

Let's Celebrate Day

Sunday, June 14, 2015 • Cheshire Grange Hall
Doors Open at 10:00 A.M.

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Connecticut Granger



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The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

May 2015

Let's work together



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

School is out for summer!, between college and High Schools our youth will be free from the inhumane treatment they have endured this past year for new freedoms. Let them celebrate now but soon they will learn what we as parents have been trying to tell them for years. It's a cruel world we live in. Hard work and perseverance will get them that job that they have always wanted and the big bucks they so want. We as parents will be right behind them catching them and steering them in the right direction. So congratulations to those seniors and good luck on your new ventures.

Inspection reports

have been flowing into my mailbox and I thank all those hard working Granges and Pomona Granges who have welcomed my Deputy staff into your Grange Halls. I have seen we have Community Granges that are having a stressful year with weather and lack of new members. There is help from our membership committee for programs and supplies for new growth. Many Granges are going to farmer markets to seek new members. It seems we can't get them to our meeting places so we must go to where they go and ask them to join.

Many events are happening in June, "Let's Celebrate" and Grange Sunday is June 14th with CWA contest judging on June 13th, at Cheshire Grange Hall. Hope to see you there to root on the talent contest entries after the Youth Committee luncheon.

June 28th is New England Grange Sunday at the Cathedral of the Pines, in Rindge NH. Let's take a day trip to the woods with fellow Grangers.

In the Blue Book the Agriculture Contest is incorrect, this year we are continuing the donations of vegetables to Soup Kitchens, Shelters, Food Pantries, and Food Share. Last year you donated over 13,000 lbs of vegetables to these groups and we are seeking 15,000 lbs this year. So get planting there is still time to get plants into the ground.

I would like to thank Kathryn Ruff for her time as deputy of East Central Pomona #3, during her recovery of knee surgery we had a lack of communications and she asked to step down. This is one is on me because I do not read e-Mails of the President as often as I should and lost a faithful member from my staff. For this I am greatly sorry.

As Elections for some Granges are in June remember that we are all team players, and individuals have no place in our order, let's all work together for the next Grange year.

Happy Fathers Day to all you Dads out there.

Oxford & Bethlehem partner with FFA



WOODBURY, CT-11 May 2015-For the fifth year in a row, Bethlehem Grange #121 and Oxford Grange #194 have donated seed potatoes and bean seeds to Nonewaug HS teacher Sarah LaRose's local food production class to grow vegetables that will be donated to the Woodbury Food-bank. This morning, Bethlehem members Albert "Skip" Maddox (Grange President) and Eloise Osuch, and Oxford members Robert and Maggie Buck (Grange President) met with instructor Sarah LaRose and her sophomore local food production class to present 120 lbs. of seed potatoes and 2 lbs. of bean seeds for planting.

With the demand on local food-banks increasing, the Connecticut State Grange entered into a state-wide program four years ago to encourage its local Grange chapters to spearhead the production of fresh vegetables to supplement the traditional food pantry offerings of canned and boxed foods. The Granges in Bethlehem and Oxford entered into a long-range partnership with the vo-ag instructors and their students in the Ellis Clark Regional Program to help improve the nutritional quality of the Woodbury Food-bank offerings. The Nonewaug HS agri-science program has a dedicated garden with a variety of vegetables in addition to that from the Grange donations. Last year, they donated about 2000 lbs. of produce to the community.

You're a Granger... and you don't even know it yet

by T.J. Malaskee, Minnesota State Grange

Wabasso, Minn--Ask any ol' person off the street what they know about the Grange, and three-quarters of them shrug their shoulders or stare blankly back at you. Grange-what? Some recall the word "Grange" from high school history class. A few even remember it has "something to do with farmers."

A smaller percentage recollect a 1977 episode of Little House on the Prairie, in which William F. Claxton directed a narrative that sends Pa to Chicago for a district Grange convention. In the episode, "Times of Change," Ma throws her arms around Pa with excessively enthusiastic

elation when she learns that the Grange has elected him as their local delegate. Oh, Charles!

In Chicago, railroad-men shatter Pa's veneration for the Grange by corrupting the convention with soiled-doves and booze. Nevertheless, in true Michael Landon fashion, Pa gives an impassioned speech that rights the hoodwinked farmers and sets the course of American agricultural history back on track.

Of course, it's all malarkey.

The real Charles Ingalls wasn't a Granger (that we know of). There wasn't a Grange in Walnut Grove (nor in North Hero Township where the Ingalls resided along Plum Creek).

Moreover, just why Ma wasn't at the Grange meeting in Walnut Grove, or why no [decent] women were present at the Chicago Grange convention, is a mystery (the Grange, from inception, is an institution that welcomes women).

What isn't malarkey is the fact that for nearly a quarter of a million

Americans, the Grange is real. These people are the literal and figurative decedents of Grange men and women who have made-and continue to make-history. The idea that farmers and rural Americans can unite with a collective voice guiding their own destinies is a tenet that rings true today.

A 100% non-partisan organization, the Grange is the champion of regulating railroad monopolies for the public good, conceptualizing and strongly advocating for the US Postal Service to institute Rural Free Mail Delivery across the country, advocating for women's suffrage, fighting for the

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Next Issue...



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



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

Scan this QR Code and join us on the web!





Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary
secretary@ctstategrange.org

State Secretary



The t-shirts are here! The t-shirts are here! Those who attended the Social Connection "Come to the Fair" event in May were the first to have the opportunity to buy their own Connecticut State Grange Ag t-shirts. They are very limited in availability with only 36 printed. As of this printing we have 12 shirts remaining in Large and Extra Large sizes only. Price is \$15 each shirt plus shipping & handling. If you would like one, please email me at Secretary@CTStateGrange.org or call me at 860-307-1522 and I will let you know if you are one of the lucky 12 to purchase one. We will ship them out to you right away and an invoice will follow from the State Treasurer. Don't miss out! They are going fast! A picture of the front and back of the shirt is shown below. When ordering, please provide your full name, address and phone number.

There continues to be many questions about the 1% late fee charged on late Quarterly Reports to the State Grange—a copy of the original resolution adopted by the Delegates to State Session is also printed on this page for your reference.

Soon there will be a new quarterly report form that will also include the +1 program for Juniors. As there is no current reporting, we have no idea how many new Junior members are joining Granges around the State. As with the Junior Granges, there are no dues to the State Grange, however, it is very useful for us to know how many +1 Junior Grangers are participating in our meetings and programs.

We receive quite a few quarterly report form with the Pomona form at the bottom still attached to the report. If you are not aware, that stub at the bottom of the Quarterly Report Form is to be filled out and sent in to your Pomona Secretary to aid them in their reporting and record keeping.

Picnic time is here and so is the time when many

Granges honor members for continuous dedicated service to the Order. Please look through your records now and find out which members are due for recognition this year. Seals and Silver Star Certificates are available through the Central Office and the Golden Sheaf and higher year letters are available through National

Grange (by sending in the completed form with appropriate payment to the Conn. State Grange Central Office). Please allow enough time to receive the awards before your presentations.

Get out and enjoy the wonderful weather that has been far too long in coming this year!

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING LATE CHARGES ON QUARTERLY DUES

WHEREAS, the Connecticut State Grange is required to make quarterly payments of dues to the National Grange, and

WHEREAS the source of funds to pay the quarterly dues to National Grange is the quarterly dues paid by the Subordinate and Community Granges to the Connecticut State Grange, and

WHEREAS if the dues to the National Grange are not promptly paid when due the National Grange assesses one (1%) percent per month late fee, and

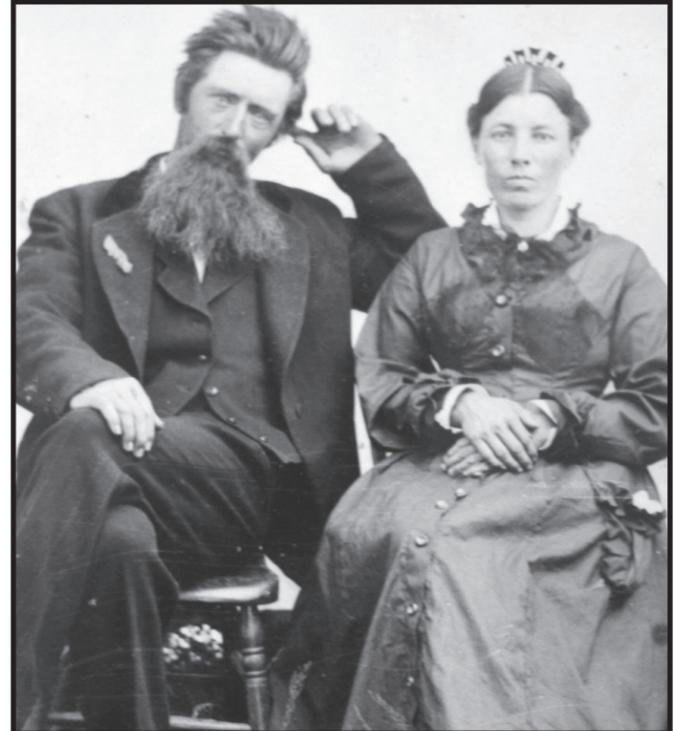
WHEREAS not all Community or Subordinate Granges remit their dues to the Connecticut State Grange in a prompt and timely manner.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange shall assess all Community and Subordinate Granges that fail to remit their quarterly dues within (30) days of the due date a late fee of one (1%) percent per month until the dues are received by the Connecticut State Grange, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if a Community or Subordinate Grange makes a partial payment of delinquent dues the accrued late fees shall be taken from the partial payment before any portion of the payment is applied to the delinquent dues, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that if the National Grange increases the late fee charged the Connecticut State Grange the State Grange Board of Directors shall have the authority to increase the rate charged the Community and Subordinate Granges to a rate not exceeding the rate charged the State Grange by the National Grange.

You're a Granger



The "real-life" Charles & Caroline Ingalls

continued from page one...

public land-grant college system, partnering with the Cooperative Extension Services to introduce them to rural America, and is one of the first national organization to support deaf education and tackle issues in the hard of hearing community.

Even before the first Farm Bill in 1933, the Grange had a voice in Washington DC, promoting the welfare of farm families and rural Americans. Today, the Grange continues to work with lawmakers, fighting for such issues as rural access to high-speed broadband internet, while employing one of the most well-respected and influential agricultural lobbyists in Washington DC.

The Grange is more than a lobbying organization. For nearly 150 years, the Grange has been America's family fraternity, premier community service group and social institution for tens of thousands of hometown communities.

Walnut Grove-as of yet-has no Grange (though it may, someday). Nevertheless, the Grange continues to grow, and America's newest Grange, Prairie Fire Grange, is blooming in the heart of Redwood County twenty-two miles from the location of Pa Ingalls' fictitious proclamation: "Caroline, I'm goin' t' Grange!"



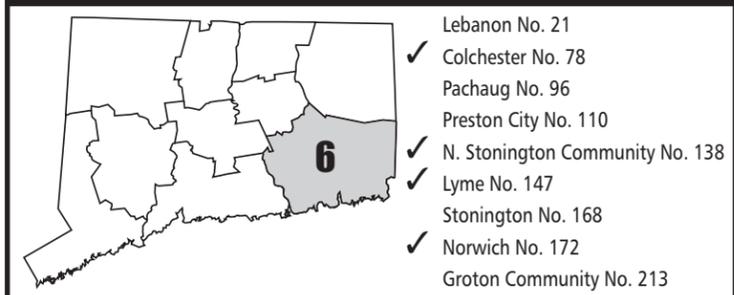
Laura Ingalls c. 1894

New London County Pomona holds Degree Day



New London County Pomona No. 6 held a very successful Degree Day at North Stonington Comm. Grange on April 19. Ten marching candidates observed the conferral of the first four degrees in full form.

New London County Pomona No. 6



MISSION STATEMENT

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

NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller
June 11: "Wedding Bells" – Stonington Grange

Aug. 8: Picnic

We held a very successful Degree Day at North Stonington Comm. Grange on April 19. Ten marching candidates observed the conferral of the first four degrees in full form. Master Mary Medbery knew her part perfectly, the tableaux were beautiful, and the potluck dinner that followed was truly awesome. Many thanks to all who contributed to this beautiful day.

We will meet at Stonington Grange in June. The program sounds interesting. Hope to see a good crowd there. We will be deciding on a place for our annual picnic in August.

The sun's getting higher, the water is warm

So get out your sunblock and suit.

And come down to Stonington that Thursday night,

It's important that we "give a hoot!"

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Bonnie Trecarten

Our Monday, April 13th meeting was attended by several special guests. Our State Master/President, Noel T. Miller, Jim Palmer, Deputy Pomona East, and Pat Palmer. As always, we welcomed Lois Evankow, Flora of East Central Pomona, and Ted Beebe,

State Membership. We also were pleased to have in attendance Hank the Burro, he was very quiet and well behaved, the perfect guest.

Our community service activities continue with our Bingo at Apple Rehab, and cooking with the Grange at Harrington Court facilities. We also donated several bags of plastic containers and food items to the soup kitchen in Willimantic, where our members volunteer time. A special thank you to all that volunteer many hours to this charity.

Chris Bourque advised us of a meeting of 5 towns in the Colchester area to discuss a farm to school program, with a food hub in Colchester to process fruits and vegetables for school systems in Colchester and surrounding towns. Also, an agriculture education program will be introduced to schools by the Agriculture Education Council.

We received a thank you for the 18 Easter Baskets that were donated in co-ordination with the Veterans Ladies Auxiliary to our Veterans project in Jewett City. Each basket held items for a complete Easter themed dinner for all 18 Veterans and were greatly appreciated.

Our Charter was draped in honor of two members who we recently lost; Joann Riddell and Barbara Ella Smith-Clark. We extend our condolences to both families.

Please don't forget to check with our CWA representative Cathy Russi regarding upcoming trips for Grange members and anyone that likes to travel.

Looks like it's finally Spring so hope everyone can get out there and enjoy the warmer weather.

N. STONINGTON GRANGE COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

June 12: "Unpredictable"

June 26: "Astounded"

On April 10 Jason Miner presented an interesting and informative PowerPoint program called "Leave No Trace". On the 24th we honored longtime members, nine of whom were present to accept their seals or certificates.

It was great to greet old friends again! Golden Sheaf Certificates and pins were presented to Eric Berg, Jr., Alma Limpert and Joyce and Tim Maine by State Lecturer Marge Bernhardt. We also presented 55, 65 and 70 year seals. We have a 75 year letter for Clarence W. Bradley but have lost track of him in the last five years. If anyone knows of his whereabouts, please contact the Secretary.

On June 12th we will elect officers for the coming year and have a short program. We will hold our annual picnic on June 26th. The Grange provides hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks. The fun begins at 6:30. Please bring a dish to share. Sue Pianka will have games for the young and young at heart until the mosquitoes drive us home-well, they don't actually do the driving... and if those big, black ants that are beginning to show up will just stay outside, next time we'll tell you about the merry month of May.

LYME GRANGE #147

July 2: Fun in the Sun

Aug. 6: Here Come the

Ants Two by Two- Picnic at 6:30 P.M.

Sept. 3: Best wishes to all our new officers – Installation

It's time to play catch up. We finally had our meetings when scheduled. These pesky shoo flies are back and the shad is running up the Connecticut River.

Our April Neighbor's Night was a wonderful success. There were 31 total in attendance. Hank came along with his master Noel and Marsha. A real old fashioned fun evening.

Then in May we managed to do the First and Second Degrees. Many have never seen them. Two people came from Colchester. Luckily our chair lift works great. Total of 25 with 19 from Lyme in attendance. Sue Pianka came for the second month in a row to play the piano for us. What a special lady even though she is very busy- she came.

We voted to support New London County Pomona with a gift card for the raffle at their festival.

Next meeting we will have our strawberry muffin bake-off.

Hope everyone enjoys these beautiful days. Just a reminder to watch out for those ticks and sunburn. They both can be harmful.

NORWICH GRANGE #172

Corr: Susan Kenney

This month the Norwich Grange had their annual Memorial Service. We also had our annual fair planning meeting. The lecture was on house plant and landscape gardening.

Our annual fair will be Aug. 1, 2015. We are accepting vendors. Next month's lecture is going to be on berry farming.



American Macaroni Salad

Hank's Hankerings - June 2015 Granger

Macaroni Salad is a summertime classic which can be found at most every cook-out, barbecue, picnic and potluck! This recipe from the Food Network adds a sour cream twist, kicking the recipe up a notch on the taste ladder to success!

American Macaroni Salad

- 2 cups dry elbow macaroni, cooked, rinsed, and drained
- 1/3 cup diced celery
- 1/4 cup minced red onion, soaked in cold water for 5 minutes, drained
- 1 tablespoon minced flat-leaf parsley
- 1/2 cup diced vine-ripened tomato
- 1/2 cup prepared mayonnaise
- 3/4 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1-1/2 teaspoons sugar
- 1-1/2 tablespoons cider vinegar
- 3 tablespoons sour cream
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more to taste
- Freshly ground black pepper



In a large bowl combine the macaroni, celery, onion, parsley and tomato. In a small bowl, whisk together the mayonnaise, mustard, sugar, vinegar, sour cream and salt. Pour the dressing over the salad and stir to combine. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve. Store covered in the refrigerator, for up to 3 days.

Source: <http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/food-network-kitchens/american-macaroni-salad-recipe.html>

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

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DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

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 P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033

or

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 Secretary Treasurer. Edith Schoell

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

Excelsior Pomona would like to welcome 4 new members that took their Fifth Degree in May. I am sure these four young members will have a lot to contribute to our Grange work.

We would like to remind everyone that Camp Berger needs camperships to help fill the camping season. Camp Maud Isbell Berger is a great asset to our Grange and its success is up to us all. Hope all have a great summer.

We are happy to see Joanne Cipriano back home from the hospital and on the way to mending. Our June meeting will be election of officers at Bridgewater Grange.

BEACON VAL. GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

April was be a busy month for the members of Beacon Valley Grange. On Saturday April 18th we hosted a Degree Day put on by the members of Excelsior Pomona with help from Central and Fairfield County Pomona's Six candidates took the Degrees. Special thanks to Barbara Robert who prepared the meal served between the Second and Third Degrees. It was delicious. Also to everyone who helped in any way. Everyone did a good job headed by Robert Buck Master of the First, Second and Third Degrees and Robert Sendewicz Master of the Fourth Degree.

On Saturday April 25th, we had an Open Mic program. This was in charge of Ron Fischer. The music was great.

On Saturday May 2nd we had a tag sale. We didn't get rich but we did make a profit. Thanks to everyone who helped. We are planning another one.

Our next meeting is June 12th. The program is titled "Father Knows Best". It will also be Election of Officers. Cindy and Ray Legg will have charge of

refreshments. On Friday June 26th we will have our officer's planning meeting.

As we took first place in the A Number at Pomona we will be performing again at Grange Sunday on June 14th. Taking part was: Ron Fischer, Cindy Legg, Bryan Kaplan, Diane and Victor Godin and Joanne Cipriano.

PROSPECT GRANGE #144

Corr: Jean Meehan

We would like to welcome Donald Tyler as a new member of Prospect Grange and happy to that he also took his 5^{ht} degree in May. Donald has a lot of energy and we look forward to his input into our grange work.

Prospect Grange was proud to be able to celebrate Memorial Day with the Gold Star Families by making table favors for their annual Memorial Day celebration. Red White and Blue baskets filled with candy with a gold star on them were made and placed on the tables. We also took part in the placing of American Flags on the graves of veterans in 3 different cemeteries. We also took part in Memorial Day celebrations by donating food for a veterans picnic.

The presentation of 150 Certificates of Appreciation to the workers at the Paradigm Health Center was a highlight of our Grange Month celebration. Prospect Grange was proud to recognize these men and women for dedicating their lives to helping the handicapped and elderly when they cannot do for themselves. We received tons of smiles and thanks.

We had several entries in the CWA baking contest and have many entries in the craft and flower pot contests. We will be holding our annual picnic at our July meeting. Our Lecturer has many games and songs for us to play and sing.

Oxford is "Home on the Grange"



On Saturday the 9th, Oxford Grange #194 held its "Home on the Grange Share and Learn" symposium for those interested in gardening, winemaking, bee-keeping, keeping of small animals, and other small scale agricultural pursuits.

The purpose of the event was to disseminate knowledge of these backyard farming activities to the public by a variety of speakers who are experts in their fields of endeavor. Those present listened to five half hour presentations on various topics. Guy Beardsley of Guy's Eco-Garden in Shelton spoke on organic gardening techniques. Jon Haight from Maltose Express in Monroe spoke on home wine, beer, and cider making. Then renowned bee expert Al Avitabile of Bethlehem spoke on honeybees and their importance as pollinators. Robert Owsiany, Oxford's Agriculture Commission Director, held a question and answer session on keeping small animals such as rabbits, chickens, and goats. The final presentation was on natural pollinators and their importance by Charlotte Pyle of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Dawn Sotir of Coon Hollow Farm and Pam Blasko of Dream Come True Farm, both in Oxford, were on hand with demonstrations of spinning natural fibers into yarn as well as other products from their farms to sell. Mary DuFord from the UCONN Master Gardener Program was present with literature and to answer questions. Grange member Raye Hodgson entertained those in attendance with folk music in the gazebo behind the Grange hall.

Enter and join the fun



Irene Percoski
CWA/Family Activ. Director
cwa@ctstategrange.org

Cindy Legg, State CWA Comm.

Happy spring everyone. Can't believe it's finally here. Hope everyone has items for the CWA contests.

Remember:

Northeast Needlework Contest—Open to the public. There are 11 classes for competition—Afghans, doilies, embroidery, baby set, plastic canvas, counted cross stitch, adult garment, quilted was hanging, stuffed toy and baby blanket. All first place State winners will compete at the North East finals at the Big -E. Brochures and entry forms for the North East Needlework contest may be obtained from the state CWA, Pomona or

Subordinate Chairman.

Decorate a Flowerpot ---use any flowerpot. Judging will be in 2 categories; Most original and Prettiest. Maximum size is 12" x 12" x12" Judging is done at the State level only. You do get your entries back.

Craft Contest---"Everything is Coming Up Roses" You may make any item, in any medium that has anything to do with Roses. There are 2 categories: Needlework and Other medium. Craft entries ae not returned (no exceptions). They are retained by the State CWA committee to be used as gifts and /or given to the Country Store at big E.

Baking Contest---Open to Grange members, children and grandchildren of members and Junior Grange members.

The recipe Strawberry Cupcakes with Strawberry Icing can be obtained from any member of the CWA along with directions. Judging for the baking contest is held in the Subordinate Grange with the winners baking again for the state Judging.

Junior Program. Junior needlework and baking contests are the same as the adults.

All judging for the State CWA contests will be held to Saturday, June 13, 2015. Entries must be at the Cheshire Grange hall. One day before "Let's Celebrate Day" June 14th 2015.

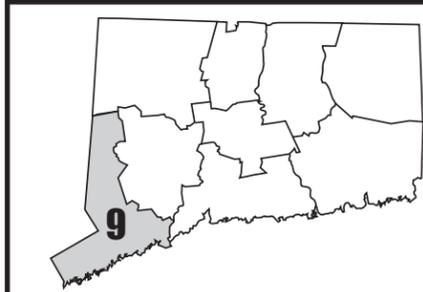
Hope to see everyone at the "Let's Celebrate" day.



Prospect Grange honors Veterans

Prospect Grange No. 144 replaced old American Flags on Veteran graves in 3 different cemeteries for Memorial Day. 50 favors were made by Prospect Grange #144 members for the Gold Star Family Luncheon Memorial Day celebration helping to make the day a little more special for these Gold Star family members.

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

FAIRFIELD COUNTY POMONA #9

Corr: Bob Sendewicz

June 3: Dairy Supper, 6 P.M.

Our June 3 meeting will be at Cannon Grange Hall and will start with a 6 P.M. Dairy Supper. It's a potluck supper with mostly dairy products.

At our April meeting we conferred the Fifth Degree on four new candidates. Ronald and Gail Bunovsky of Harmony Grange and Paul and Diane Lytwyn of Greenfield Hill Grange. Welcome new members.

This meeting has a very packed agenda. Not only will there be judging for the CWA needlework contest and the Lecturer's "A Number" and skits but we will also elect officers for the next two years.

This should be an interesting and fun evening so join us for a night out.

REDDING GRANGE #15

Corr: Marge Sendewicz

June 8: Fathers Day

June 22: Health Ideas

July 13: Summer Picnic, 6:30 P.M.

June, a changing of the seasons from spring to summer. The best time of the year and busy one for us Grangers.

The first meeting of the month is dedicated to Dads and Grads. So there will be plenty of parties and picnics for these special people. We will also elect our officers for the coming year.

The program for our second meeting is Health Ideas. For many members of the Grange this is a very important subject. So, any help we can get in remaining healthy will be appreciated.

We will have our Grange picnic on July 13 at 6:30 P.M. We have the picnic outside and then move indoors for the meeting. Anyone wishing to join us is welcome. Please let us know in advance. This will also be our only meeting in July.

Everyone enjoy this great time of the year with its warm weather and wonderful activities.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

June 13: "Bees, Butterflies and Beneficials," Presentation at 10 AM – 11AM at Fairfield Woods Branch Library

June 15: Election of Officers/Summer is Near, Meeting at 7:00 P.M. Grange Hall

June 20: "Tie Dye" Junior Activity, 10AM-12Noon, Grange Hall

Aug. 22: Annual Fair, 10A. M.-4P.M.

The first two weekends of April brought us six performances by the Penny Lane Players of Shakespeare's "Macbeth", enjoyed by all. A successful "Flea Market for Hoarders" closed out the month on the last Saturday. The Farmer's Market is moving into the Summer edition on May 16. It will be located at the lower end of Hillside Road.

A special presentation on beneficials as related to pollinators will take place from 10A.M. to 11A. M. at the Fairfield Woods Branch Library located at 1147 Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield 06825. The presenter will be our Master/President Eric Frisk, who is an accomplished gardener. No admission is charged. To reserve a space register online at www.fairfieldpubliclibrary.org or call (203) 255-7308.

Much of our efforts for the next couple of months is planning and behind the scenes work getting ready for our annual Fair in August. Plan to exhibit garden produce, baking or canning and/or craft items!

The future junior group is planning a "Tie Dye" shirt project for 10A.M. to Noon on Saturday, June 20. For information contact Cindy Wakeman at (203) 243-1887 or email cwak631201@aol.com,

All are welcome to our meetings and activities!

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

June 9: Election of Officers/Committees, 7:30 P.M.

July 14: Stars & Stripes/

Fourth of July Celebration, 7:30 P.M.

At our Annual Baking Contest in April we featured "Strawberry Cupcakes with Strawberry Icing." Three entries, all from new members, proved to be a real test of the taste-testers' metal. There was a tie: one group

preferred the cake and one group preferred the icing. After a second round, the winner was Laura Clark. Tish Murray came in with a close second and Julia Braden took third place.

Later in April we held "Game Night", which was open to members, children and the general public.

Lots of work left in Hartford



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

Alma Graham, Legislative Director

On June 3rd The Connecticut General Assembly will have finished its 2015 session. Hopefully they passed a budget before that date so the state can continue operating for the rest of the year. The last report I received is that most of the Community Investment Act funds had been restored but this is not certain until the final bill is passed and signed by the Governor. In the future will they try to remove funds from this fund? Hopefully not, but they will probably try again.

During this legislative

session we did have a bill that we testified on as a result one of the resolutions passed during the last State Grange session. We testified on a bill in support of not allowing pets to sit in drivers laps while the driver is operating a vehicle, calling it distracted driving. We also encouraged the use of pet restraints in vehicles to keep pets safe. Our testimony created much discussion on this topic and it was picked up by some national newspapers. Unfortunately the bill did not move on out of the committee, but it at least opened up the discussion on distracted driving and pet safety.

Now is the time to start working on your resolutions for the next State Grange Session. The deadline for submitting resolutions to State Grange is September 15th. Remember that resolutions need to be sent from your local Granges to your Pomona Grange for action before being sent

There was a \$5 donation to our Campership and Scholarship Funds, and desserts to share. Finally, don't forget your Grange dues! Please make out your check to: Norfield Grange, 12 Goodhill Road, Weston, CT 06883.

on to State Grange. Many Granges and Pomona's limit their meetings during the summer months. This also allows resolutions to be considered by a larger audience and to educate others on the intent of the resolution.

Your resolutions do not need to be only of a state or national issue. You can also present resolutions concerning local issues which you can present to your local officials. You could also show your support of other organizations projects using resolutions.

If you need any help with your resolutions you can contact any member of the Legislative Committee. There is also information on how to write a resolution on the Grange Website, ctstategrange.org. Look under Grange Information – State Grange Information – How to Write a Resolution. (<http://www.ctstategrange.org/HowtoWriteResolution.asp>)

The Livin' is Easy!



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer
lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Remember that old song which began "Summertime, and the Livin' is Easy"? Well it's summertime in Connecticut and our Grange life is easy. We have Grange picnics, mystery rides, fairs, and don't forget Lecturers' Conference. This is the 100th Anniversary of the North East Lecturers' Conference. I have heard that it is one of the best in the country. It is a nice ride from here to Maine. The weather is cooler and the beautiful rocky coast of Maine calls to us to visit. By the time you are reading this you should have received all the information in the mail. For anyone who didn't get it, the conference is at St. Joseph's College in Standish,

Maine on August 3, 4 & 5. If you need an application and didn't get the information, please let me know and I will get it right out to you.

If you have any activities planned and need a little more publicity let me know. We are now sending out an email twice a month (more or less often as needed). And if you don't get this list of coming activities and would like to get it, just email me and I will happily put you on the list.

This time of year we also plan our schedule for next years' activities. Let's not just keep the same program titles and activities year after year. Spice up your programs and add some new zest to your Grange. Need ideas? How about contacting your schools? Look for Youth Ambassadors or a Spanish or French Club that has travelled overseas over the summer. Speaking before a group is a good experience for them and we can learn a lot from these students. Like to travel? Contact AAA. They have information that is entertaining and educational

as well. Still stuck? Give me a call, I'll be glad to help you. Not the Lecturer? I'm sure your Lecturer would welcome an offer of a program they didn't have to do themselves. What a treat it would be for them to sit back in their own Grange meeting and be entertained by others.

We all need to work together for a better Grange. Let's all start today.

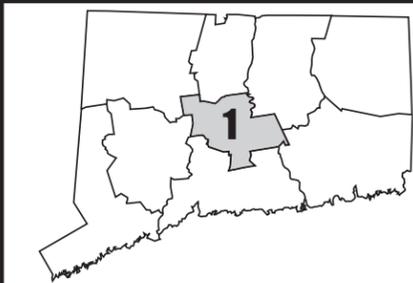
See You Around the State!

Let's Celebrate

Sunday, June 13
Cheshire Grange Hall

Are your
Contest
Entries
Ready?

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.

CENTRAL POMONA #1

We would like to congratulate Jeremy Mongillo who is now a 5th Degree member of Central Pomona. The 5th Degree was put on in full form at our meeting tonight (May 14th). Conn. State Grange General Deputy, Don Lanoue attended and also inspected. Other distinguished Guests included: Bob and Marge Sendewicz, Ruel and Jane Miller, also Ray and Cindy Legg (Excelsior Pomona).

MERIDEN GRANGE #29

Corr: M. Harrison

I am happy to report that as I write this it is almost 80 degrees, thank goodness Spring is here. We have started a bit of planting here in Meriden. In our garden we have planted peas & turnips and at our Grange Hall, Mike has started his lovely sunflowers. It is always a treat to see which variety he has chosen for beautifying the grounds.

Our Grange members Bob, Mike, & Larry have been busy fixing & cleaning up. We look forward to having a wedding at the Hall this month. My Mother has donated a punch bowl for the event. We are busy planning our 130th anniversary open house which is set for June 7th.

Come join us, our archives will be available for study and we have invited the Meriden Historical Society. A great opportunity for geneologists.

Our teddy bear drive for S.A.F.E. has 64 bears at the most recent count. We are looking for any homeless bears that would be a comfort for children at risk. No rips, stains or smells please.

We are pleased to report that Meriden Grange hosted the 3rd & 4th degrees in April. We had a potluck before the degrees and a good time was had by all. It was a pleasure to meet the newest Granger from Southington, Jeremy.

My best wishes for a great Memorial Day weekend. We have a road trip planned for and the question is: will we drive in Larry's car which has over 300,000 miles? We have lovingly nicknamed it after a beloved Granger.

Our meetings for June will be on the 12th & 26th, hope to see you there.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

July 10: Our River

July 24: Omit- Summer Vacation

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Judges Needed

The CWA Committee is looking for qualified people to help with judging needlework at Celebrate on June 13. A minimum of 3 people are needed to make our contests fair. Judging will start at 12 Noon and should take about an hour. Refreshments to follow. If you are interested in taking part please contact any member of the Committee. We are all listed in the blue book. Thank you, Irene Percoski, Chair.

A new member says...

"As a new member to the Grange, I am very impressed with their time honored traditions, tremendous fellowship and commitment to community."

- Anrea Truppa, new member of Ekonk Community Grange No. 89. She and fiancé, Christian Gagas joined Ekonk on June 2. Andrea is judge of probate and she and Christian are to be married on Oct. 3.



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange Friends!

I've had a busy few weeks since my last report. Noel's been keeping me on the move.

We visited Hillstown Grange on April 23rd for their Yankee Bluegrass Neighbor's Night. The band was great and I may have learned a dance or two along the way.

On April 25th we visited with our friends at Meriden Grange, where they were conferring the 3rd and 4th Degrees with Southington Grange. I met a lot of new teddy bear friends that night as Meriden Grange is having a teddy bear drive (and other stuffed animals too) to benefit S.A.F.E., who give the animals to first responders for children at risk.

We made the trek to Winchester Grange on April 28th for their conferral of the 3rd and 4th Degrees. There were candidates from Winchester Grange, Cawasa Grange and Taghannuck Grange joining that evening. I really liked their floor work.

On May 3rd, we had some fun duckpin bowling with members of East Central Pomona. Wow - those balls are heavy, and I think I got the hang of it. But after 3 gutter balls, I decided that keeping score was more my speed. Noel got the high score of the night at 123.

I celebrated World Donkey Day on May 8th. World Donkey Day is part of International Donkey Week. I honor my donkey/burro brothers and sisters but I'm now a Connecticut burro through and through.

May 11th saw us visiting Mountain County Pomona Grange's conferral of the 5th Degree at Winchester Grange. There were three candidates that evening, and a wonderful dinner too! Their court was lovely.

It was back to Winchester Grange on May 12th for their music night featuring the Cherry Brook Chimes Bell Choir, who are directed by CT State Grange Pianist Mary Lou Keefe. They put on a great show to a full hall - and the potluck dinner was amazing.

On May 16th, we went to Enfield Grange's meeting, where they had a fun auction with the proceeds benefitting My Sister's Place - one of this year's Family Activities Committee projects.

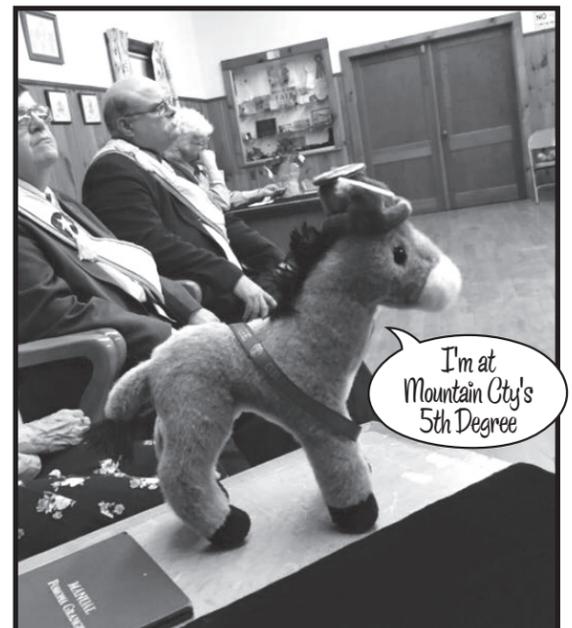
Then on the same evening, we went to the Social Connection's Fun Fair in Prospect. I judged the stuffed animal class at the Fair, and also won the lollipop game for Marcia. It was fun seeing all my Grange friends!

On May 19th, we went to Manchester Grange for their 130th Anniversary. Congratulations to all their members. What a great milestone for Manchester Grange! The cake was yummy.

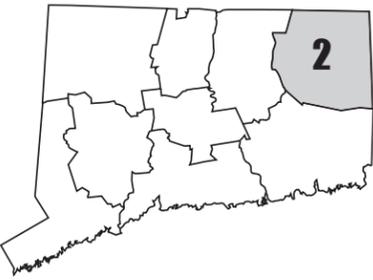
We attended Cheshire Grange's Neighbor's Night on May 20th. It was their Family Activities/CWA Committee's program. They had a Rose Parade, and a special presentation by Mr. Dunbar speaking about My Sister's Place, which benefits homeless children in Connecticut.

Where will we go next??? Send me an invitation and maybe we will go to your Grange! And if you haven't already liked my Facebook page, please take a minute to follow the link and click the "Like" button. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>

Be sure to say Hello if you see me around the State!



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.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Elsie Johnson

June 10: Agriculture – Ag. Comm.

June 24: Potluck – 6 P.M.

July 8: Neighbor’s Night – 7 P.M., Ref. All

Snow and cold gone – now for dry, hot, sweaty! Hot, humid and thunderstorms! Motorcycles, bicycles, and lawn mowers and ice cream cones!

At our last meeting a few pounds of tabs came in and labels for school. One person brought in labels for about 800 points. Three boxes were brought in for the veterans – personal items to go to the veteran’s hospital in New Haven.

Gardens are being planted. Birds are building their nests and I hope they get those mosquitoes and ticks.

Gas prices are beginning to climb up. Kids are getting impatient for summer vacation.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

June 1: Mtg/Program 7:30 pm

June 13: 121st Strawberry Supper 5pm

June 21-22: Relay for Life Plainfield

July 6: Mtg/Program 7:30 pm

We used the proceeds from the May “Brown Bag Auction” to start a commercial stove fund! Paulette Craig, Sue Griffiths and Andrea Truppa (Awards Committee) honored Link Cooper at the May meeting. Paulette presented him with a desk name plate and engraved pen. Sue read his accomplishments in Grange and community. Andrea presented him with a citation from Senators Mae Flexer and Andy

Maynard and Rep. Paul Brycki. Greatly deserved, Link!

June will be election of officers, annual Strawberry Supper (13th) and operating the annual Relay for Life Food Booth in Plainfield. Katie Molodich and Jody Cameron have created an Ekonk Community Grange Mentoring Program and the first two to benefit from this will be Natasha and Paula Ignacio, who have been great Junior member & Honorary and helped at many Subordinate fundraisers for a long time. Link Cooper & Paulette Craig visited Sterling Community School and presented 3rd graders with their Earth Day Poster prizes; every 3rd grader enjoyed ice cream. We donated \$300.00 to the State FFA Career Development/ Education Fund. We will now each bring a non-perishable food item to every Grange meeting, which will be added to the coffers for our needy families. Special guests Jeff and Debbie Barnes visited as well as Joe LoPresti, who brought lots of flowers which our President gave to various officers. Visit us on the hill any first Monday.

ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

June 9: Picnic, 6 P.M.

June 23: Community Service

So glad winter is over. Looking forward to nice weather. We will be having our annual picnic. The place is to be determined. We are still collecting pennies for Charity.

At our Feb. meeting we all made Valentines for our shut-ins.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

How to Generate Grange Publicity

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

If there was a surefire way to get hundreds of people to attend your Grange event, visit your Grange meeting, or have an interest in joining your Grange, every Grange would see its membership overflowing. But that being said, there are tried and true methods for promoting your Grange that do work - and can better position your Grange in the public eye.

Here’s a few tips:

- Create content that is relevant to your community, and then engage. Keep up with the latest news for your community, and then find a way that your Grange can be a part of that news. This could be as simple as collecting non-parishable for items and donating them to the local soup kitchen, hosting a tag sale where the proceeds benefit a local animal shelter, helping out a family that lost their home in a fire, or something more involved such as maintaining a community garden, building a gazebo on the town green, or creating a memorial to fallen soldiers. The possibilities are endless. Once your Grange begins a project, write a press release and send it to the local media. Relevancy will generate positive results.

- When you do receive coverage from a newspaper, tv/radio station or even on social media, be sure to ride the wave. Share the news with your social media entities (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), send an email blast or even a postcard to your

members with the good news, call your members and tell them to buy a copy of the paper, watch the news or listen to the radio - and have them call their friends and family too! By promoting the publicity you receive, your coverage will continue to spread. Also, don’t forget to publicly thank the media source for their support.

- Give your members something to talk about. There is no better promotion than word of mouth. When one of your members/supporters/volunteers is excited and passionate about being involved with your Grange, they will tell their friends and family, and even random strangers they meet. When a member believes that your Grange is worth their time (and their dues money), they will shout it from the roof tops. Enthusiasm spreads - and attracts others to see what the buzz is all about.

- The most important tip to remember is to always keep your efforts in proper perspective. Don’t neglect the foundational core of your Grange just to generate publicity. People need a reason to become (and stay) members. Members need to feel as if they are wanted in the group, make a difference, and that they are important to your Grange’s success.

It all comes down to being smart and consistent in your approach to publicity. Be patient with the media, be considerate and as helpful as you can when asked for information, always be professional when dealing with others, and be enthusiastic about your Grange!

Community Service

George & Sharon Russell, Comm. Service Co-Chairs

As we are this year’s Community Service Chairmen, we recently attended the Leadership Conference held in New Hampshire. There were many wonderful and exciting service projects that are being done throughout New England. Many of them were projects that can be completed with minimal effort especially if it’s something you enjoy. We encourage the granges around the state to contact us and let us know if you need ideas or help in setting up a project; we will be happy to assist in any way!

George and I are looking forward to receiving your Grange’s Community Service report. We sent out the report form back in December to the Secretaries. If you need a form; please contact us.

We received information from the National Grange Service Director: Samantha Johnson; she listed guidelines that are considered when the projects are being judged.

- Organization of the material presented

- Community projects in reference to size; one large scale project or multiple smaller scale projects.

- Participation of grange members as well as non-members.

- Publicity for the community service project(s) and/or the grange.

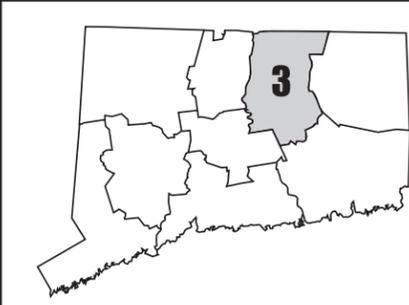
- Fund-raising
- Benefits to the local community.

It has also been discussed that the scrapbooks; although they are great to look through and are wonderful to have as an end product; they are not the only way a grange may present their service projects. This allows the granges to become creative with their presentation and let it reflect the grange they take pride in belonging to!

Thank you from Joanne

Thank you, thank you, thank you I just can’t say it enough for all the cards, calls, visits and flowers I received at the convalescent home while I was recovering from my fall. The fall is something I will never forget. I did fall down 14 stairs. Nor will I ever forget all your concern for my recovery. I was so fortunate to have all my brother and sister Grangers rooting and praying for me.

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

Corr: Noel Miller

June 6: Host Manchester and Enfield

This meeting will be at Vernon Grange Hall after two years of trying to have a meeting in the middle of our Pomona to let the northern towns travel a little less. This is the only time this spring for us to try. The Lecturer's program is "Let's Hit the Road." So come out and join us.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn E. Ruff

June 4: Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Election, "In the Good Old Summertime"

June 13: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party – 7 P.M.

July 2: Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Colorful Fireworks

Aug. 6: Annual Picnic

Here we are into June already. It just seems like we were in the middle of all that snow in February. Instead of shoveling snow we are now putting down fertilizer and mowing our lawns.

June is election of officers. I hope all Granges are able to fill their offices.

June 13 is our final card party for the season. Refreshments and door prizes can be used.

Bring a friend or two with you. A good time is always had by all.

Granges do meet in the summer at least once a month. Hope to see you at our July 2nd meeting and then August 6th for our annual picnic. The Grange provides the hot dogs and hamburgers and the members provide the salads and desserts. Hope to see you at our meetings.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

June 12: Manchester Grange comes a visiting!

The hobos of Vernon Grange made their way to Manchester Grange this winter and so now Manchester is coming to Vernon on June 12th. It will also be inspection of officers. Join us for the fun- our meeting starts at 7:00.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

June 4: Father's Day – Ref. Judy Hill

June 18: Summertime – Ref. Noel Miller

We are chugging along with the repairs to our hall. Maybe have some paint on the outside before fall. Sister Claudia Miller celebrated her 97th birthday with family on May 17th. Looking to go to a farmer's market to seek new members. Fingers crossed.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

June 20: Ref. Dawn & Irene

July 11: Picnic – Teacup Auction

Our craft project in April was to make seed starters from water bottles. Everyone worked on them and was delighted with the results. Our target date to plant is May 30. By the time this article is printed we will have had our inspection and hopefully have a good report.

Jim delivered 100 handmade hats from our members to the neonatal unit at St. Francis Hospital. They were much appreciated. Denise has not told us who the speaker for our June meeting will be yet, but I'm sure it will be interesting. Come visit.

Nominate a "Granger of the Year"



Joanne Cipriano
Social Connection Director
Social@ctstategrange.org

Nothing much to report as we still have two weeks before our Fun Fair. We hope you attended and had a good time.

REMINDERS: It's time to be selecting your "Granger of the Year." Applications are due to the Director Joanne Cipriano by September 19th. Every Grange has someone who deserves this recognition. Also have you filled a shoe box with goodies to be given to the West Haven Veteran's Hospital. This is our "Reach Out" Project for this year. Boxes can be brought to the State Session or given to any member of the Social Connection Committee prior to the Session. We appreciate your help.

Glastonbury Grange No. 26



Partners in Planting group was introduced and given Community Service Awards for their services for beautification of Glastonbury. They started the non-profit group, bought planters, and started a tree nursery. They were given an acre of land by the town and started with a few planters for the first years and asked businesses to sponsor the planters. On the acre of land, they started with 30 tree saplings. To-date they have over eighty planters around So. Glastonbury, the center of town and the courtyard of the local middle school. They also raised money to put robotic lawn mowers at the local schools to have these court yards mowed as part of their efforts to beautify them, and give the children an appreciation for these projects.



The Riverton Grange invites you to a Farm to Table Dinner

Come celebrate National Dairy Month with a locally sourced, fresh and seasonal Dairy Dinner!

Saturday, June 13, 2015

Doors open at 6:00 pm

Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm

Learn about how your milk is made from East Canaan dairy farmers Rachel and Amanda Freund
Followed by a short musical selection

Riverton Grange Hall

Route 20

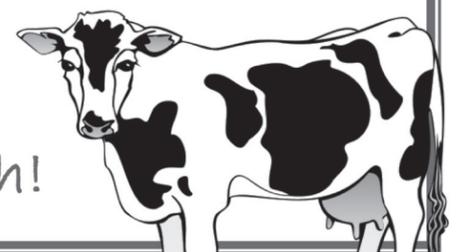
Riverton, CT

Dinner is \$15/person

Menu: Chilled Minted Pea Soup, Farm-style Mac n' Cheese, Garden Fresh Tossed Salad w/ Maple Vinaigrette, Herb Chicken, Strawberry Rhubarb Cobbler with Vanilla Ice Cream

Please make your reservation by June 10
RSVP to Amanda by calling 860-824-7520
or email amanda@cowpots.com

June is Dairy Month!



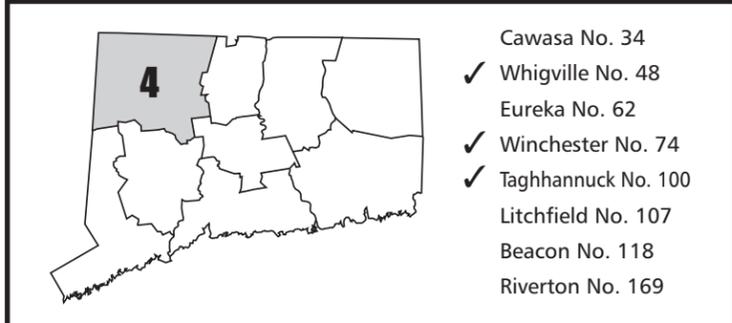
New Members

Paula & Natasha Ignacio
Kathy Heacox

Ekonk Community #89
Taghannuck #100



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

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 CTY. POMONA #4

Corr: T. Gelineau

June 22: Meeting at Taghannuck Grange (Sharon), 7:30 P.M. – Election of Officers

The next meeting of Mountain County Pomona will be held on Monday, June 22 at Taghannuck Grange Hall in the Ellsworth section of Sharon beginning at 7:30 P.M. The meeting is our Election of Officers night. Please come out and support the officers and maybe run for an office!

This will also be the meeting we distribute our annual Gift Card Drawing tickets. The tickets can be sold throughout the summer months with the drawing to be held at the September 14 meeting to be held at a Grange to be determined. This is our only major fundraiser of the year so we hope all members get out and sell/buy tickets and make it even more successful than last year (which was an exceptionally profitable year!).

WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

Corr: Debbie Brown

Whigville Grange in Burlington, CT will hold a flea market and tag sale on Saturday, June 13, 2015 from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. The event is both indoor and outdoor, rain or shine, with free admission. To rent a spot, please call Debbie Brown at 860-582-9863.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: T. Gelineau

June 9: Election of Officers, Ref. Shirley

Lemieux

June 21: Strawberry Festival, 2:00-5:00 P.M.

June 23: Father's Day, Potluck Supper at 6:00 P.M.

May was Winchester's annual Spring Tag Sale month. An overabundance of great tag sale items were available for the event and a decent profit was realized. The leftover articles were donated to the Litchfield County 4H for their annual tag sale in June—so donations to Winchester Grange benefit a couple organizations.

Doing spring cleaning? The St. Pauly Clothing Donation Shed is available to accept your donations anytime. Winchester Grange receives a cash payment of a percentage of the total amount of clothing donated. Clothing, shoes, textiles, curtains, etc. are all accepted. We only ask that you leave off your donations in a TIED plastic bag. Please do not use open shopping bags or boxes as we have to re-bag items that get strewn throughout the shed when deposited in open containers. We thank you for your support!

The Post Office at the Grange is getting a much needed facelift! Beginning at the end of May, a subcontractor for the Postal Service has begun removing the old door and frame and replacing it with a new handicap accessible door along with a very large ramp that will make the post office fully accessible to all. Unfortunately, the Americans with Disabilities Act requires

a considerable amount of space dedicated to wheelchair van accessible parking. This means that nearly the entire section of parking lot on the end of the hall that houses the Post Office will be taken up by the ramp and the required parking space. While we are happy that the hall will become ADA compliant, we know there will be some re-training involved with parking at the hall for our events. We ask anyone getting mail or attending Grange events avoid parking in front of the post office, along the driveway leading to the Fire Department or in front of the Fire Dept. doors. There is adequate parking in front of the hall and in the gravel parking lot beyond the fire department.

June will test this parking plan with our annual Strawberry Festival at the hall on Father's Day, June 21 from 2-5 P.M. Join us for the largest servings of Shortcake around served up by the newly crowned Laurel Queen and her

court. It's a wonderful community activity that is a Winchester Center tradition. Join us!

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Taghannuck Grange will again feature the vast array of plants, both flowers and vegetables, as part of our annual fund raising rummage sale. Our plants are known for their variety and value. Every year we get raves about our plant sale. This is our major fund raiser. On

Saturday, June 6th from 9am to 2 pm at the Grange Hall which is located on 7 Dunbar Road, off Route #4 behind Ellsworth Hill Farm the Grange will be holding a Rummage sale inside the hall and a plant sale outside the hall. The plant sale features large healthy plants ready for your garden including heirloom varieties. The rummage sale has something for everyone at bargain prices.

The bells were ringing



The Cherry Brook Chimes, under the direction of Mary Lou Keefe, presented a spring bell choir concert at the May meeting of Winchester Grange #74. The meeting, preceded by a delicious potluck supper, was attended by over 85 members and guests.

Winchester Grange

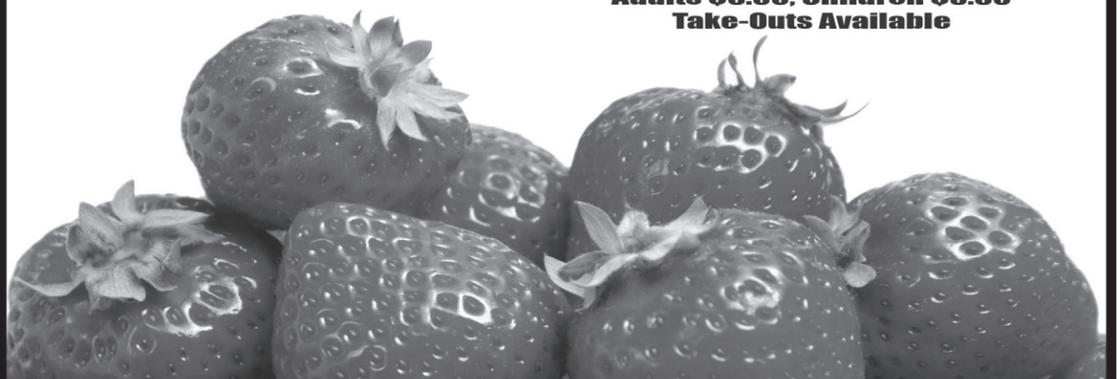
STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

**FATHER'S DAY • JUNE 21st
2:00 PM**

*Take Dad Out
For Dessert!*

WINCHESTER GRANGE HALL
On The Green
100 Newfield Rd, Winchester Center

Strawberry Shortcake:
Adults \$6.00, Children \$3.50
Take-Outs Available



www.WinchesterGrange.org

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: Wesli Dymoke

June 8: Regular Meeting at Cheshire. Program: "Let's Show Our Stuff, Talent & A Number Competition. Gift Card Drawing.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

June 3: Election of Officers, Pot Luck Supper at 6PM, Memorial Program

June 17: The Great Outdoors-Strawberry dessert

Our annual Ballroom Fever dance program in April was well received as always, along with our Grange month program. May was a busy month with our Community Citizen of the Year program honoring Attorney Matthew Hall, and our annual CWA program with a presentation from My Sister's Place a program being supported by our State CWA committee.

We held the Welcoming Ceremony for two new members, Alie Marino and Tatum Bailey both teenagers at our April 15th meeting. Our craft nights continue along with planning for our 2015 Cheshire Grange Community Fair.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Daniel Lauttenbach & Anne Cella

June 11: "Summer Sounds" by Anne. Ref. Dan.

June 25: "Election of Officers and Planning Meeting"

April 9: "FFA in Our Town" Members of the Lyman Hall FFA Chapter spoke to Grange members about their FFA activities, classes they participate in the Vo-Ag program and how these programs are preparing them for college. Each member outlined their plans are for

continuing their education beyond high school. Vo-Ag studies at Lyman Hall include Agricultural Mechanics/Turf, Plant Science, Food Science, Aquaculture, Large Animal Science, Small Animal Technology & Wildlife Biology. Upcoming events in May for Lyman Hall Vo-AG will be the annual Vo-Ag Fair and Plant Sale on May 19, 20 and 21st.

April 11: We held our Spring Bake and Tag sale. Vern was busy in the kitchen cooking up his breakfast hot dogs and the bake-sale table was full and busy. People came to look and buy. At the end of it we made some money.

April 23: Carl Bernhardt, New Haven County Pomona deputy, did our inspection before the meeting and Marge Bernhardt, State Lecturer, looked over our Lecture's notebook. This night's program was "Let's hear it from an Eagle Scout"; Boy Scouts from Wallingford Troop 1 spoke to Grange members about some of the present and past scouting activities. Scout Master Michael Gagne gave general scouting information and his role within the organization. Alex Socha explained what steps he needed to launch and implement his project that earned him his Eagle Scout rank. Other scouts, who have

not yet achieved the Eagle Scout rank, talked about some ideas they had in mind for their project and specifically why they wanted to do them. Other topics included activities the scouts can participate in on a local and national level as well what their ranks are within their troop and the responsibilities they hold.

NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35

Corr: A. Tolette

June 2: Dads & Grads

July 7: Stars & Stripes

Spring is here. This

week the flowering trees have really burst out and the colors seem to be brighter than ever. Guess the snow cover was good for something.

We have made our annual scholarship donations to Lyman Hall and North Haven High Schools.

Membership seals for 70 years of Grange membership have been presented to Catherine Idone and Arline Tolette. They joined in the same class of 12 members and have remained loyal to the Order.

Cheshire honors Comm. Citizen



Cheshire Grange recognized Matt Hall as our Community Citizen of the Year. L-R are Marge Bernhardt, Lecturer, Matt Hall, and Ruel Miller, Master.

WINDOW TO THE PAST

Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a history to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us 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.



There were no answers to May's Window picture.



National Legislative Update

Congress will begin a two month legislative marathon in June to work on pending legislation ranging from appropriations (spending), Patriot Act (personal privacy), Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) and immigration to Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) and Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS). Following what may be the most intense two month working period of the year, Congress will recess again for the month of August.

Several major initiatives have rocketed to the top of the lawmakers' priority lists. Most of these issues are begging for action and resolution. One thing is for certain, these issues will not go away and fixing them will not be painless. Here are some public policy "elephants" you'll be hearing about in months to come.

Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Final Regulation

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineers released the Administration's 297-page Clean Water Act final rule that supposedly clarifies what streams, wetlands, ponds and ditches are subject to regulation under the current law. This May 27, 2015 action follows an extended public comment period where farmers, ranchers, landowners and many other businesses saw the proposed WOTUS rule as an unprecedented federal government land control grab. These groups were proactive by publicizing, researching, analyzing and submitting comments based upon their own personal knowledge and experience. By the end of the comment period, it was clear that if the proposal were to become final as written, practically all water on all agricultural lands would become regulated by the Clean Water Act and subject to EPA and Corps of Engineers oversight.

EPA Administrator, Gina McCarthy announced that she was finalizing the clean water rule to protect streams and wetlands that one in three Americans relies on for drinking water. She maintains the final rule will not create any new permitting requirements and will maintaining all previous exemptions and exclusions. Though the rule is only about clarifications according to McCarty, it became immediately clear the rule may cover more wetlands, streams, headwaters and small water bodies that previously have never been subject to the Clean Water Act. We'll know more as analysts pour over the almost 300 page "book" of final regulations.

Prior to recess, the House passed a bill (H.R. 1732) on a bipartisan vote of 261-155 to kill the WOTUS rule. The Senate appears to have enough bipartisan votes to pass a similar bill, S. 1140. However, the votes fall short of a veto-proof two thirds majority. This sets up the scenario that these bills may be rolled into an omnibus spending package this fall, making it more difficult for the President to veto.

In the May 26th issue of The New York Times, a fascinating story called into question the lawfulness of EPA's solicitation of public comments for the proposed WOTUS rule. Administrator McCarthy testified before a Senate committee in March that roughly 90% of the more than one million comments were supportive of EPA's proposal. NY Times writer Eric Lipton suggests this exaggerated support may have come from an unprecedented grassroots lobbying campaign by EPA which may have violated federal law. Apparently EPA used Thunderclap, a social media service, where at a specific predetermined time a message of support or call to action was posted at once across all supporters' social media channels amplifying support for WOTUS. Several news and investigative sources have reported the EPA undertook a concerted effort on the web, in social media and with environmental groups to drum up support for WOTUS. The Justice Department specifically limits grassroots lobbying by executive officials directed to the public at large to persuade that public to support some issue of concern to the executive.

World Trade Organization (WTO) Rules against Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) for Fourth Time

On May 18th, the World Trade Organization once again ruled against the U.S. Country of Origin Labeling rule for meat. WTO found the U.S. labels to be non-compliant with international trade obligations by discriminating against livestock raised in Canada and Mexico. The decision opens the door for Canada and Mexico to retaliate against American goods and services by imposing high tariffs (up to 100%) on a wide range of targeted items which effectively prevents their export economically. The House Agriculture Committee acted quickly on May 20th to approve H.R.2393 which repeals COOL on a vote of 38-6. The repeal measure is now on its way to a vote on the House

floor. The Senate Agriculture Committee will be slower to take action on COOL. Many want to learn the full impact of potential retaliation before supporting any changes. While several committee members favor full repeal, others are committed to see if existing COOL statutory authority can be revised and still comply with WTO rules.

The USDA earlier in May reported to Congress that COOL provided little economic benefit but that consumers were still interested in labeling. National Grange policy supports consumers' right to know and calls upon Congress to fix the problem of discriminating against Canadian and Mexican animals and meat to prevent retaliation against American goods and services.

Canada has made public its tariff targets ; here is a sampling of the impacted commodities in several Grange states: Vermont-chocolate, cattle, maple syrup and sugar, corn; Michigan-beef, chicken, corn, cereal, baked goods; Ohio-pork, corn, baked goods, beef, pasta; Minnesota -ethanol, baked goods, pork, corn; New York-jewelry, baked goods, chicken, ketchup, tomato sauces; Colorado-beef, pork, baked goods, chocolate.

Trade Promotion Authority (TPA or Fast Track)

Washington D.C.'s

most striking example of bipartisanship and cooperation with the President was the Senate's approval May 22nd of H.R.1314, Trade Promotion Authority. The bipartisan vote was 62-37 for the President's priority legislation. The bill will need strong bipartisan support to pass in the House where ultra-liberal Democrats and ultra-conservative Republicans stand in opposition.

Without TPA first giving the President authority to negotiate, there can be no Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). The TPP is a proposed eleven country trade pact between the U.S. and Pacific Rim countries. One huge benefit to the U.S. of a successful TPP is that those inside the agreement reap trade advantages unavailable to those on the outside. The U.S. is already globally competitive in services and agriculture. TPP will give these fast growing areas of our economy a further boost. TPP will brighten our manufacturing picture too, where incredible technological advances are already causing production and jobs to return home.

Trade agreements the past 30 years have proven very beneficial to the economics of agriculture. National Grange policy recognizes that trade agreements may affect segments of the economy differently. As such, National Grange advocates for the creation of trade agreements that will be beneficial and flexible while protecting not only

agriculture but also the American dream.

Legal Setback for President's Immigration Actions

The U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals this week refused to lift a judge's order blocking the President's sweeping executive actions which would allow millions of immigrants who are in the country illegally to live and work without fear of deportation. The order stems from a lawsuit filed by 26 states challenging the President's executive actions, arguing he exceeded his constitutional authority and that his actions would overburden state healthcare, education and motor vehicle services.

The order applies to the President's programs that enable parents of U.S. citizens or legal resident children to apply for temporary deportation relief and work permits as well as to those immigrants who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

EPA Proposes Spray-Free Bees

A temporary pesticide-free zone on certain areas and farms at the height of pollination has been proposed by EPA. The initiative only applies to those areas where professional beekeepers haul in their hives which accounts for about 90 percent of honey bees found in the U.S. The pesticide halt would apply only when the flower is in bloom and only on the property where the bees are working, not on neighboring land.



Granger Shout Out

Thank you to Judy Elliot and Richard Ference for great sales work on Enfield's cookbooks.



Congratulations to Jim Percoski of Enfield Grange on his Graduation from UCONN.



Congratulations to the ladies of the State Grange Social Connection Committee. You did an EXCELLENT job with the fun fair night. Every gathering is one not to be missed!



Congratulations to Jacob Gervais (Ekonk Community Grange)! He was selected today (5/15/15) as Number TWO among the top 14 students interviewed by a panel of judges for scholarships at Lincoln Technical Institute. Jacob will attend for half of the tuition paid!



Link Cooper-Ekonk Awards Committee selected YOU as Outstanding Grange/Citizen-Well Deserved!



From the officers and members of Excelsior Pomona #7 To Mildred Bell, Joan Ziegler, and Marge and Bob Sendwicz for coming to help at our Degree Day. Thank you so much, you helped to make it a successful day.

Submit your Shout-Outs today!
Granger@CTStateGrange.org
 They can also be mailed to 170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790.



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In Memoriam

Ethel Rosebrooks	Ekonk #89
Louise Ely	Lyme #147
Virginia Gardner	Lyme #147

We reported these names last month, however, Sister Rosebrook's name was misspelled and Sisters Ely and Gardner were members of Lyme Grange, not Old Lyme. We apologize for these errors.

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

State Chaplain And Forget Not Charity

Charles Dimmick, State Chaplain

In the King James Version of Paul's letter to the Corinthians there appears the familiar phrase: "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." Paul wrote in Greek, and the Greek word translated here as "charity" is **agape**, which is perhaps better translated as "love". In fact, the word appears 106 times in the New Testament, and even the King James Version translates it 83 times as "love" and only 23 times as "charity". In all modern translations we read "faith, hope, and love", not "faith, hope, charity".

The Greeks had three different words for three different concepts of love. When they used **agape** they meant that unselfish love that a mother has for her child, which God has for his creation, and that humankind should have for God. So, when in our Grange ritual we use the word "charity" we should have in mind not just giving to the poor and needy, but giving our love to all those with whom we come in contact. And by love we should have in mind St. Paul's further expansion of the concept of love: "Love is always patient and kind; love is never jealous; love is not boastful or conceited, it is never rude and never seeks its own advantage, it does not take offence or store up grievances. Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but finds its joy in the truth. It is always ready to make allowances, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes."

If we limit our interpretation of charity to good works and giving to the poor we totally miss the meaning of the word as St. Paul intended it to be understood. Paul meant unconditional love for others, as further clarified by his saying "and though I feed the poor with all my goods, and though I give my body, that it may be burned, and have not love (**agape**) it profiteth me nothing".

And then we have Jesus' words to us at the Last Supper: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Here again the word used in the Greek of John's gospel is the verbal form of **agape**. So there is no escaping it; when we say in our Grange ritual "dispenses Charity" we should in our hearts be thinking "dispenses unconditional Love". Finally, we have this from the First Epistle of John: "How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." As the Assistant Steward says in the First Degree "Let our future conduct prove us."

Link Cooper Honored



Presentation made to Link Cooper with Jan Cooper as Outstanding citizen. The Ekonk Grange Awards Committee surprised Link by selecting him as outstanding Grange/citizen! Sue read about his many accomplishments, Andrea presented him with a framed citation from Mae Flexer, Andy Maynard & Paul Brycki and Paulette Craig presented him with a desktop name plate (engraved) and an engraved pen! We also welcomed Paula & Natasha Ignacio into membership and the brown bag auction netted \$59.00, which was voted to be the start-up for a commercial stove fund!

Ekonk Earth Day

Sterling Community School 3rd Grade. Grangers Link Cooper & Paulette Craig presented Earth Day Poster winners with prizes from Grange

