPECTIONS AT FAIRS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange support the Re-funding of animal health inspections at all fairs held within the State of Connecticut.

31) RE: RESTRAINING ANIMALS IN MOTOR VEHICLES

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange take a stand opposing allowing any animal in a driver's lap while the motor vehicle is in motion, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Grange Legislative Committee work with the General Assembly to ban animals from the driver's seat and to have them restrained to an area away from the driver while in transport.

32) RE: TRAFFIC SAFETY AT INTERSECTION OF I-95 AND I-395 NORTH

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Grange recommends that additional signs be placed on the north bound side of I-95 to indicate that the exit for I-395 is on the left side of the highway, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Grange recommends warning signs be placed near the fork of both intersections to warn drivers to slow down and beware of on-coming and exiting traffic.

Address of State Master Jody A. Cameron

Brothers and Sisters of the Connecticut State Grange,

It is with pleasure I submit this annual report on the state of the Grange and its impact in Connecticut to you. In 2014 we saw Old Lyme, Tolland and Lebanon Granges surrender their Charters, thus reducing our Community Grange count to 51. Our membership as of June 30, 2014 was 2,401.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION

In the past four years we have seen the greatest interest in the Grange that we have seen in decades. We organized our first new Grange in over 60 years; and have successfully revitalized two Granges. One of the wisest actions we have taken was to hire a scout to develop and execute a focused and targeted recruitment plan for Litchfield Grange. A report from the scout will be given later in this session. Growth and development is an area we cannot ease up on for once we do we will move in a more negative direction. I am sure you are saying, "We have lost Granges and members every year, how can it be any more negative?" Well, statistically if we continue to lose 200 members and 3 Granges per year on average, we have roughly 12-15 years remaining. That is statistically, the reality is we are seeing significant growth in pockets around the state with much excitement for a bright tomorrow. Ekonk Community, Oxford and Bridgewater Granges have each made targeted initiatives on membership recruitment and have all seen sizable classes of candidates. I encourage everyone to speak with a member of these Granges and get the details of their efforts. Be prepared, true growth takes work, not only in planning and recruiting, but making newer members an intricate part of the "group" thus making them feel welcome and included. Then there is the balance between old and new. You need to be ready and prepared to accept new ideas, new concepts, and someone new doing or wanting to do what you have always done.

POMONA GRANGES

During the Schools of Instruction held in each Pomona this year I gave the following facts:

- We have lost over 20% of our total Pomona membership in the last four years.
- We have lost 20% of our Pomonas in the last four years.

- We have lost 8 subordinate Granges in the last four years.
- The average attendance at Pomona meetings is less than 20 members.
- What we have today is NOT working!

So, where do we go from here?

In mid June I polled all State Grange Masters regarding the status of Pomona in their states looking for some insight on how we may "re-invent" Pomona in Connecticut. What I found was there is no clear focus nationally for this level. I have stated many times I see three options for Pomona as a whole in our organization:

- Realign and reinvigorate Pomona in Connecticut to be true to its purpose.
- Do nothing and let Pomona continue down a path of extinction.
- Do away with Pomona in its entirety on a National Level.

This year we are faced with two resolutions at both ends of the pendulum, one will ask you to consider consolidating all Pomonas in to four; while the other resolution will ask for you to consider doing away with Pomona in its entirety. Even before the Sessions Committee deliberates this issue I want to thank each of you for your time and courage to adequately develop a plan for our future. Your work on this issue is not to be taken lightly and your contribution is to be applauded.

The ultimate decision regarding Pomona Grange is in the hands of this Delegate body, I urge each of you to consider the options with a clear mind and heart, ask questions and considering all input into this matter thus allowing you to cast your vote in the best interest of your Pomona or Community Grange.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

You will see in your session's packet our annual budget. You will note some significant changes in the budget; the detailed budget will be presented during the Treasurer's Report this evening. I strongly encourage every member, Delegate or not, to review this budget and ask any and all questions. At our 2012 Session a resolution was passed for a Fundraising Committee to be formed to find ways to generate additional revenue streams, I am sorry to report that we have yet to appoint this committee as there

has not been enough who are willing to serve in this capacity. We must make finding non-dues related revenue streams a priority. There are many avenues that can and must be explored to generate income that does not put unneeded financial strain on our Granges or members.

You will be asked to consider a resolution to no longer offer mileage or per diem for attending the annual session. This line item alone costs roughly \$2,000 to \$3,000 and is one of the larger expenses of our annual session. I ask that you each consider what is in the best interest of your Grange, at all levels, while debating this issue.

Our National Grange is in serious financial distress. We have seen our cash reserves almost completely drained through legal costs both for trademark protection and for a very costly and time consuming legal battle in California. As of June 30, 2014, 6 months into this fiscal financial year, the General and Administrative expenses were \$447,490. The 2014 budgeted line item for (G&A) as approved by the delegate body was \$389,500. The 2013 year end total for this line item was \$796,746. We cannot sustain legal expenses at this level and be effective for our Community Granges. I feel the legal spending is out of control with no mechanism in place to stop the mounting legal fees.

The original budget called for consuming a majority of the National Grange's invested funds. The delegate body authorized the borrowing of up to \$250,000 with the stipulation the invested funds not be used and a plan for repayment be presented to the delegate body prior to borrowing. As I stated in my letter to you in July when I informed every Grange that I had notified National Grange of my intention to withhold Connecticut's second quarter dues until such time a plan was presented to the delegate body as instructed and requested multiple times. At the end of August the National Grange scheduled a conference call to review the second quarter financials and present a financial plan to the State Grange Masters and National Officers. This plan was fourteen pages long covering many scenarios and was finally summed up to the following:

- An appeal campaign asking every Grange member to donate a minimum of \$10 to the National Grange. This is the same style

campaign used when we fought Tyson.

- An anticipated positive vote for the \$2.00 per member dues increase which will be presented to the Delegates for a second reading at this year's National Session in November.
- Production and sale of a new cookbook.

Thus being presented with a plan I authorized the release of your dues to National. The dues were received by National Grange prior to the August 30, 2014 deadline, therefore not putting Connecticut in violation of any clauses of the Digest.

I feel this plan is short sighted and places the entire burden solely on the backs of our membership. That being said, this is your organization, no one is going to fix this problem but us. If that means we have to pull up our sleeves and get our hands dirty, then that is what must happen. Let it be known though, that if we resolve this issue on the blood, sweat and tears of you our members, you have the right to have certain expectations. You have the right to expect your National Grange leadership to be fiscally responsible and exhibit conservative financial practices that protect our organization from financial collapse. You have the right to expect your contributions and dues to be used toward building the Grange through programs and support rather than paying attorney fees. You have the right to expect representation from the national Grange that advances our organization and is not consumed by external interests that are proving to weaken our organization. And finally you have the right to demand a simple financial policy of, if you can't pay for it, don't buy it! Brothers and Sisters, this is YOUR Grange!

AGRICULTURE

In my address to this delegate body last year I called for this State Grange to have a policy on GMO's. A resolution was written and brought to the floor that was referred to the State Grange Agriculture Committee instructing them to better define and explain GMO's. This past winter, Charles Dimmick of the State Grange Legislative Committee supplied us all with the definition of GMO's and the Agriculture Committee has fulfilled their obligation with a report that will be given during this session. Both items will then be referred to the Agriculture Sessions Committee for consideration. It is my hope this gives you enough information to develop a policy on GMO's for this State Grange.

Agriculture is alive and strong in Connecticut. It doesn't look anything like it did 25 years ago. Agriculture in Connecticut is far more diversified, there are more and more local growers, farmer's markets are increasing in demand and popularity. Locally grown is becoming the norm and processed foods are taking a back seat in many households. We are seeing hospitals adopting a farm to table menu for their patients and many restaurants promoting local ingredients. Problem is, our schools are not following the course. They are serving prepared foods to our school children

because they cost less per meal than locally grown foods. Families are still opting for fast food because of the hectic and chaotic lives they lead today. Last year I challenged every Grange to serve healthier refreshments at each meeting, hopefully promoting their personal gardening, baking or cooking skills. This year I challenge you to work with local producers in your community and offer a farm to table dinner. Invite a local chef and make this a BIG event. The Grange is viewed a leader in many communities, what an example this would be.

Our very fundamental purpose is the preservation of Agriculture, I believe this State Grange must work with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and the Department of Economic and Community Development to create a program that makes grants and low interest loans available to young professionals in agriculture so they can pursue the most noble of professions. Many of these young people do not come from a farming family and therefore do not have the immediate access to the land required to make a successful business. These folks are leaving college strapped in unimaginable debt, the knowledge and desire to conquer the world and cannot due to the staggering costs involved in acquiring the needed property, equipment and livestock. We are the right organization to spearhead this and it is the right time.

EDUCATION

Our children today are faced with one of the greatest challenges, they must have a college education to even get their foot in the door of almost any company; and are faced with the largest debt other than buying a home they will ever see in their lifetime. Total tuition in Connecticut for a student entering college this fall will be \$99,916 on the low end and \$250,452 on the high. These tuitions are for in-state and include room and board. My research found them to be:

- Eastern CT State University \$24,979 per year
- Central CT State University \$25,068 per year
- University of Conn. \$29,141 per year
- University of Hartford \$50,795 per year
- Quinnipiac University \$58,753 per year
- Yale \$61,333 per year
- Connecticut College \$62,613 per year

In March of 2014 the Institute of College Access and Success published the following "The average debt levels for all graduating seniors with loans rose to \$29,400 in 2012, a 25% increase since 2008." If this trend continues at this rate a student graduating in 2018 will see an average loan debt of a minimum of \$35,000.

We give annual scholarships to very deserving students, I believe we can and must do more. We must be looking at how the Scholarship funds are invested and make the necessary changes to maximize the returns on those investments. We must be contacting all previous scholarship recipients and requesting their support through monetary

Continued next page...

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State Master Jody Cameron's Address

Continued from page one...

donations into our State Grange Foundation. We must have an annual fundraising campaign that reaches out to all our membership. We have the ability to impact more lives than we currently do.

CAMP BERGER

Your State Grange Executive Committee made one of the hardest decisions this past winter. It was to not operate Camp Berger for the 2014 camping season. The camp had seen sizable financial losses for decades, enrollment was decreasing annually, much of our 5 year plan had not come to fruition therefore we could not continue this path any longer. We immediately sought the advice of a consultant who had developed a recruitment plan for us. We were poised to have a new director, staff and new marketing campaign in order to reopen in 2015; then came along Lyn and Chris Kimberly. The Kimberly's have operated as summer camp for several years and felt they could re-open Camp Berger and make it profitable in 2014. This was March! Can they pull off the impossible? Can they open the camp hire a staff and get enough campers to make this season successful? They were confident in their abilities and contacts and moved forward full steam. I am not going to give you any details of the outcome you will hear directly for Lyn herself tomorrow. What I can tell you is Ruel and I visited the camp during camping season and were more than impressed with what we saw and heard.

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

It is hard not to be biased about the Directors of the many committees of this State Grange. They have worked hard and have made mistakes; that is all part of growth and development. The part that I find distressing is how quickly members are to judge and cast stones when something doesn't go the way they think is should. I have given the Committees of this State Grange full liberty to so as they saw fit with their departments. For the most part they have all done an outstanding job and I thank each of you for your service and dedication to the Granges in Connecticut.

Connecticut has one of the finest officer corps in the nation. Your professionalism and caring for this organization does not go unnoticed. Well done! I truly appreciate your efforts and support as I have called on almost all of you to perform a task outside of your "job description." None of you said no or even hesitated. On behalf of the entire membership, thank you for your service and dedication.

Tomorrow morning you will cast your ballots for those you wish to lead you for the next two

years. I encourage each delegate to cast that ballot for the person they feel will represent you and your Grange to the best of their ability and with your best interest in mind at all times. You elect the leadership of the Grange, they are accountable to you. You have no small task ahead of you, but I know you will do what is best for your Grange.

IN CONCLUSION

One of the greatest rewards in this position is the lifelong relationships that are created. Jodi Ann and I will forever cherish the warmth and friendship in which we were received in your halls and by each Grange member. We are grateful for the friendships we have built with some of the other Masters throughout the country; especially Steve and Claire Logan; you two have lightened and brighten this journey for us, thank you for your support, advice and friendship.

Being described as a sappy guy does not really fit the bill for me, unless it comes to my family. I was even struggling while writing this section. Milestones were met by our family this year. Jodi Ann's parents moved back to Connecticut from New Hampshire and are still trying to adjust to the "south."

J. Allen (a.k.a. the Boy) graduated from UCONN on May 10th with his degree in Animal Science, and then eight days later moved to New Hampshire to begin his career as the herdsman on the Stewart Dairy Farm which is owned by New Hampshire's Commissioner of Agriculture Lorraine Merrill and her family. It was so hard to stand there and watch our boy become a man all the while busting at the seams with pride. He has taught me so many things over the years for which I will ever be grateful. "The Boy" has become an amazing man, and makes me the proudest Dad every day.

After all of that, our baby, Jaimie, my little girl, had to go and graduate from high school and go to college. Jaimie is a kind, gentle and delicate soul, she is the apple of my eye and one of my biggest supporters. There is nothing that makes you feel like you can accomplish anything more than the larger than life love given to you from your daughter. When you have love and support like that, anything is possible.

When you elect a State Master, you elect the entire couple. I can tell you, even though I am extremely biased, your First Lady, Jodi Ann, has brought grace and dignity to this office, she is an amazingly strong woman who unconditionally loves her family and this Grange. There are no words that truly express how much I admire and adore her. She

is my best friend and my confidant; she makes this "team" whole. There isn't anything she hasn't supported me in; even though I knew she was very reluctant. Her personality is to test the water, mine, jump in and make as big a splash as possible. Without fail she is always there to help me "dry off." Brothers and Sisters, your First Lady, Jodi Ann Cameron

I stand before you, a humbled man. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to lead this State Grange. I have tried to lead with honor and solemnity and at all times keeping your best interest in the forefront of any decision that needed to be made. I am passionate about the Grange and believe we are on the right road in Connecticut to position ourselves to be here for at least another 130 years; but that sustainability cannot be done by the leadership; it takes all members to ensure our success.

I have three HOPES and three WISHES for this State Grange and our members.

My first HOPE is you DREAM, DREAM big, DREAM small. DREAM of all the possibilities that lie before you and when you DREAM I hope you SEE. SEE, all of the way those dreams can become reality. I hope you see each other for who each of you are and embrace your differences of opinion and build on those differences to SEE your DREAMS come true. And my final HOPE is you FIGHT. FIGHT with all your heart to never stop DREAMING and never stop SEEING the possibilities in your strength as a Grange Member and your power as a Grange.

I WISH for you to LISTEN, LISTEN with an open mind and heart to those who are speaking, but especially those who cannot. Listen with the knowledge that together we can accomplish unimaginable heights that no one has ever seen. I wish for you to GIVE, GIVE of yourself at levels you have never given before. The greatest gift you can GIVE is that of yourself. Stretch your comfort boundaries by GIVING to make your home, community and Grange better than we found it. My final wish is for you to LOVE. LOVE who you, what you are and what you do; for LOVE in oneself and ones work makes for a rewarding life. But don't forget to LOVE your family and friends, for they are the foundation on which all of your dreams, caring and LOVE come.

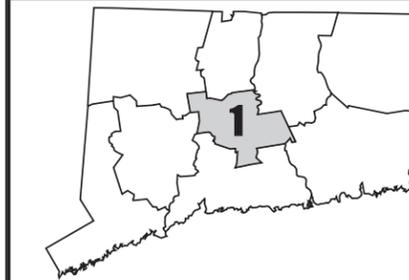
Thank you and God Bless.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jody A. Cameron
President
Connecticut State Grange

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.

MERIDEN GRANGE #29

Corr: M. Harrison, Lect.

We just started on our Fall Dinners and Saturday's was a success. We welcomed back some old friends and had visiting Grangers come for dinner. Meriden Grange will have a dinner in Nov. and December so keep your eyes out for the upcoming menu.

Due to the spectacular weather this September, we are happy to report that there are still some garden tomatoes at our house. I think I will use the last in a fresh tomato pizza.

I hope there are those Grangers who are still young at heart for Trick or Treating. Meriden has a pumpkin patch at one of the local churches. The pumpkins were grown on a Navajo reservation.

Our meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month, and as always, neighbors are invited.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Nov. 14: Notable Trees

Nov. 28: Omit for Thanksgiving

Coffee and refreshments will be served following.

Family Activities / CWA

Irene Percoski, State Family Activities Director

State Session is over and we start a new year with a new team. I look forward to meeting many of you for the first time. The needlework categories will all remain the same, so you can start on your entries right now. The craft and theme for the year will be worked out soon and I'm very excited to exchange ideas with my committee. Regional meetings will make a comeback this year and I hope as many as possible will attend them. I would like to thank our new State Master for entrusting us with this important duty and assure him, and all of you, that we will do our very best. See you around the State.

Social Connection



Joanne Cipriano
Social Connection Director
Social@ctstategrange.org

We hope our Appreciation Dinner held at Cheshire Grange on Saturday September 27th was enjoyable for everyone. The attendance was not as good as we would have like it to be but everything else made for a friendly evening.

It started off with a delicious ham supper prepared by the members of Cheshire Grange. Special thanks to

Jane and Marge and their crew.

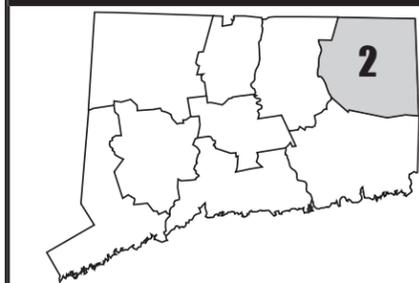
Our program started off with musical selection by Ron Fischer of Beacon Valley Grange and his friend Ray. Followed by a pocket game by Barbara Robert.

Our honorees were: Jodi Ann Cameron, Noel Miller, Todd Gelineau, and Carl Bernhardt. We would like to have more but these are the replies we received. We also presented a small token of appreciation to those who attended all our events. There were 21 of them. We thank them for their support.

At State Session we presented "Granger of the Year" Awards to Link Cooper of Ekonk Grange and Anna Duval of Killingly Grange. It is amazing how much these Grangers do for their Grange. Each Grange has that certain someone who makes their meeting a little bit more enjoyable. We thank you for all you do. We also collected white socks for the military.

Barbara, Betty Jane and I thank you most sincerely for making our job so enjoyable. We enjoyed every minute.

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

Nov. 19: Thanksgiving's Coming

Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Pie Sale

We are having a busy fall. We had a very successful booth at the Woodstock Fair and also had the grand prize exhibit at Grange displays.

Many members participated in the Celebrating Ag event including a very successful food booth featuring locally grown food.

The hall was wonderfully decorated for the Pomona Halloween Party.

Members continue to volunteer at the local community kitchen weekly.

The annual Grange Fair held on Sept. 27 had 105 exhibits from 16 exhibitors. Great turnout.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Elsie Johnson

Nov. 12: New Leaders-Legislative Committee. Ref. Doughnuts & Cookies

Dec. 10: Santa Who?, Ref. Xmas Cookies

Leaves and Halloween go together. Sure are a lot of leaves this year. Cornfields are chopped- so deer are on the move. A new bug!!! White woolie bears are poisonous. So I've heard.

Tabs art still coming in, just got about 2 lbs.

We've got our dictionaries to go to third graders at Pomfret Community School. John Lawson and team installed three Granges on Sept. 27 at Wolf Den. It was Wolf Den, Senexet, and Putnam Granges. It was very nice.

CWA is waiting to see what the project is for this year. Apples are plentiful-visit your local orchards.

Wood piles are being made ready for winter. Make sure your chimneys are cleaned. Also the rain gutters on your house are free from leaves.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Nov. 3: Grange Mtg + Program 7:30

Nov. 7: Jr. Grange 6 pm

Nov. 22: Turkey Supper 5pm

Dec. 6: Annual Christmas Bazaar

Our meet the candidates night was a tremendous success with 49 present. Rep. Stuart Norman and Dem. Paul Brycki both attended. They are childhood friends and were cordial, answering numerous questions from the audience. The Bulletin newspaper came and the event made the front page! Thanks to Bill Sebastian for serving as Moderator. We hosted the National Representatives at our hall with a supper Oct. 15th. This has become a wonderful tradition and the Juniors and families truly enjoy this event. We participated in the Sterling Farm Day in October and sponsored a pumpkin carving for all age groups including adults. Thanks to Jai Izzarelli for Chairing this event! Link Cooper manned the grill and hotdogs were sold throughout the day. We participated in the 2nd annual Voluntown Farmers Market with a table display and passing out Grange information. Congratulations to Sarah Cousens and Nate Gengarella who will be married this November.. The do incredible teamwork working in the kitchen at Grange suppers! We hear from Christopher Sebastian through social media communication. He loves Washington, D.C. where he is attending George Washington University. Someday, he might be President! We welcomed Jack Cottrell at our Oct. meeting. Despite being sick, he not only visited Ekonk, but presented our Grange with \$500.00 from Richmond Grange for our help in their Shaved Steak booth at Washington County Fair last August! We have a fantastic comradeship with Richmond Grange! Visit us on the hill any first Monday at 7:30 p.m.

ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

Nov 11: Pilgrims & Indians

Nov 25: Omit

We held our Ham and Bean Supper which was enjoyed by everyone. We will be holding a Tag and Bake Sale on Nov.22nd.

Pat Maines and Dale Dyer have been collecting Blanket Squares and donating items to "From the Heart."

Dale has delivered these items 22 Blanket Squares, 1 pr. slippers, 3 pencil cases, jump rope, 2 pairs of scissors

(kids), 2 packages of pencils, 2 school glues and 15 notebooks. We are sure they will enjoy all these gifts.

Lecturer's Dept. Contest Winners



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

lecturer@ctstategrange.org

It was nice to see so many of you at State Session. We had some really good entries in our contests this past year. Following is a list of all the winners. If your Lecturer is listed here, remember the whole Grange wins by good programs. Please take a moment to thank them for their work.

Lecturer's Appreciation Award
Redding Grange #15
 Marge Bernhardt, Cheshire
Ann Gilnack, Glastonbury Grange #26
 D. Emily Alexander, North Haven
 Helena Schwalm, Whigville
 Vernon
 Ramona Fassio, Winchester
 P. Joan Toomey, Colchester

Grange #78
 Helene Forrest, Hillstown
 Clifford M. Gervais, Ekonk
 Evelyn Urda, Ashford
 Bill Kroeger, Taghannuck
 Cindy Legg, Beacon Valley
 Eleanor Davis, Killingly
 Robert A. Buck, Bethlehem
 Susan Pianka, North Stonington
 Frances Maxwell, Prospect
 Lois Evankow, Lyme
 Irene Percoski, Enfield
 Lila M. Cleveland, Stonington
 Nancy McBrien, Hemlock
 Robert A. Buck, Oxford
 Donna Victoria, Groton

Honor Lecturer
 Marge Bernhardt, Cheshire
 D. Emily Alexander, North Haven
 Clifford M. Gervais, Ekonk
 Susan Pianka, North Stonington
 Frances Maxwell, Prospect
 Lois Evankow, Lyme

"A Word From Home"
Cheshire Grange #23
 North Haven Grange
 Colchester Grange
 Ekonk Grange
 Beacon Valley Grange
 North Stonington Grange

Prospect Grange
 Lyme Grange
 Hemlock Grange

"Should Auld Acquaintance"
 Cheshire Grange
 Glastonbury Grange
 North Haven Grange
 Colchester Grange
 Beacon Valley Grange
 Killingly Grange
 North Stonington Grange
 Prospect Grange
 Lyme Grange
 Hemlock Grange

Complete Programs
 1st...Clifford M. Gervais, Ekonk Grange
 2nd...D. Emily Alexander, North Haven Grange
 3rd...Susan Pianka, North Stonington Grange

Essay Contest
 1st...Cindy Legg, Beacon Valley Grange
 2nd...Don Offinger, Cannon Grange
 3rd...Sue Gray, Ekonk Grange
 Honorable Mention...John Alexander, North Haven Grange
 See you around the State.



Members of Ekonk Community Jr. Grange (Above) show off their harvest of squash. Below, Ekonk Community Grange hosts a Candidates Forum.



East Central Pomona No. 3



- Stafford No. 1
- ✓ Granby No. 5
- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ 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.

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3

We're #1!!! Congratulations to East Central Pomona #3 for top Pomona in Connecticut. Good job to all! Good luck to Noel as State Master so this meeting will be electing a new Pomona Master after 18 years. I can't do both! Happy Thanksgiving to all.

GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: Vivian Shaw

Granby Grange now has a van that is handicap accessible with Granby Grange #5 written on the sides. Our bus driver is Roseanna Smith. Seventeen members attended our meeting/lunch at the Windsor Locks Restaurant. We will have a trunk or treat on Oct. 24 with pizza at 7:00 P.M. with a community dance.

Next meeting at the Grange hall will be in November with a chicken or turkey dinner.

Granby Grange recently lost a long time (over 75 years as of MAR 2011) member on 24 SEP 2014 as Hazel Joan Geotjen went to meet the Master of Master. In her more than 75 years as a Grange Member, Joan had held many positions, including Master of the former Farmington Valley Pomona and the former Tunxis Grange #13.. Services were Sunday 28 SEP at the Carmon funeral home on Bloomfield Avenue in Windsor between 4:00 and 7:00 PM.

Granby Grange #5 recently held a sale of fall flowers (Asters and Chrysanthemums), in cooperation with Flower Power Farm of East Windsor. Most of the plants were preordered by patrons and friends and were provided on consignment by Flower Power. The event was managed by Treasurer Carol Innes with a very large assist from Master RoseAnna Smith, Chaplain Shirley Stulpin and Pianist Frances "Frannie" Brockett.

Granby Grange #5 continues to meet on the second Tuesday each month for lunch at the Pizza Parlor Restaurant in Windsor

Locks, and a full business meeting with occasional suppers at the Grange Hall on the second Friday each month. Average attendance has been 15 on Tuesdays and 13 on Fridays.

Granby Grange #5 has recently placed a 9 passenger bus in service to assist handicapped and wheel-chair bound members in getting to meetings, to the Big-E and to other functions and events, including church on Sundays. All 9 seats –plus the driver's seat were occupied on the trip to the Big-E Friday 19 SEP and the members took turns staffing the quilt raffle table and helping where needed with the closing clean-up. The repeat trip on Friday 26 SEP only carried 6, including 1 wheelchair-bound.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Nov. 6: Potluck Supper at 6 P.M., Meeting 7:30 P.M.; Ref. Bob & Doris Nordstrom

Nov. 8: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7 P.M.

Dec. 4: Meeting @ 6 P.M., Holiday Gathering at a local restaurant

This fall backpacks and school supplies were delivered to the Glastonbury Social Service Department for children in need of these items for school. We recently delivered "The Best Dictionary for Students" to the third graders at the Nayaug School. It is always so nice to see the surprise expressions on the students.

Bedding for small animals has also been delivered to a local veterinarian.

October 4th we held our Semi-Annual Bake and Tag Sale. Much thanks to all the members who bake for the sale and/or bring items for the tag sale. Also much thanks to all those who give up their Saturday morning to help out at the event. As I am preparing this article on Sept. 29th I can only say that I assume it was a successful day. Thank you one and all.

The November meeting is entitled "Turkey Time." November 8th will be our 1st Monte Carlo Whist Card Party. The October one had to be canceled due to a conflict of interest with the Masons. Hopefully that will not happen again.

We will have a short business meeting for our

December 4th meeting. We will then retire to a local restaurant for the "Holiday Party." As I am typing this a decision has not been made as to what restaurant we will go to. I am sure we will collect children's books in place of exchanging Christmas gifts with each other. The children's books will be delivered to the Glastonbury Social Service Department. Last year we collected 60+ books, so hopefully we will be able to collect the same amount. They do help make some child have a happy holiday. I wish all a "Happy Thanksgiving."

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Leona Wilson

Nov. 4: Remember When – Open House

Nov. 7: Neighbor Exchange at Vernon

Nov. 18: Thanksgiving Fare and Fun

Dec. 2: Visit to the Zoo

Our November 4th meeting will be an Open House. We are hoping to have a good turnout. On November 7th our Grange will travel to Vernon Grange and put on the program for them. This program will be presented by Sister Maryanne. We will learn about "Thanksgiving Fare and Fun" on November 18 in charge of Sister Lois. December 2nd we will "Visit the Zoo." We are once again saddened by the passing of one of our long time members, Allen Ward. Brother Allen worked hard for our grange for as long as he was able doing what ever needed to be done.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

Nov. 6: Thanksgiving, Ref. Noel & Marcia.

Good luck Noel and Marcia as new President and First Lady of the Connecticut State Grange. The Coventry Harvest Festival went well although it rained all day. Pictures are on Coventry Grange Ag Committee's Facebook page. Happy turkey day to all!

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

Nov. 7: Getting Ready for Winter

We welcome our new members from Tolland Grange, Dorothy Dimmock, Elizabeth Robertson and Joyce Jordan at our last meeting. We also want to congratulate our member, Christian Schirmer, on his scholarship award from CT State Grange. He has grown up in our Grange and we are proud of him. We changed our November to Getting Ready for Winter. Manchester Grange was to

present the program for us, but now they will be doing the program in June and we will be doing a program for them in March.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Nov. 8: We Give Thanks – Potluck

Dec. 13: Coat Drive & Cookie Exchange

Contests are finished, reports are in and by now State Session is over. Our presence at the local farmer's markets and craft show on the green has been great for exposure and we have been invited to return next year. November is time for reflection and time to give thanks. Come join us at our early meeting (10:00 A.M.) and stay for a potluck lunch.

Looking ahead, we will be collecting good used coats for December, so dig through your closets and ask your neighbors too.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197



Slow-Cooker Chili

As the weather gets colder, an easy solution for dinner, and also for Grange potluck suppers, is a warm Crock Pot dish that can be made ahead of time.

Better Homes and Gardens has the perfect Chili Recipe - and it has, of all things, chocolate as one of the ingredients!

Slow-Cooker Chocolate Chili with Three Beans

Ingredients:

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 2 14 1/2 ounce cans diced fire-roasted tomatoes, undrained
- 1 15 ounce can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 15 ounce can pinto beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 15 ounce can dark red kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 14 1/2 ounce can beef broth
- 1 1/2 cups chopped yellow onions (3 medium)
- 1 8 ounce can tomato sauce
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 canned chipotle pepper in adobo sauce, finely chopped
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
- 2 ounces bittersweet or semisweet chocolate, chopped
- 1 tablespoon honey
- Sour cream (optional)
- Chopped green onions (optional)
- Unsweetened cocoa powder (optional)

Directions:

In a large skillet cook ground beef over medium-high heat until brown, using a wooden spoon to break up meat as it cooks. Drain off fat.

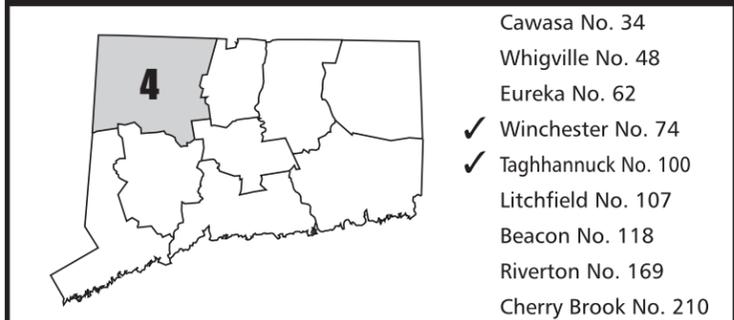
Transfer meat to a 4- to 5-quart slow cooker. Stir in tomatoes, black beans, pinto beans, kidney beans, broth, yellow onions, tomato sauce, chili powder, chipotle pepper, garlic, cumin, cinnamon, and coriander.

Cover and cook on low-heat setting for 6 to 8 hours or on high-heat setting for 3 to 4 hours. If using low-heat setting, turn to high-heat setting. Stir in chocolate and honey. Cover and cook about 15 minutes more or until heated through.

If desired, serve with sour cream and green onions and sprinkle lightly with cocoa powder.

Source: <http://www.bhg.com/recipe/slow-cooker-chocolate-chili-with-three-beans/>

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.

MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Nov. 10: Meeting at Taghannuck Grange, 7:30 P.M.

Mountain County did not confer degrees at the October meeting due to a lack of candidates. Please talk to your members about joining Pomona at our May conferral. We should all be encouraging our members to rise through the Subordinate, Pomona and State Granges.

The next meeting will be held at Taghannuck Grange Hall on Monday, Nov. 10. The program will be put on by Taghannuck. As always, the meeting begins at 7:30 P.M.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Nov. 1: Holiday Bazaar and Cookie Walk, 10-2
Nov. 11: Americana, Ref. Potluck Supper, 6 P.M.
Nov. 25: Thanksgiving, Ref. Men

Thank you to Shirley Lemieux and Ramona Fassio for making the 2nd Annual Iceland Affair possible at our hall on Oct. 18. As this was the third day of State Session, this correspondent and others were unable to be at the Grange Hall that day. Winchester Grange sold soup and crackers along with beverages for the event. A record attendance was enjoyed and organizer Gerri Griswold promises to return to Winchester with this event next year.

Our annual Holiday Bazaar and Cookie Walk is sold out! All tables available for the event are completely sold out with a waiting list. Join us on Saturday, Nov. 1

when we will have our usual Soup, Sandwiches and the popular cookie walk along with the wide variety of holiday craft vendors. It's a fun day to get a head start on Christmas shopping.

Our congratulations go to Peter Keefe for being appointed Pomona Deputy West and Sister Mary Lou Keefe for being re-appointed State Pianist at the recent State Grange Session. This correspondent also had the honor of being elected State Secretary. It seems to be a tradition in Winchester Grange to have a State Secretary in residence!

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Taghannuck Grange #100 will hold our Harvest Dinner and Awards program on November 13th at 6:30pm. We have a potluck covered dish dinner followed by the presentation of awards and a short program. The snow date (yes it is that time of year again) is November 20th.

Warren Prindle receives his 40 year seal.

Amy Whitcomb receives her Golden Sheaf Certificate for 50 years of membership which means she no longer pays dues and can attend the Bethlehem Fair for free.

The following members will get seals to place on their Golden Sheaf Certificate:

Ruth Schnell- 55 year seal; Brent Prindle- 60 year seal; John Morgan, Paul Johnson and Marion Olsen- 65 year seals; Virginia Smith and Francis Gomez- 70 year seals

Please feel free to join us to celebrate these members.



Todd A. Gelineau
 State Secretary
 secretary@ctstategrange.org

Another State Session is in the books and with it a great amount of change in the Connecticut State Grange. Sister Edith Schoell stepped down as Secretary of the State Grange and the transition process has begun. Sister Edith and I will be working together until the end of December carrying out the business of the State Grange and ensuring a smooth transition.

Edith is to be congratulated and given sincere appreciation for all of the work she has done during the last eight years. I have the great benefit of working with Edith now during the transition. She did not have that luxury when she took over the office from Marion Beecher. She accepted the election and jumped head first into figuring out how to operate the Central Office with only

State Secretary

the information she could glean from the records in the office.

I have heard many questions about how the office will now operate and when it will be open. The current plan is to have the office open three mornings (and very early afternoons) a week (M-W-F) and additional times as needed. One of those days (likely the Wednesday) may become evening office hours to facilitate the monthly Executive Committee meetings and to meet with the State Treasurer on a weekly basis. We'll keep you posted, but please give us a call in the mornings or leave a message. We'll get back to you as soon as possible.

When the Central Office moved from Patrons Group in Glastonbury to Good Will Grange Hall, there was a lot of work to be done in a short amount of time. Four or five rooms at Patrons had to be consolidated to fit within one room at the new office. Sister Edith worked hard to get it all in but as the years have passed, a GREAT deal of regalia, historical items and equipment

have accumulated at Good Will. The plan now is to inventory all of these items and get them put away and accessible as needs arise. There's a great number of Grange Songbooks and older songbooks available to any Grange that might have a need for them. Let us know. If you're missing a piece of regalia or something is damaged beyond repair, please let us know. We may have a replacement for you. It's far better to have these items in use than to sit in a box at the office.

The Quarterly Reports are beginning to be returned to Granges. If your Quarterly Report has not been sent in, please do so as soon as possible. In the envelope with the blank form and the copy of last quarter's report is a copy of the resolution on "Harmony in Our Granges" adopted this year at State Session. By delegate vote, all Granges are asked to read and discuss this resolution at their next meeting.

Again, let us know if you have any questions or need assistance from the Central Office.

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 faces and places as we look through the Window to the Past. You can contact us by calling (860) 626-5074 or on the web by emailing: submissions@ctstategrange.org.

No answers for October were received!

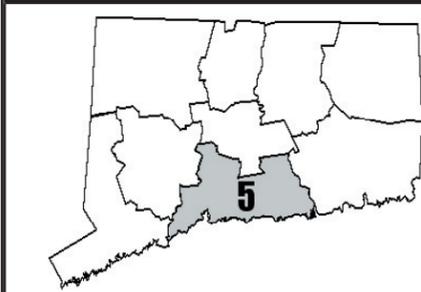


Last Month



This Month

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- ✓ Cheshire No. 23
- ✓ Wallingford No. 33
- ✓ North Haven No. 35

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 COUNTY POMONA #5

Corr: Wesle Dymoke

Dec. 8: (Sunday) – Open Meeting in Cheshire, Program- Our Christmas – Bring a \$3 gift to exchange. Potluck supper to follow.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Nov. 5: Young at Heart
Nov. 19: Thanksgiving Dinner

We got our new Grange year off to a good start by hosting a dinner at our hall for the State Grange Social Connection. It was an appreciation dinner for members working with the State Master these last four years. A program followed.

Our members are getting items ready for the annual Cheshire Food Bank this fall. Will have a fund raising dinner on November first for a local hiking club that we do each year. Just another mention of our third annual craft show to be held at our hall on Saturday, December 13th.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Dan Lauttenbach

On Aug. 26 there was a very short business meeting and discussion of the upcoming Fair.

On Sept. 11- "Fair Work Night" – this was strictly a work night for the fair.

On Sept. 13 – from 10 A.M. to 9 P.M. we held our 80th Annual Fair. All departments were well represented. There was marked increases in the number of needlework exhibits. We had vendors on the front lawn and all seemed to be making out well. The Grange food booth was busy most of the day. We had some games and coloring books for the kids and they were being well used. The weather was fair most of the day but just

as the Chicken Barbecue Dinner was to start it started to rain. So this might have dampened some last minute sales but we did manage to sell close to 150 dinners which was up from last year. The Record-Journal sent a reporter down to cover our Fair and there was a very positive article on our Fair the next day. Then we were even mentioned in the opinion page under the "Likes" of the week the next Saturday. See www.Myrecord-journal.com and search for "grange."

On Sept. 25 we held our Installation of Officers with Jody Cameron and Jeff Barnes' installation team doing the honors in a beautiful ceremony. Most of the officers went back in again this year but Anne Cella will be our new Lecturer.

Don't miss our Tag & Bake Sale on November 8 from 8 A.M. to 12 Noon.

On November 13- "Cooking Demonstration" by Robin and Anne. Refreshments will be from the cooking demo.

NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35

Corr: A. Tolette

Nov. 4: What's Cooking? Bring non-perishables for Food Closet

Dec. 2: It's Christmas Somewhere; Bring non-perishables for Food Closet

I guessed right. There are leaves to be raked. The foliage is outstanding. Many more bright red leaves than usual.

We had some nice hobbies in September. Among them were photos, scrapbooks and some neat Matchbox vehicles.

November is fast approaching. Remember to vote and have a happy turkey day.



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

Right after last year's session the legislative committee reviewed all of the resolutions from the session and incorporated the ones affecting legislative affairs into the Connecticut State Grange Legislative Policy Handbook. Copies of this booklet were distributed to Governor Malloy, Lt. Governor Wyman and all members of the Connecticut General Assembly.

Gordon Gibson was again our voice at the Capitol communicating our support or concerns on the various bills presented during the session. This year he testified on three bills. The first bill was before the Environmental Committee. Raise Bill 70, An Act Concerning the preservation of lands under control of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture. This bill authorized the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection to designate areas of land that the State already owns as areas that must be preserved. This was passed and signed by the Governor.

Legislatively Speaking

The second bill we testified on was before the Transportation Committee supporting Raised Bill 5288, An Act Concerning Road Treatments. This bill would have required the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation to do a study on the corrosive effects of the liquid road treatments on vehicles; this bill did not move out of committee and died.

The third bill was before the Environmental Committee. Raise Bill 5419, an Act Concerning the preservation of the Savin Farm in Lebanon. This bill allows the Department of Agriculture to grant preservation easements on the State owned Savin Farm.

At the beginning of the year the Federal Farm Bill was finally passed by the National House and Senate. This was a three year project with many legislators working to get the details together for its passage. The bill is still being implemented nationally. The State Grange sent letters to all of the Connecticut legislators encouraging the support of this bill.

National Grange did not host a Legislative Fly-In this year. One was held by Potomac Grange in Washington as part of the regional youth conference but it was at a time that we were unable to attend. National Grange also had a

change in their Legislative Directors during the year. The new director is Burton Eller.

I attended the Northeast Regional Leaders Conference that was held in Rhode Island this last January. Gordon Gibson attended the Working Land Alliance annual meeting as well as their regular meetings during the year. The Grange is a partner of this organization. He also, as an invited guest, attended an open house that was hosted by Rep. Penny Bacchiochi. Both Gordon and I attended the Connecticut Agricultural Day that was held at the Capitol in March. We spoke with many different legislators that day. We were pleased that Governor Malloy and Commissioner Reviczky stopped by the Connecticut State Grange booth for a photo.

I would like to thank our State President, Jody Cameron, for giving me this opportunity to serve as your Legislative Director for the last four years. I also wish to extend thanks to my committee, Charles Dimmick, Russell Gray, George Ward, Earl Phillips and our liaison Gordon Gibson for their work and support. We are proud that the Connecticut State Grange is known and recognized by both our National and State legislators for our concern of rural issues.



Jeff Barnes handles a resolution on the floor.



The officers march in on Thursday evening.



Jody Cameron following the Sixth Degree.



The Nicholsons & Camerons following the Degree

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
Dec. 10: Holiday Cheer – Norwich Grange

Our Pomona held a very successful Antiques Fair on Sept. 20 at the North Stonington Grange grounds. The weather was perfect. There were demonstrations of butter making, chair caning and flax spinning to name a few. Costumed docents willingly answered questions posed by curious passersby. There was wonderful entertainment and lots of food available. Appraisers were on hand to determine if your yard sale purchase of fifty cents was really a Monet; and the Grange hall held exhibits of all kinds. We are hoping this will be an annual affair.

Norwich Grange will host our holiday party in December; so put on your holiday best and fill your car for an evening of fun, festivities and friendship.

It's time for Thanksgiving!

Let's cook up the bird.
 And, if it's too salty,
 I won't say a word!

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
Nov. 14: "Wake Up Call"
Nov. 28: "Rude Awakening"- No Meeting, Happy Thanksgiving

Due to the Thanksgiving holidays there will be only one meeting in November. Our speaker, Katherine Dugas from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, will give a talk on invasive insects, two of which are the emerald ash borer and the winter moth. These insects are threatening our deciduous forests.

Our September programs were very interesting. The first gave us an account of

a German submarine sunk off our coast during WW II. At our Sept. 26 meeting Greg Howard, a Stonington policeman, gave an amazing talk and demonstration with his now retired police dog, Fritz. Greg fielded many questions from the crowd. And if all these golden leaves that are falling will just stay away from my lawn, next time we'll tell you all about outstanding October.

LYME GRANGE #147

Dec. 4: Christmas Memories, Potluck Supper at 6:30 P.M.

Dec. 6: Our turn to donate to auction at East Central Pomona at Good Will Grange Hall.

Jan. 1: Happy New Year, Meeting omitted.

Jan. 8: Come and see-Surprise! Show & tell.

At last some rain. Our wells are low as well as our ponds and streams.

Leaves are falling fast, mostly yellow. Where are the beautiful colors of fall?

Our October program was changed from "We were discovering" to "We were settled." A brief history of the settling of Lyme was presented by our Lecturer. Next year, Lyme, Old Lyme, East Lyme, Hadlyme, and the southern part of Salem will be celebrating their 350th anniversary of being settled.

One third of our collection is donated to "Warm the Children." This year it will be about \$197. Almost enough for one child. We keep one third for ourselves and one third is donated to Hillstown Junior Grange in two payments, one in April and one in October.

If old wife's tales are true- winter will not set in until the wells are full. Guess we can expect a lot more rain.



By Hank the Burro
 Greetings Grange Friends!

This is both a sad and exciting time in this Burro's life. I had to say goodbye to the Camerons, who have been my host family for the past year. They treated me with more respect and gratitude than a Burro could ask for. We had a lot of fun times - and I got to meet many new Grange friends as we traveled the state. Words can not express my thanks to such a wonderful family.

But now it is time for a new adventure - and a new host family. I have moved down to Coventry and now reside with the new State Grange President, Noel Miller, and his family. They have made me feel very welcome, and I am looking forward to all that lies ahead on our Grange journey together.

After attending the Big E and marching in the parade with the Hillstown Juniors back the end of September, I attended the Social Connection's Appreciation Dinner which was held at Cheshire Grange Hall. It was a lot of fun hanging out with Rob Buck, and dining with the Millers. It was a nice evening as folks were honored for their hard work and dedication in lending the State Officers a hand over the past four years.

On October 5th, I went to my first Halloween Party held by Quinebaug Pomona. Can you guess who I went as ?? (Of course I went as my favorite actor, Donkey from the movie Shrek.) I had a great time with everyone.

I went to Whigville Grange also in early October, and got to wish my friend Andrea Brown a Happy Birthday. Birthdays are so much fun!

Then I spent time getting ready for the 130th Annual Session of the CT State Grange. I got all checked into the hotel, and had a chance to sit and relax before the start of the Convention.

It was so nice to see so many of my Grange friends at the Convention who I met throughout the year. A lot of work happened in a very quick and efficient manner. I got to meet the State of CT Commissioner of Agriculture Steven K. Reviczky at the Luncheon on Friday.

I had a lot of fun at the 6th Degree Conferral - and was looking fab in my tux! The Degree is so beautiful. Congratulations to all 18 new 6th Degree members!

Thank you to the Youth and Junior Committees who presented a stylish winter hat to both me and Bruce the Buffalo after the Degree. These hats will get a lot of use this winter!

I got to sit at the Head Table at the Celebration Banquet right in the front of room - with a great view of all the awards and happenings. I got to award the winners of my two raffles at the Banquet too. Who knew that Charles Dimmick was such an accurate guesser when it comes to M&M candies!! Thank you to everyone who contributed donations and purchased raffle tickets. We raised almost \$100 for the State of Connecticut Large Equine Rescue Fund.

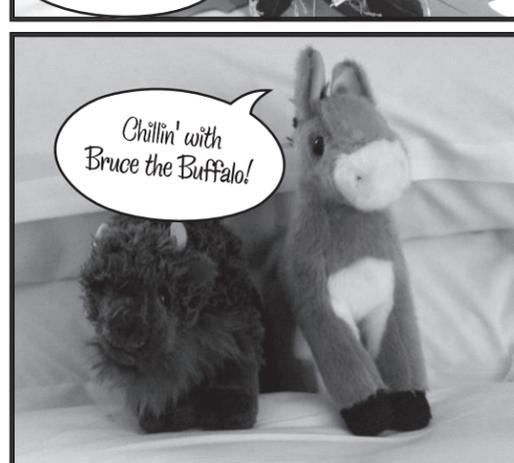
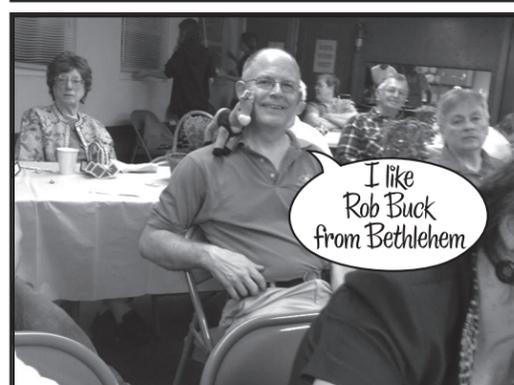
The entire Convention is an experience I will never forget.

I'm now winding down after the Session and getting settled in with my new host family, and then getting ready to go to National Grange Session in Ohio. Keep an eye on my Facebook page, as you never know where I'll pop up next!

Speaking of my Facebook page, won't you share my page with your friends and help me reach my next goal? As of this writing, I am now only 10 Likes away from my 300th friend on Facebook. My 300th friend will receive an autographed photo of me! Can you help me reach my goal prior to National Grange Session? 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!

See you next month!!



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

Our Master Cindy Legg and her spouse Ray represented us at the recent State Grange Session and I am sure they will have lots to report back to us at our November 19th meeting at Wolcott Grange. All the members of Excelsior Pomona would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and as we do not meet in December a very Merry Christmas.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Continuing with the television programs our program for our Nov. 14 meeting is "Gomer Pyle USMC." This is to be put on by our Lecturer Cindy Legg. Refreshments following the meeting will be in the charge of Gloria Meholik. At this meeting we will be reporting on our participation at the State Session.

On Nov. 28th we will be decorating the hall for the holidays. Where did this year go?

Our Christmas party is scheduled for December 12th. This will be a catered dinner. Reservations are a must. Will report on our other December activities next month.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Skip Maddox

Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Turkey Potluck Supper at 6:30 P.M. Awards night and canned food collection.

We mourn the loss of Jim Tucker, P.M. and P.L. of Excelsior Pomona.

Our Exhibit at Bethlehem Fair took first place. Thank you to all who helped.

On Dec. 8, 2014 we will meet at the hall for a 2 P.M. meeting then go to Painted Pony for dinner and \$5.00 Christmas Grab Bag will be held. This is a Sunday meeting.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Charles Perry

The Bridgewater Grange has been active these past few weeks. We ran a booth at the Bridgewater Fair

from August 15 to the 17th. We had free raffle drawings for various prizes including concert tickets for Reba Macintyre and Eric Church and other top country stars. We gave out lots of information and generated interest in the Grange. We have received at least eight new members and have a mailing list of 100 potential members.

We held our regular meeting on September 10. On Sept 12 we prepared for our first roast beef dinner which was held on Saturday Sept 13.

We also had a special meeting on Wed Sept 24th to prepare for our upcoming events.

We will have an open house on Saturday October 4th from 2 to 4 PM. State Master Jody Cameron will give a presentation. We will have pictures, information and a slide show for the public. The public as well as any Grange member is welcomed. We will have our regular meeting on October 8th at 7:30 PM in the Grange Hall. We will open the Grange Hall for the Bridgewater Halloween celebration on Friday October 31st.

The Bridgewater Grange will have six new members. Graham Baldwin, Maria Giannone, Riva Martin, Laura Miller, Neil Olshausky and Jennie Paragarino have all joined the Bridgewater Grange this past year. Graham Baldwin and Riva Martin run the Sullivan Farm in New Milford and they have been nominated "Farmers of the Year" by the Connecticut State Grange.

PROSPECT GRANGE #144

Corr: Jean Meehan

September 23 Prospect Grange members presented the 3rd grade students with their dictionaries and hand made book marks. special crafted pencils were made and presented to each of the 3rd grade teachers and a pencil holder and special crafted pencil was presented to principal Dr. McGeehan. This was the 15th year Prospect

Grange has given out the dictionaries and the last time in this school as next year all the students will be in a new school being built just down the road from the old school.

Due to confidentiality photos of the students receiving their dictionaries cannot be published. Due to a publishing error, the 2014-2015 programs

did not get published in Excelsior Pomona handbook. Watch Prospect's website for programs and announcements.

Our November 13 meeting will be Turkey Time. Bring your favorite Thanksgiving recipe. A thanksgiving potluck will be held at 6:30 p.m. Come join us. Our December 11 meeting will be a Christmas Party with

a potluck at 6:30 p.m. \$3.00 grab bag and Christmas Caroling. Come join us again.

Photo of Tina Meehan placing the hand made book marks in each of the dictionaries that we gave out. The second photo is of some of the teachers receiving their special crafted pencils.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Public Relations Award Winners

Public Relations Article - November 2014 Granger

The Connecticut State Grange Public Relations Committee offered 5 Contests in 2014. Judging for our contests was completed by rating each criteria on a 1 to 10 basis, and is anonymous through an online judging system. There were 11 judges (5 PR Committee members / 3 other Grange Members / 3 Non-Grange Members.) Here's the winners —

1.) Promote Your Grange: Creative Video Contest

Create a video promoting your Grange of any length, and of any theme.

Winner: Ekonk Community Grange 125th Anniversary video created by William Sebastian

2.) Grange Micro-Promotion Contest

Promote the message of the Grange by writing a compelling promotion in less than 140 characters. Winner: Winchester Grange No. 74

3.) Show Off Your Grange Marketing Materials Contest

Granges are asked to submit one method that they use to publicize and promote their Grange. This could be a poster, brochure, booth at a community event,

community service project, special event, etc. and write a brief description is applicable. Winner: Winchester Grange No. 74

4.) Best Cooperative Partnership Contest

An integral part of Grange public relations is partnering with other local groups and organizations. Granges were asked to write a description of how they integrated/utilized a Cooperative Partnership. Winner: Killingly Grange No. 112

5.) Social Media Participation Contest

Granges are automatically entered into this contest by effectively and actively managing a proper Facebook and/or Twitter Page.

Facebook:

Juniors: Ekonk Community Junior Grange No. 101

Pomona: (Tie) Central Pomona No. 1 and Quinebaug Pomona No. 2

Community: Note: Only one percentage point separated the first and second place winners.

1st Place: Wolcott; 2nd Place: Cheshire; 3rd Place: Winchester.

Twitter:

Pomona: Central Pomona No. 1

Community: Note: Again, Only one percentage point

separated the first and second place winners.

1st Place: Winchester

2nd Place: Cannon

3rd Place: Meriden

All Granges with Facebook and/or Twitter Pages received a special participation certificate.

Ekonk Community Jr. Grange #101

Central Pomona #1

Quinebaug Pomona #2

Mt. County Pomona #4

New London Cty Pomona #6

Excelsior Pomona #7

Granby Grange #5

Cheshire Grange #23

Southington Grange #25

Meriden Grange #29

Whigville Grange #48

Eureka Grange #62

Winchester Grange #74

Hillstown Grange #87

Ekonk Comm. Grange #89

Ashford Grange #90

Taghannuck Grange #100

Litchfield Grange #107

Killingly Grange #112

Beacon Grange #118

Bethlehem Grange #121

Greenfield Hill Grange #133

Prospect Grange #144

Norfield Grange #146

Lyme Grange #147

Cannon Grange #152

Riverton Grange #169

Norwich Grange #172

Wolcott Grange #173

Oxford Grange #194

Simsbury Grange #197

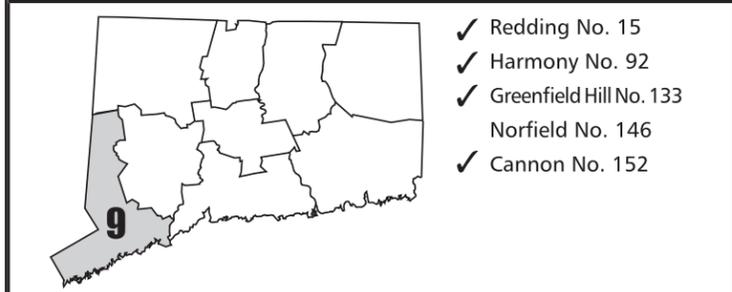
Groton Comm. Grange #213

Simsbury Grange Agricultural Fair



A hayride passes Simsbury Grange Hall during their Sept. Agricultural Fair.

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



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.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY POMONA #9

Corr: Bob Sendewicz

Nov. No Meeting

Dec. 3: 6:00 P.M. Supper, Christmas Program

At our October meeting the Fifth Degree was conferred on three new candidates from Greenfield Hill Grange. We welcome Stephen Golias, Jim Golias and Jared Keil to our Pomona.

The December meeting at Norfield Grange Hall is our Christmas celebration and has many activities planned. There will be a 6 P.M. potluck supper and we will be collecting Toys for Tots. The program will include the best dressed male and female for the holiday. There will be games, singing Christmas carols and skits. So come join us for a fun-filled night.

REDDING GRANGE #15

Corr: Bob Sendewicz

Nov. 10: Veterans Day

Nov. 24: We Give Thanks

Dec. 8: Celebrate Christmas, 6:30 P.M. Supper

Now that the State Session is over we can relax and enjoy the upcoming holidays. Weather permitting we will continue with our regular meetings but they will be more enjoyable.

During this time of the season we will be doing what we can for the needy in our communities. Be thankful for what you have and share with others.

We had a successful Fall Harvest Fair and thank everyone that attended and supported us. We had an abundance of produce and most of it was sold before the fair ended, although they couldn't be removed until then.

Our next potluck supper will be our Christmas celebration. Come join us for some holiday fun. If you do come and wish to participate, we are having a \$1.00 grab bag.

HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: George Ward

Harmony Grange draped its charter in the September

meeting for our oldest member, in age, for Mary Mazur who passed away August 23, 2014 at the age of 102. She was well known for her wonderful sense of humor and her commitment to service to others. A woman of strong religious convictions, she was active in many religious, civic, and community organizations.

On October 4th, 2014, the Farm Bureau Tour group of Connecticut meet at Harmony Grange for lunch and dinner. The dinner was cooked in the Harmony Grange kitchen and served in the dining hall. Many hours of preparation were spent in getting the dining hall and kitchen in proper order for the occasion. Hopefully, members of the group will show an interest in the Grange and especially Harmony Grange.

At our October meeting we will discuss the agenda of the upcoming Connecticut State Grange session and how the Grange should react to the issues. We will invite a member of the Executive Committee or the Legislative Committee of the Connecticut State Grange to answer questions the membership have.

Harmony Grange has rescheduled its 125th anniversary to early spring of 2015 to allow more time to make preparations and hopefully, to redecorate the lower level of the hall, including the bathrooms.

On October 4, the Fairfield County Connecticut Farm Bureau organized a farm tour promoting Connecticut Grown Ag products and businesses. Harmony Grange volunteered the use of their hall for both lunch and dinner. The Connecticut farm-sourced food and drink were supplied by Stone Gardens, Shelton, Mason's Farm Market, Monroe, Bison Meat from Tanner's in Brooklyn, CT. Other foods and drinks were supplied as well. Many hours of preparation were spent in getting the dining hall and kitchen in proper

order for the occasion.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

Nov. 17: Thanksgiving, 6 P.M., 8 P.M. Meeting

Dec. 15: Christmas Party & Grab Bag

Early October brought progress on two fronts. We had three members, Jared Keil and Jim and Steve Golias have conferred on them the Fifth Degree at the Pomona meeting on the 1st. This brings to six active members that have joined Pomona. Also looking ahead to 2015, we had a preliminary planning meeting for next year's fair, where areas of responsibility were outlined. This year's Fair resulted, as reported at our September meeting were found to be very successful.

A Winter's Farmer's Market has started at our hall at 1873 Hillside Road, Fairfield. Featured are fresh free range eggs, seasonal produce, organic greens, fresh baked pies and more. Refreshments are available. Hours are 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on Saturdays through next March.

A Thanksgiving theme dinner is planned for November 17th. Note the times for dinner and meeting. Contact us at greenfieldhill133@gmail.com for information on our November and December activities.

All of our Grange friends are welcome!

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

Nov 6: Nutrition & Healthy Eating

Nov 20: Cooking for Thanksgiving

Dec 4: Everything to know about GMOs - guest speaker, public invited

Dec 6: Holiday Market (Saturday) 10 AM - 3 PM

Dec 18: Holiday Party

We are off to a good start with the new Grange year and have a line up of fascinating programs that are interactive, informative and interesting. Our members and guests enjoyed a program on winemaking (recipes that use grapes, fruits, honey) presented by our lecturer, John Kriz. Winemaking has been a hobby of John's for a number of years, and he was very generous in telling about the process, where to procure the ingredients and equipment and how to bottle the end-product. John displayed his equipment and

demonstrated its use. It is no wonder that John has won several awards for his wines.

Over 125 pounds of canned and packaged food was collected as admission to our Agricultural Fair. Three bushel baskets were arranged by Michele Clark and Doug Shepherd for delivery to the Wilton Food Pantry as a collaborative effort of service by our two organizations.

We will have a guest speaker coming in December to talk about genetically modified food, and this should provide opportunity for a lively debate on this

interesting and current topic. Are GMOs " Franken-food" or is it all hype? Come find out!

Perfect time to do some Christmas shopping will be at our Holiday Market on Saturday, December 6th. Come between 10 AM and 3 PM for some wonderful shopping for gifts, or for treats for yourself. You might even catch Santa and one of his elves coming to visit.

Please note our meeting and event schedule. All our meetings begin at 7 PM. Visiting Patrons are always welcome -- won't you join us?

Legislative Dir. hired

J. Burton Eller, Jr., Managing Director of Burton Eller Associates in Washington, DC has been appointed Director of Legislative Affairs for the National Grange. Eller will be responsible for implementing the Grange public policy and government affairs agenda in the nation's capital while engaging grassroots Grange members in this process. He will represent the Grange before Congress, agencies of the Federal Government, coalitions, working groups, and other organizations. Another important responsibility of the Director will be to increase the organization's influence and visibility at the national level and to serve as a reliable resource on rural America, agricultural policy and other issues important to Grange members.

Eller, who starts September 1st, says he is "very excited to be working for an organization that has done so much for rural America and the rural community."

"We are pleased to have someone with Burton's agricultural experience and policy savvy in Washington join our team," said Grange President Ed Luttrell. "It is a pleasure to have him on our Grange team in Washington. Burton has been the head of two Washington offices, CEO of two associations and Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture at USDA. His experiences with advocacy, coalition building, stakeholder management and executive leadership will certainly be valuable to our grassroots Grange mission".

Eller operates a farm in southwest Virginia that has been in his family since 1868.

So. Conn. Past Masters

On November 8th we meet at Oxford Grange. The evening starts with a potluck supper served promptly at 6:30. As with all Grange suppers it is always plentiful. This is followed by a short meeting presided by President Cindy Legg. Our program is entitled "It's Gobbler Time" to be presented by Vice President Cindy Charbonneau.

We always end with a country store.

All Grangers welcome. Come and enjoy a delicious supper, participate in the meeting and then be entertained with the program and lastly you might be lucky winning something from the country store.



The Miller family poses for a picture following Installation.



Michelle DeDominicis
State Junior Grange Director
juniors@ctstategrange.org

EKONK JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Rebecca Gervais

Ekonk Jr. had a busy October. On the 15th, we met the National Representatives to State Session.

On the 24th we held our Annual Halloween Party and Hayride. Cannot wait to see what the youth have planned for the haunted hayride.

On the 25th, Sterling held

Junior Grange

an Ag Day, and we ran the children's games, as well as having a bake sale table. Later on the 25th, Sterling is having its second annual Spooktacular. Complete with a Truck-or Treat, Storyteller, and haunted hayride.

On Halloween Night, new member Tracy Hanson will have her trunk decorated and filled with candy/info. about our Junior Grange at Voluntown's Trunk-or-Treat.

At our October meeting, our newly installed officers ran their first meeting. We have a young bunch! New President Alisa, did a great job! We harvested our

garden, not as much this year. We had to replant, as the seeds from the first plantings did not sprout! Frustrating. We persevered, and were able to get some squash to donate.

On Sunday, November 9th, we will be visiting Tomaquag Museum. It is a Native American museum about 20 min, from the hall, in Rhode Island. Just off Route 165. We will have to BE there at 2 P.M. so if you wanted to caravan, we would leave the Grange at 1:20. The cost is \$6 per person. The tour/program will last about an hour. I need a count, ASAP, as they do have a limit of 30.

In Memoriam

Allen Ward
Jim Tucker

Manchester Grange #31
Bethlehem Grange #121

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

Charles Dimmick, State Chaplain

"Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity!" These words from Psalm 133 also appear at the end of our Grange installation ceremony. We find an echo of this in our Grange motto: "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity". And finally, at the Last Supper, our Lord said "A new commandment I give you: that you love one another as I have loved you."

Thus the message is clear. Despite the fact that our fellow brothers and sisters in the Grange come in all colors, flavors, and sizes, despite the fact that we have a high diversity of opinions, of backgrounds, of religious and political viewpoints, we are bound together in a single fraternity. Sometimes we may find ourselves in strident disagreement with one another, sometimes we may be angered or distressed by another Granger's actions or words, but at the end of the day we must put these aside and embrace each other in a spirit of love and brotherhood.

What unites us is stronger than what divides us. In the Grange, as in any large family, we will have likes and dislikes, people we prefer being around compared to others. But we must learn to LOVE even those we do not particularly like, because we ARE all one family, one community of brothers and sisters, with common goals and objectives.

Granger Shout Out



Barbara Kulisch for the excellent job as Chaplain for the CT State Grange. You did a wonderful job. We are going to miss you as our Chaplain. Maggie & Lin.



A shout out for the GREAT WORK Todd Gelineau has done for the past 4 years...



To John Kriz for a great job in leading the Lecturer's program in October about his hobby of wine-making and showing all of his equipment and tools.



Granby Grangers Roseanna and Charle Smith helped Vivian and Lyall Shaw attend Maple Tree Café in Simsbury for their 67th Simsbury High School Reunion.



A shout out to Terri Fassio for ALL the work she does for the Connecticut State Grange!!!

Submit your Shout-Outs today!

Granger@CTStateGrange.org

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

National to meet in Sandusky

Registration is currently open for the 148th Annual National Grange Convention. Convention will take place November 11th through the 16th in Sandusky, Ohio at the Kalahari Resort, home of the country's largest indoor water park.

There is always plenty of fun to be had at the Convention activities. You can participate in workshops to learn something new; peruse the Idea Fair to bring back programs for your Grange; and check out the Best of Show with displays of award winning crafts, community service books, the Quilt Block contest and the Photo Contest. The Evening of Excellence talent show is always a great show to attend and for even more fun you could drop by the youth costume dance. This year there will be a safari theme. If Grange traditions are more your style, don't forget to obtain or observe the Sixth and Seventh Degrees or spend some time

in Session watching the Delegates and Officers discuss the business of the Grange.

The host committee has been preparing for a fantastic convention for all. They have planned tours to a NASA facility where you could learn about rocket launches and the Thomas Edison Birthplace Museum in a neighboring town. The Junior Grange tour will visit the Merry-Go-Round Museum to ride an old restored merry-go-round and see carvers handcraft horses for these historic rides. The host committee also promises an amazing hospitality suite to keep you well fed and they are collecting stuffed toys to later donate to children's hospitals and charity organizations.

This convention will be a great event from start to finish and will keep the whole family engaged and having fun.

Visit www.NationalGrange.org for more details and registration information.

Thanksgiving

Barbara C. Kulisch, Past State Chaplain

A time of gratitude and friendship

Most Americans, learning about Thanksgiving's origin, hear or read about the destitute Pilgrims who suffered greatly during their first bitter winter in America. Many Pilgrims got sick and half of them died.

What we don't focus on enough is the fact that Native Americans took pity of the Pilgrims. They befriended the newcomers and gave them food. They taught them how to survive the vicious cold months.

Then, when the earth grew warm again, the natives taught the Pilgrims how to grow various crops and how to store any surplus. It was primarily because of this helpfulness that the Pilgrims began to eke their way from disaster to fruitfulness.

It is no wonder that when the Pilgrims had their first successful harvest, they invited their neighbors to celebrate with them. The natives didn't come empty-handed. They furnished venison, wild turkeys and probably vegetables from storage. It was, more or less, a potluck affair. The Pilgrim leaders prayed gratefully at the occasion.

We can be confident that an unseen but not unexpected Guest was very much present that day. ~Come sit with us, Father, and know our Thanksgiving.~

NE Grange sends thanks

The Trustees and Staff of the Country Store at the New England Grange Building at the Big E thank Diane Small (living in Florida) for donating the lovely Christmas Tree used during the fair to display ornaments for sale.