



Connecticut Granger



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Reflect, Regroup, Resolve



Noel T. Miller
State Master/President
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This is the time in the Fourth Degree when we relax and enjoy the comfort of home and friends, as we remember the past year. We in the Connecticut State Grange have done a lot. We reorganized the Pomona Granges from seven to three. They are working on by-laws and will be meeting to begin anew. We have closed three Community Granges, and are in the process of selling three Grange halls, returned to the State Grange. A new format at the State Session did draw more member involvement, but the lack of resolutions and candidates has brought worries to the State Master.

The passing of Past State Master Ellsworth (Bud) Beecher, has brought many memories back to me. When he was State Master he got me involved in the

State Grange family as his Director of the Agricultural Committee, while my father was Director of the Legislative Committee at the same time. Brother Bud also installed me as Master of East Central Pomona #3 the first time. I practiced the Obligation for months and when it was time Brother Bud just recited it and never asked me if I knew it, what a let down. Brother Bud's love of the Camp always stands in my mind and if we got rid of the Camp we would be destroying his child. I remember the time at State Session banquets or Junior Grangers that called him Uncle Buddy, and the fact he couldn't sing always makes you chuckle. Good bye Uncle Buddy to the Great Grange above.

This year many Granges will have to make the decision of whether to stay or close. It is time for us to regroup and decide. The State Grange Membership Committee has funds and experience in helping your Grange with a Membership drive. **CALL THEM FOR HELP!!** That's the only way we can assist you get new members. New Pomona Granges need to involve every Pomona member in

these new Pomonas to make them successful, LET'S WORK TOGETHER!! and make it work.

Now is the time to write resolutions for next State Session. Many things are happening in this Nation that will have some effect on you and your community. The Grange is founded on our "Grassroots Efforts" and can have great influence on local, state and national issues. The pen is mightier than the sword. We can change the world with one piece of paper. Take the time to write resolutions that will have positive a positive impact on the world.

This may be a short article but the message is important. The National Grange has finished the 150th birthday of the National Grange but like all farm operations the next year's season will always be better than the last, that prices will always get better next year and we will be able to take that well deserved vacation. This is why Grangers have "Faith, Hope, Charity, Fidelity and will Persevere." Happy New Year and remember "That's the Grange Way!"

Why service clubs are dying

By Michael Brand

Nothing more American than a service club. Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, IOOF, Altrusa, Shriners... Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville rode all over the United States in the 1830s and was struck by the influence of religious, fraternal and civic organizations, and secret societies, in American democracy and concluded that they made communities stronger, more interesting, and more engaged.

But there are some reasons for concern. All of these service clubs, once the

backbone of community life in America, have been in significant decline over the past 2-3 decades. It is not that our clubs have changed. America has changed. Thus the imperative is for us to reinvent for a new America.

Declining Social Capital

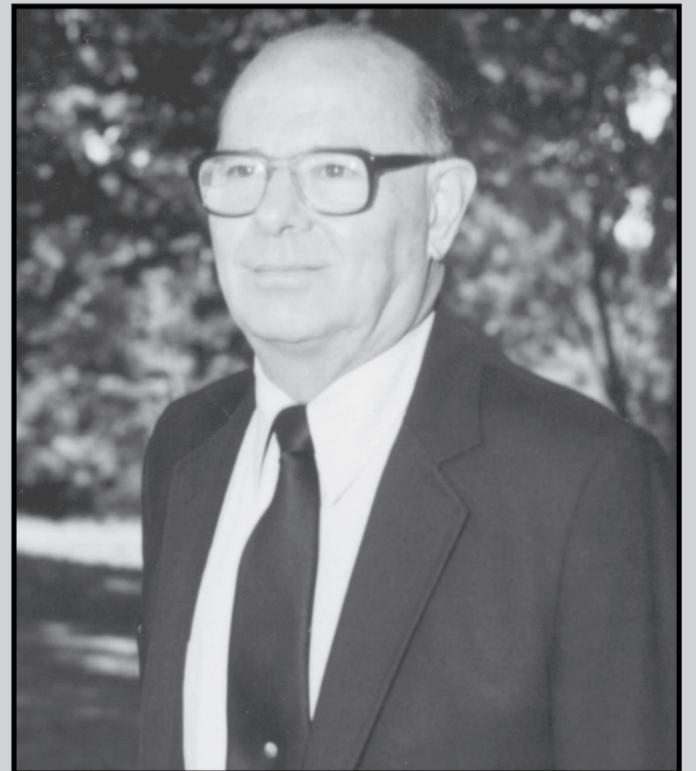
In his 2000 book, "Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community," Robert Putnam documented that attending club meetings, such as those held by Rotary and Kiwanis groups, has declined by 58 percent in

the period 1975-2000. This trend continued and even accelerated in the 21st century. Putnam notes it's part of an overall trend by Americans who also have 43 percent fewer family dinners. Thirty-five percent fewer of us have friends who drop in to see us at our homes.

Pick an organization

Continued on page 3

Remembering Ellsworth M. Beecher



by Todd Gelineau, State Secretary & Member of Winchester Grange #74

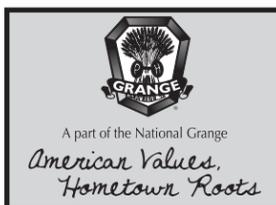
The Connecticut State Grange mourns the passing of Brother Ellsworth M. "Bud" Beecher on November 27 at the age of 95. Brother Bud was Master of the Connecticut State Grange from 1986-1990. He was a Golden Sheaf member of Winchester Grange #74 in Winchester Center and Mountain County Pomona Grange #4. He served in many capacities throughout his Grange career including Past Voting Delegate to the National Grange, Advisor to the Board of Camp Maud Isbell Berger in Winchester Center and an integral part of the Connecticut Agricultural Fair for much of its existence.

For most who knew Bud and his wife Marion (married for 64 years), Grange was their lives. Marion served in many capacities as well including Secretary of the Connecticut State Grange for decades. Even after his "retirement" from the State Executive Committee and as Treasurer of Winchester Grange, Bud always wanted to know what was "going on" in the Grange.

There was no such thing as a short visit to Bud and Marion's house. Each visit involved a sit down at the kitchen table to talk over things, especially Grange happenings.

Many of us have our favorite stories about Bud (and Marion). In his later years, he had to carry a footed cane with him. You would often know Bud was around because that cane would be standing somewhere in the Grange hall (without Bud). On one occasion (maybe more) Bud left that cane behind

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OUR ROOTS RUN DEEP

NEXT ISSUE ...
Articles Due
Jan. 15

Bud Beecher

Continued from page one...

his car and accidentally ran it over. Bud loved to tease and in this case he took it back to the medical supply store complaining that it was “defective”!

Bud couldn't carry a tune in a bucket but like Ricky and Lucy Ricardo, Marion would occasionally allow Bud to be in the show performing the “Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia” at Mountain County Chorister and State Grange Chorister Concerts.

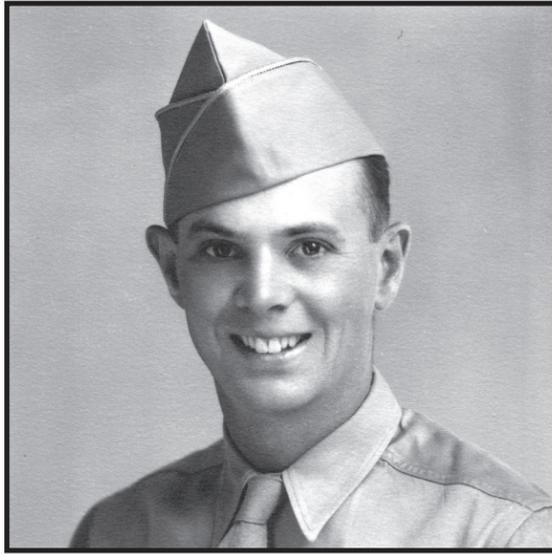
Many members of Winchester Grange and Mountain County Pomona have memories of Bud prompting during degree work. A loud “PSSST” during any part of the degree was a sure sign that Bud was trying to get your attention.

As Treasurer of Winchester Grange, it wasn't uncommon for Bud (and Marion) to quietly pay a bill out of their own money when the treasury was low. We have heard this was also true at Church as well.

These few remembrances really can't do justice to Bud Beecher.

Bud and Marion and their closest friends, Betty Jane and Bill Gardiner are all together again and as it has been said, they are most likely sitting around a card table somewhere “catching up.”

“Well done good and faithful servant!”



Bud in the Army



Marion & Bud on their wedding day in Winchester



Bud & Marion Beecher



1946 Basketball Team: Back row: Ted Dietlin, Red DeMarr, Stavnitzky, Frank Prelli (Past State Grange Master), Front Row: Joe Isaacson (sponsor), Jim Youmatz, Ellsworth Beecher, Gene Sweeney



Bud receives special recognition from the State Grange for his service to Camp Berger. Also pictured are Linda Coad (then Camp Trustee) and A. Ruel Miller, member of the State E.C.



Bill Gardiner & Bud Beecher. “The Boys” were good sports whenever Betty Jane and Marion created a skit that required their comedic talents.



Past State Master Kingsley Beecher (right) escorts new State Master Ellsworth “Bud” Beecher to his station. Bud & King were the first brothers to serve the Conn. State Grange as Master.

Why service clubs are dying

Continued from page one...
and the numbers are telling. In the past two decades Rotary down 20%, Jaycees down 64%, Masons down 76%. Recalling de Tocqueville's observation about the role our clubs play in a civil society, this decline represents a tangible loss to community. The question remains, 'Where do we go from here?'

Since most service club leaders are in office but for one year, they shoot for short term quick fixes such as a membership drive. However, for most of our service clubs the issue is not recruitment but retention. Rotary averages 44,000 new members per year and loses an average of 51,000. They cannot keep members. If businesses are not keeping customers, the leaders generally make it top priority to find out why and correct the reasons. If they fail, they most likely will not be leaders for very long. Common sense says the same principle should apply to service clubs as well.

Think Tribes, Not Community

The classic definition of community is associated with a physical place, hence many of our service clubs are branded with a 'place' such as Jamestown Lions Club. But emerging generations of Americans now define community by their affinities: the gay community or the tech community. Even college alumni groups now tout themselves like independent countries such as Spartan Nation at Michigan State University.

Seth Godin is an entrepreneur who ruminates on marketing in the digital age. Author of several best-selling books, Godin argues that digital life has ended traditional mass communication and

replaced it with an ancient human social unit, The Tribe. These are groupings of people founded on shared ideas and values. As such, tribes give ordinary people the power to lead and make big change.

In the new world, what people desire most is an opportunity to connect with one another. People like bonding with other people. It's human nature. If we create opportunities for people to connect, they'll open up and feel more comfortable. As they do, they'll invite us into their lives and will introduce us to their friends. Then their friends become our family, our tribe. One by one we rebuild our clubs.

The data is so overwhelmingly convincing. One half of charitable giving in the United States is not driven by what people care about, it is driven by what their friends and family care about. Consider the charity walk or bike ride. Most of those involved have little driving passion for the issue at hand, but join up to walk as part of a team organized by a friend or family member. It's their community. The service clubs which will thrive in this new era are the ones who build out their tribe. **Prioritize Time Over Treasure**

Seth Godin's TED Talk Explains Why Creating Tribes Matters

The speed of American life has picked up. While we are not working that much more than previous generations, we are spending vastly more time in what might be called 'structured leisure activities'. This is especially true for families with children. For them, time is more prized than talent or treasure. For two parent families, both are often working and sharing household and child rearing

duties.

So what will attract them is not so much our mission, but how we can add to the quality of their lives. Their time is precious. So how can we adapt in order to make ourselves more welcoming to this emerging America?

Build An Informal Atmosphere

Is the format of our club outdated? Is the weekly lunch a productive format? Are the rituals in our meeting making sense to younger Americans? Many try to side step or ignore these impediments rather than deal with them. That's human nature as the most powerful force in the world is the status quo.

But Americans now connect on-line so don't need the time investment of a weekly meeting in order to network. Leaders must identify and remove obstacles. Is the structure of our club meetings an obstacle to involvement? One thing is abundantly clear, what emerging generations want in physical meetings is for the environment to be fundamentally social, fundamentally conversational and fundamentally less formal.

Enable Them To Bring The Whole Family

One of the encouraging trends in modern America is how men have taken a much more active role in child rearing. Some of this is driven by women's increasing role in the workplace and some by men desiring to play a more intimate role in the development of their sons and daughters.

These two parent, two career families have higher than average incomes and should be a priority to our recruitment strategy. They earn more and are more active than other



A Lions Club meeting.

demographics. If we want to get them, we have to offer a milieu which permits and engages their children as well, for they will not give up valuable family time for anyone. So, does our club offer a family friendly environment? **Help Them See World Differently**

Will this attract the next generation?

TED talks have become the gold standard among young professionals for these sessions arouse followers' thoughts and imagination, as well as stimulating their ability to identify and solve problems creatively. People gravitate to places containing others who awaken their curiosity, challenge them to think and learn, and encourage openness to new, inspiring ideas and alternatives. While we may not be able to book high-level speakers, we can look at altering meeting formats. How about facilitated discussions around a pressing societal issue? How about reflective exercises which engage members to think deeply about a topic?

These ingredients are essential to creating an environment where people are willing to invest their time. Intellectual stimulation is defined as encouraging innovation and creativity, as well as critical thinking and problem-solving. Intellectual stimulation involves arousing followers' thoughts and imagination, as well as stimulating their ability to identify and solve problems creatively

People love environs that awaken their curiosity, challenge them to think and learn, plus encourage openness to new, inspiring ideas and alternatives. These elements are essential to pulling in the emerging generations and thus ensure club success.

Let Them ReThink You

It's not 'Come do what we do', it's 'What do you want to do?' Can our club be an incubator for young

creatives to develop new and interesting ways to address our traditional issues?

One aspect of emerging generations is their desire to have an impact now. It means they will not wait 5 years to be elected Chair of the Fundraising Committee before seeing their ideas in action. If it's not happening today, they'll walk away.

Victor Hwang in his book, *The Rainforest*, metaphorically notes that most of us were trained to manage farms. By this he means our approach to anything is that we know what we want to grow, know when to plant the seeds, plant in straight lines, kill anything that looks like a weed, know when to harvest and can anticipate roughly our yield. *The Rainforest*, by comparison, is a chaotic environment where all sorts of genetic mutations are taking place and everything looks like a weed.

Hwang's point is that we need more Rainforests. But that means relinquishing some measure of control. Not always easy when we have 60-80-100 years of tradition behind us. Yet, by allowing emerging leaders to reinvent our club we can navigate a path to securing our survival.

Inventing The American Future

Service clubs are an American innovation that have evolved into a worldwide institution. While vibrant across the globe, the loss of membership in the United States represents a loss of social capital and civic engagement. Today potential members are constrained by lack of time. In addition, they may not see much use in an organization whose prestige and vitality is in question. It is imperative we reinvent. That may involve passing the torch and allowing an emerging generation of leaders to reinvent our clubs according to their needs. The alternative may be irrelevance and obscurity.

The author is a member of the Rotary Club in OR. Article from MichaelBrand.org.

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The beginnings of Patrons Mutual Insurance

In this issue we look back at an organization created by the Connecticut State Grange which today seems like an impossible undertaking by any fraternal organization... Patrons Mutual Insurance Company.

The following was written by Ira Wilcox on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the company in 1962.

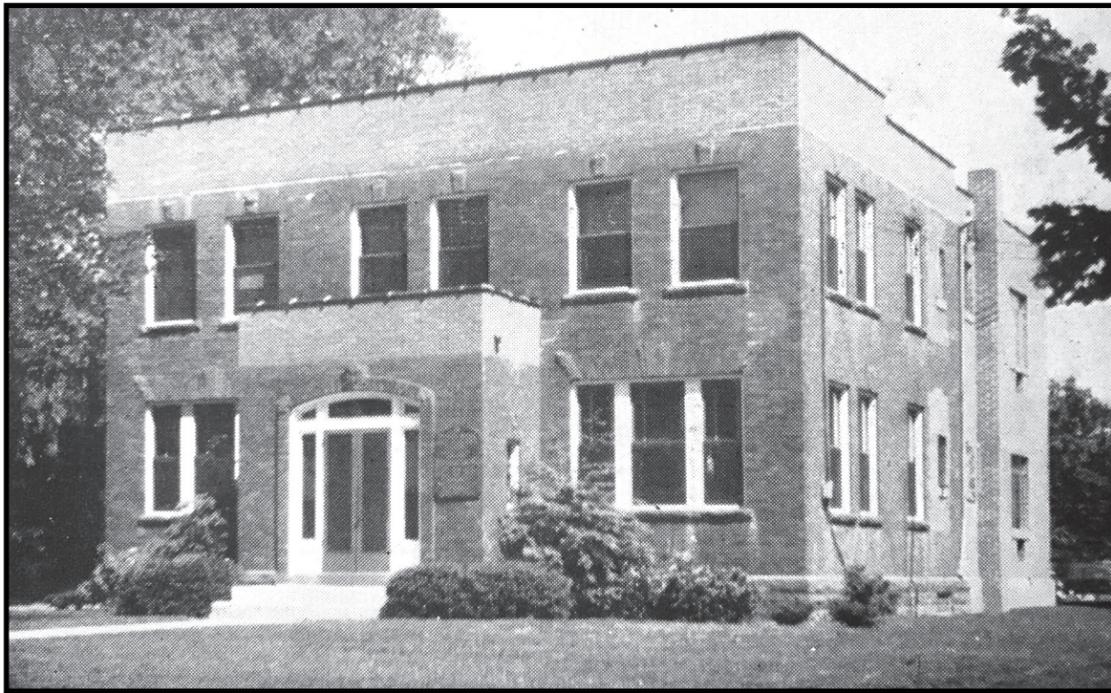
When our forefathers, the Pilgrims came to the bleak coast of New England to set up for themselves a new way of life, they operated under a plan known as the "Mayflower Compact". This was a signed agreement which had been drawn up during their long and tedious voyage to America. This plan was sometimes called the "Common-Effort" Plan. Each was supposed to contribute all their efforts proportionally for the Common Cause and each was supposed to receive equally from the Common Cause. Human nature being what it is, the lazy and indolent were rewarded by contributing little, but, gaining much in return.

Upon closer examination of that "Pact", one finds it is a pure and simple form of Communistic Government. The "Pact" was soon proved a dismal failure, for it was given up after three heart breaking trial years. The experiment of this nearly fatal failure taught the American people one everlasting lesson. It was replaced by Free Enterprise.

Thus this failure, insured the means, some 264 years later, that such a Company as the Patrons Mutual Fire Insurance of Connecticut could be organized.

The Granges of the State of Connecticut were the parents of this Company. Its actual conception took place on December 1, 1885, when, C.C. Lord, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Conn. State Grange incorporated the following in his annual report: - "Two sessions of this Committee were held since June 24th (the date the Second Conn. State Grange was organized), one at West Torrington and one at Suffield. The Committee has decided that *Grange Fire Insurance* would be a practical thing for Connecticut."

One year later, its birth was formally announced on December 7, 1886, when



This building at 122 Naubuc Avenue in Glastonbury was purchased by Patrons Mutual in January of 1947 and served as the company headquarters until the building on Hebron Avenue was constructed. This building still stands and is located a short distance from the State Grange Central Office in the Good Will Grange Hall at 43 Naubuc Ave. (Photo from 1962)

the following resolutions were presented to the State Grange from Senexet Grange No. 40 in Woodstock by George Austin Bowen, M.D., who represented Woodstock Grange as their delegate: "By the Patrons of Senexet Grange, Resolved, That we are in favor of making a vigorous and determined effort to obtain from the next General Assembly such Legislation as may be necessary in order to secure the benefits of cooperative Grange Insurance to the Patrons of Husbandry of this State: and to that end we hereby pledge to the State Grange our hearty and united cooperation and support. Resolved: That these resolutions be presented to the State Grange at its next annual meeting. The above resolutions were passed unanimously by Senexet Grange No. 40, November 24, 1886. Attest, Signed: Lewis J. Wells, Secretary."

In order that the reader get the proper interpretation, it may be well to pause here and make a few comments; here were a group of ordinary citizens, one a medical doctor, another one a merchant, and the rest all farmers, none of whom ever had, either any training or experience in the highly organized field of insurance, but, willing to devote their energy and time, their loyalty freely given without question and their moderate means placed at the disposal whenever needed in order that a fraternal fire insurance company might be started; and to top it all off, with little or no recompense for their time. These characteristics,

though hidden, turn more wheels, than the eye can measure or the mind register. They had their wits and the will to labor long and diligently with an uncrushable spirit.

Our story is not one of longevity, or 75 years is not a long period in the insurance field, nor, is it one of success alone- but of the success of a small company in a changing world. Its story is not one of spectacular growth. Nor is its history distinguished by the introduction of revolutionary innovations, although it has contributed its share of original methods. In the Insurance Industry, many giants have sprung up by rapid expansion, acquisition or merger, not so, the Patrons Company, for theirs is a story of slow progressive growth. The special significance of the Patrons Company is that it illustrates how a small concern can produce a special type of insurance for a special need - furnish its agents with proper tools and "know how" to work with- slowly and steadily increase its assets - all in a highly competitive, fast changing insurance world, against stalwarts which dwarf it - without any support from a paternalistic government.

The prime purpose of this company is to provide a safe and sound insurance coverage for its own members, that is, members of the Grange and their families residing within their household. This naturally restricts the amount of insurance written, but the quality of the risk has proven through the years to be above the

average found on other insurance company books. Its second purpose is to help build and maintain Grange membership.

Since 1959, this

company has expanded into three other states outside of Connecticut: Massachusetts, Florida and West Virginia.

When the company was formed in 1887 and for many years thereafter, the type of policy written was assessable and like the human we have likened this company to, it has been subject to human frailties, error and misfortune. During its history, four assessments have been levied. Today, the type of policy written is non-assessable. With the exception of these four periods of difficulty, this Company has steadily grown in insurance in force, and now it is one of the prominent Mutual Companies in this State.

Patrons Mutual Insurance was absorbed by State Auto of Ohio in 2007. While the name may still be used by State Auto, it no longer has any affiliation with the Grange.

The Grange Chair

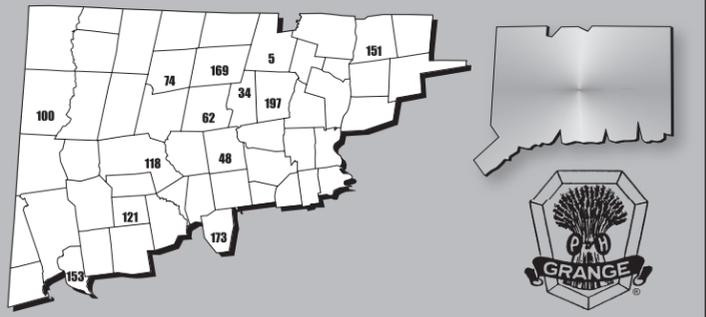


Sometime between 1949 and 1950, Harry L. Page, Guilford, then President of Patrons Mutual, came up with the idea of offering each Grange, meeting certain requirements, in new business, some gift that the Grange might find very appropriate and useful. He suggested that a *nice* officers chair, similar to the ones in the Connecticut Room at the New England Grange Building at the Eastern States Exposition Grounds in West Springfield, MA, would be a wonderful way to advertise the Company, provide a beautiful piece of furniture for any Grange needing officers chairs, and be an incentive to increase business. This idea was given careful consideration and plans were made to get this contest underway, the first year being that of 1950. How long, or for how many years this would be offered would depend upon the support given the contest. The first year, they spoke of it as the "Masters Chair." It has proven so worthwhile that many Granges have as many as 12 or 13 chairs. These are expensive chairs and adorn any Grange Room.

This account was written in 1962. Most of our Granges today have many of these chairs in their halls and meeting spaces. Most of these chairs are marked with plaques that note the year and which the chair was awarded to the Grange and will say something similar to "New Business Contest."

Now you know where all of those unique arm chairs came from!

POMONA A



- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Granby No. 5 | Bethlehem No. 121 |
| Cawasa No. 34 | Enfield No. 151 |
| Whigville No. 48 | Bridgewater No. 153 |
| Eureka No. 62 | Riverton No. 169 |
| Winchester No. 74 | Wolcott No. 173 |
| Taghannuck No. 100 | Simsbury No. 197 |
| Beacon No. 118 | |

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Jan. 9: A New Year, Ref. Sara Bement & Mimi Grustas

Jan. 23: A Cold Snap (Country Store), Ref. Sue Addison

Feb. 13: Valentine's Day, Ref. Potluck, 6:30 P.M.

Feb. 27: Presidents or ?, Ref. Todd Gelineau

The Christmas meeting of Winchester Grange was canceled due to winter weather. Hopefully this will not be the typical Tuesday bad weather pattern. We have begun the winter season with bitter cold and snow. Hopefully Mother Nature will empty her bag of tricks early and spring will arrive sooner. We can hope anyway!

Winchester Grange expresses its thanks to the Winchester Center Volunteer Fire Department for making new connections to propane at our hall possible with no cost to the Grange.

We mourned the loss of Ellsworth "Bud" Beecher in November/December. He was a special man who, along with Marion, were the glue that bound the Winchester Grange and Winchester Center community for many, many years. His dedication to the Grange and his community were unparalleled. He will be greatly missed.

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Taghannuck Grange wishes each and every one of you a Happy New Year. Our members are enjoying the new gutters on our Grange Hall. You can now visit us and not get drenched if it is raining.

This month we meet only once on January 11 with the program "January Thaw." The snow date is January 18th. We will be discussing what our community service project will be this new year.

As is noted in the 4th Degree winter is the season of rest. We stay at home more so and it is also a great time to begin putting away things for our Tag Sale in June that you have not used in a few years.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

Jan. 28: Meeting, 2 P.M., Ref. By Barbara Robert and Ed Whitehead

We sponsored a Senior Benefits program on Medicare on Nov. 21 with 13 present.

I worked with the Church and other organizations in Bethlehem and packed 11,800 special meals for children in Puerto Rico.

A dinner at Painted Pony was held for Christmas with 17 members and friends present.

Time to start thinking about our flea market on Sat., Apr. 7.1 rob Buck has taken over the mailings and whatever concerning the flea market. Thank you to Linda Coad for her many years heading up this affair.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

March 10: Our Grange Birthday – 117 years.

April 14: The Story of Root Beer.

We had fun exchanging crazy socks at our December meeting. We definitely may repeat it next year. We filled 2 large tubs with clothes, food and groceries for 2 families, donated a large

bag of hats, mittens and diapers to the Enfield Day Care and 6 afghans, several pairs of gloves and hats to the Community Warming Center and a generous donation to the Enfield Food Shelf. A huge Thank You to everyone who brought items in. Our next project will be to give some lap robes to the nursing home in memory of Betty Jane Gardiner. We may be small but we are mighty. Come join us for some birthday cake, and don't forget if the weather is bad the meeting is postponed to the following Saturday.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Shirley Moore

Jan. 5: 6:30 Birthday Pot-luck Supper, Maureen & Phil Prelli in charge Program: Anniversary (110th) Celebration

Feb. 2: Regular Meeting; Program: Agricultural Committee; Ref.: Mary Lou & Peter Keefe

Our Grange has been busy over the past few months. Installation of officers took place at our September meeting and October was busy over Riverton Fair weekend when 250 dinners were served in our hall. We served turkey dinners on Saturday and ham on Sunday.

In November, along with our regular meeting, Lecturer Raine Pedersen planned a potluck supper on the 11th for veterans in our area. It was sparsely attended as there were already many activities planned for them. However, those who did attend reminisced about their time in World War II and also the Korean War.

We will soon be having our December 15th meeting with the theme of Holiday Traditions. There will be a secret grab bag. Those planning to participate in the grab bags should keep the cost of items at \$10 or below.

I ask that our members bring a non-perishable item for the food bank each time they come to a meeting. This is one of the projects sponsored by the CWA.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy 2018.

Legislatively Speaking



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

The topic of solar farm concerns has once again been in the news. When we initially mentioned this topic there were concerns about the loss of prime farmland being used for solar array farms. At that time 1115 acres of woodlands and 510 acres of farmland had been approved for consideration of solar projects. This was

partially addressed during the following legislative session when they set some guidelines for the siting of solar array farms. The siting council now needs to consider the loss of farmland and forests when granting the permits for the sites of these solar arrays.

Since last year there are many more towns that are moving toward renewable energy by installing solar panels on schools, town buildings, and other town owned areas. Many households are installing these panels on their rooftops. The state had offered financial incentives for homeowners and many have taken advantage of these incentives.

During the holiday season an article appeared in the paper about the closing on a longstanding Christmas tree farm at the end of this holiday season. The Craftsbury Tree Farm had been in existence for 23 years in Durham. The owner of the trees farm does not own the lands that he had been using to raised his trees on. He has been leasing the land from his cousin who owns a neighboring manufacturing company. The owner had decided that it would be cost efficient for him to use that land for a solar array farm to power his factory and help reduce expenses, plus he would be supporting the green movement. We can't blame the factory owner for wanting move to solar energy and appreciate his support of renewable energy options. We are also sad to see the loss of an agricultural business.

Another recent article also addressed the siting of solar arrays and brought up another concern. There is a school in Windsor that is planning on installing a three acre solar array on land adjoining forest land. To do so they will need to cut down around two acres of trees that is also a buffer between the school and neighboring houses. The neighbors started questioning the rules and licenses needed for such projects. They were surprised to learn that there really are none. The school only needs a building permit to install the solar array and they don't even had to go through the zoning and planning commission. There are no guidelines for sites bordering residential neighborhoods. This brings to light the possible need for regulations in local towns concerning renewable energy projects.

Renewable energy sources such as solar and wind are the right direction for clean energy initiatives. We need to remember to balance the installation of these renewable energy installations with the impacts on the community and our agricultural community.

Source for this is Hartford Courant article "Craftsbury Christmas Farm Tradition Coming To An End After 23 Years" by Peter Marteka and Solar Array Scuffle by Steven Goode.

Scrubbies Wanted

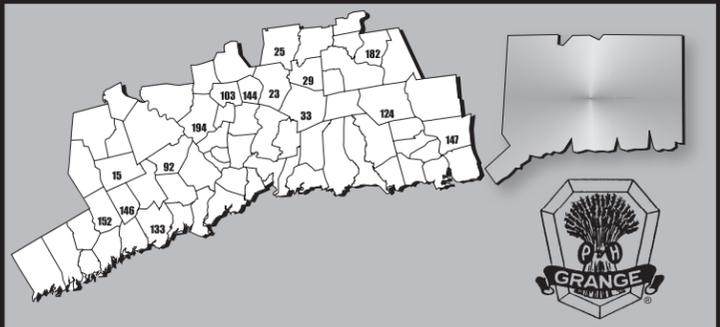


Irene Percoski
CWA/Family Activ. Director
cwa@ctstategrange.org

I have a request to have a "scrubbie" making meeting. They are not hard to make and are easy to learn. I would rather do some small informal meetings rather than one large one. I am willing to travel to your area if you can get 2 or 3 (or more) interested members together. Please contact me. I still have a few entry blanks left for the

needlework contest but you are free to make copies of the ones you have. Deadline date for judging is June 9, 2018 at Cheshire Grange Hall.

POMONA B



Redding No. 15
Cheshire No. 23
Southington No. 25
Meriden No. 29
Wallingford No. 33
Harmony No. 92
Beacon Valley No. 103

Higganum No. 124
Greenfield Hill No. 133
Prospect No. 144
Norfield No. 146
Cannon No. 152
Hemlock No. 182
Oxford No. 194

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Jan. 3: Trivia Night

Jan. 17: Agricultural Program

In early December our members distributed Christmas favors to our member shut-ins and others. The month was concluded with our annual Christmas meeting with a card exchange and grab bag gifts. We continue to send items to our troops and we have responses from them showing their appreciation in getting them. This is one of our on going projects.

We hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season.

With the new year upon us, we are looking forward to the many activities that await us at Cheshire Grange.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Jim and Lori Golias

With Autumn in full swing, our Halloween party/dinner was a success. After the dinner, a movie was shown: "Abbot and Costello Meet Frankenstein". Our November Thanksgiving dinner was a huge success. A delicious turkey dinner complete with stuffing and all the side dishes was enjoyed. Thanks to Stephanie Thompson for preparing the turkey, stuffing and gravy. Also thanks to all who provided the side dishes and the desserts. It was a great evening.

On November 18 we held our annual Holiday Boutique which had gifts and treasures for purchase.

As winter approaches we are looking forward to Christmas and a new year. Annual membership dues are payable on January 1, 2018. Also, the Greenfield

Hill Grange is in the planning stages for our 125th anniversary 1893 - 2018.

Until next time -- have a Merry Christmas, a happy and healthy new year and "God bless us - everyone!"

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

Jan 4: Business Meeting

Jan 18: Business Meeting

Feb 1: Business Meeting

Feb 15: Business Meeting

We welcome four new members to Cannon Grange: Lena Ivanaj (Dearta Fusaro's mom), Beverly, Henry and Willi Schaer (Ray's wife and sons).

During the fall months we hosted a local Brownie troop to use our hall as their meeting and activity space, and look forward to their association with us so that more people can see what a wonderful facility we have. Bil Mikulewicz is carrying on with Tai Chi classes at the Grange, offering instruction to interested persons on a drop-in basis at a nominal \$5 fee per session. If you'd like to try a class, come by on Wednesdays for a morning session or an early evening session. They classes are not only fun, but they are relaxing. Come give it a try!

Later this Spring, we look forward to hosting our annual Silent Movie night with live piano accompaniment. Look for a firm date to be posted on our website soon. Also, a pastry-making class is being planned by Pam Lillis to be held at our kitchen. Our program theme this year is Eating Healthy in order to Live Healthy. Join us to find out how it's done!

Back in November we

hosted a well-received Barn Dance, and welcomed quite a crowd of new faces to our Grange Hall. Special thanks to Michele Clark for making the arrangements with the caller, helping with ticket sales. Also, special thanks to Karen Tartell who brought 12 friends to the dance where everyone had a great time!

Soon we will be discussing plans for the 2018 Agricultural Fair, which is on the calendar for August 26th.

HEMOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Feb. 9: February Holidays

Feb. 23: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Mar. 9: March Winds

Mar. 23: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Rob Buck

Jan. 5: Game Night

Jan. 19: Make-up date in case of snow

With the new year coming, I want to announce two events: a chili cook-off on Saturday, April 21st @ 6:00 PM, and a Pizza Taste Testing Contest on Saturday, June 2 @ 6:00 PM. Tickets will be sold ahead of time so plan to come on out. We are also planning to hold another series of lecture/discussion sessions in the spring on some aspect of growing things much like last year's "Green Gold and Other Treasures" series. In November, members Rich Wilber and spouse Nancy Prior took a trip to Cuba on a Food First sponsored agricultural tour and shared some interesting information and pictures with us at the first December meeting on agricultural developments in that country. As development of the new Pomona Granges comes closer, I look forward to this in that I have a chance to be involved in both of what we now know as Pomona A and B. Oxford Grange #194 is part of B, while this correspondent being a member of Bethlehem Grange #121 is going to be in A. My spouse will be in B. Interesting. Please do get involved!

Gallery of Trees



From left, Carol Swanson, Linea Erickson, and Patti Tarca of Cawasa Grange No. 34 (Canton) pose with the Christmas Tree they donated to the Canon Historical Museum's Gallery of Trees.

Have a Good Day!

Chris Hamp, National Lecturer

I know each and every one of us is busy, busy. It is fair season, for most of you it is get ready for State Convention time, and of course, it is that glorious time of the year when seemingly everything in our gardens is ready to be canned, frozen, or dried!

I am asking you to encourage your Granges and Grangers to subscribe to our new National Grange magazine, Good Day!

This is a quarterly publication of the highest quality! In my opinion, *Good Day!* is a beautiful, glossy, substantive magazine with a breadth of content and information that can keep any reader interested and absorbed. I'm positive that you will also find a plethora of ideas for Lecturer's programs (bonus!).

Please fill out and return the subscription card below to the National Grange in Washington. Feel free to distribute copies of the subscription card to your members, collect the money/checks and cards and mail them to National Grange in batches or send yours along as soon as you get this to ensure delivery of the next issue.

Be Awesome! Be a Doer!

Make it a Good Day!™

As a Grange member, for only \$14 a year you can receive our new quarterly magazine and enjoy great features, the latest information about the Grange, contests, programs, benefits and more!

Name: _____

Grange Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

email: _____

You may choose to be billed by checking here

To pay by credit or debit card, fill out the information completely. Please note if you have a different billing address than mailing address above.

Card # _____ Visa MC Disc.

Exp. Date _____ CVC Code _____

Mail subscription card to National Grange,
1616 H St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.

View from the Hill

Burton Eller, Nat. Legis. Dir.
Policy Developed for 2018

The National Grange 151st annual convention was held November 7-11, 2017 in Spokane, Washington. As has been the tradition of the Grange for 150 years, policy development was the centerpiece of the national meeting. State Grange delegates from around the country served on seven committees that considered resolutions passed by state Grange conventions and forwarded to the national committees. Resolutions passed by the national committees were forwarded to the delegate body business sessions as recommended new or amended policy positions for 2018. The delegate body adopted 34 public policy resolutions and eight internal policy resolutions from the seven committees. The adopted resolutions now become official National Grange policy. Grange policy development is truly a grassroots bottom-up process that must pass scrutiny at local, state and national levels.

December in Washington

Congress returned to Washington following their Thanksgiving recess to face a daunting December agenda. The House of Representatives passed its version of tax reform earlier in November, but the Senate just began its floor debate on tax reform after Thanksgiving. The final tax package will be a compromise between Senate and House-passed versions hashed out by a Senate-House conference committee and sent back to each body for approval. Their target of is to have tax reform wrapped up and to the President's desk by Christmas. That could be a challenge since Congress will be in session roughly 15 days before leaving town until January. Meanwhile the continuing resolution that funded the federal government since the fiscal year began October 1 expires December 8. A budget agreement to fund the government for the next ten months is a top priority but it could face a fight from House Democrats if it fails to include legalization of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or immigrant "Dreamers" recipients.

Reforming the tax code under any circumstance is

extremely difficult but this time around there are so many interlocking issues that cannot be ignored. Several Republican senators are concerned about the impact the tax plan could have on the deficit by adding up to \$1.5 trillion to the national debt over the next decade. The Senate plan would repeal ObamaCare's individual mandate which requires most Americans to buy health insurance or pay a penalty, but not all Republican senators are sold on the idea; neither are the Democrats. The Senate will attempt to pass its tax package before attempting a budget deal to fund the government past December 8.

Tax Reform

The National Grange is advocating for its adopted tax policies as tax reform moves through Congress. Some of the key provisions are:

- Simplify the entire code and close corporate loopholes, complexities and unfair practices so everyone pays fair share

- Lower the personal income tax rates to allow individuals and families to keep more of their hard earned pay

- Preserve cash accounting for small and mid-sized farms and family businesses so they are taxed only on what they produce and bring to market, not on their production inventory.

- Allow interest deductions for land purchases and production inputs

- Reduce capital gain tax rates so aging landowners have an incentive to sell to young and beginning farmers

- Repeal the death tax so families who have built businesses over several generations of hard work are not forced to sell to developers and others just to pay estate taxes

- Reduce the corporate business tax rate so American companies can compete in a globalized world and have the incentive to bring off-shore taxes back home

- Preserve the Section 199 deduction to allow farmer cooperatives to continue to reinvest in agriculture and rural communities

Tax reform has passed the House and is pending in the Senate (and has passed the Senate as of this printing). The Senate is debating tax

reform and will attempt to pass its bill by December 1. The two bills have several major tax policy differences. A House-Senate conference committee will hash out these differences behind closed doors and will try to present a compromise package to both the House and Senate before Christmas for a final vote.

Health Care:

A C A / O b a m a C a r e Signup

Initial signup surged during the first weeks of open enrollment, more than the same period in past enrollments. However, open enrollment ends December 15, much earlier than the past. With such a shortened period, signup numbers could actually drop behind past years. The Children's Health Insurance Program expired September 30 leaving nine million in limbo. Congress has yet to come to a bipartisan agreement to reauthorize it so this will be another year-end scramble on Capitol Hill.

Opioids in Farm Country

A just-released survey by Morning Consult sponsored by the American Farm Bureau and National Farmers Union indicates the opioid crisis has struck farm and ranch families much harder than the rest of rural America. In the survey, 74 percent of farmers and farm workers say they have been directly impacted by opioid abuse. Three in four farmers and those who work around agriculture say it would be easy to access large amounts of prescription drugs or pain killers without a prescription. Rural adults overwhelmingly understand that abuse can begin accidentally by using what are deemed to be safe drugs.

Restoring Internet Freedom

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is proposing to repeal a set of regulations that have slowed broadband deployment in recent years. Known as "net neutrality", these regulations moved from a market-based approach to a regulatory framework two years ago that was designed in the 1930's to combat telephone wire-line monopolies. Repealing the net neutrality rules as proposed by the FCC should stimulate investment in building and expanding broadband networks in

rural and low-income areas. With this proposal, the FCC should move to require increased transparency from internet service providers to allow start-ups, small businesses and consumers to make informed decisions. The National Grange will continue to follow these proposed regulatory changes closely.

Lifeline

The National Grange has long supported the Lifeline program that makes wireless, landline and broadband services available at affordable discounted prices to qualified low-income households. Now the FCC is proposing to eliminate funding to telecom companies which reach about 75 percent of Lifeline subscribers. A GAO report found examples of waste, fraud and abuse in some Lifeline service locations but there was no evidence in the GAO report that rural America was part of the problem. Some in the telecom industry suggest the money could be better utilized for broadband expansion. However, broadband expansion in rural areas is slow and in the meantime, isolated, elderly, disabled and low-income citizens still need a Lifeline connectivity to the rest of the world. Unfortunately, rural America was not adequately considered as this proposal was being drafted. The National Grange will continue to advocate for fixing the problems but keeping Lifeline as an essential service.

Infrastructure

Legislation to rebuild America's ailing infrastructure could become a casualty of tax reform legislation moving through Congress. Many of the available options for funding infrastructure repair may be used instead to pay for tax reform. As an example, it appears Congress is poised to eliminate the deduction on tax-exempt private activity bonds which are used by public-private partnerships to build roads, highways, airports and other such projects.

Agriculture

Last summer, Senate and House agriculture committee members were hoping to begin the farm bill legislative process before Christmas. That didn't happen of course. Everything in Washington, especially on Capitol Hill, is backlogged and bogged

down. But the agriculture committees have been quietly negotiating and drafting farm bill language behind the scenes and in a bipartisan manner. Leadership of both committees say they'll be ready jump-start the farm bill process in January.

The committees will have limited budgets and increased demands from new players in the farm bill arena. Groups representing organic, natural, local, fresh, sustainable, specialty crops, young and beginning farmers, veteran farmers and more are clamoring for a piece of the farm bill pie. Crop insurance and SNAP (food stamps) will be targeted for reductions to pay for new programs. Oregon Democrat Representative Blumenauer and several colleagues have already introduced an alternative farm bill that trims the more traditional farm programs and highlights numerous small and new programs.

Alternative TV

When a major carrier dropped family-owned RFD-TV from its lineup last year, the response from rural and small town America was immediate. RFD-TV headquarters in Nashville were swamped with hundreds of thousands of letters, emails and notes from fans. Most major TV channels are based on the coasts. By inauguration time, networks were wondering if voters who felt forgotten by politicians also felt forgotten by television networks. Advertisers began to notice RFD-TV's programming that includes Ag Day, Market Day Report, the Cowboy Channel, FarmHer, Dude Ranch Roundup, Opry Encore, Home Improvement, classic reruns (Gunsmoke, The Virginian, Hee Haw, Larry's Country Diner, etc.) and more. Another major carrier has now picked up RFD-TV and the network continues to expand. RFD-TV will soon be available in U.S. House of Representatives offices.

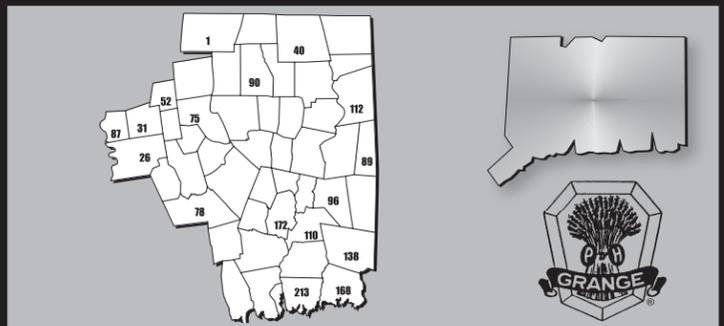
Perspective on Values

– A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both. *Dwight D. Eisenhower*

– Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make a man a more clever devil. *C.S. Lewis*

– Open your arms to change but don't let go of your values. *Dalai Lama*

POMONA C



Stafford No. 1	Ashford No. 90
Glastonbury No. 26	Pachaug No. 96
Manchester No. 31	Preston City No. 110
Senexet No. 40	Killingly No. 112
Vernon No. 52	N. Stonington Comm. No. 138
Coventry No. 75	Lyme No. 147
Colchester No. 78	Stonington No. 168
Hillstown No. 87	Norwich No. 172
Ekonk Community No. 89	Groton No. 213

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

January 4th Glastonbury Grange will "Welcome in the New Year", at 7:30 p.m. We trust all members had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a Happy and Healthy New Year.

January 13th we will have our Monti Carlo Whist Card Party, at 7:00 p.m. at tje Masonic Hall. We had a much better attendance at the last one. Do try to attend a bring a friend with you. The more the merrier.

February 1st "Hearts and Flowers".

February 10th Monti Carlo Whist Card Party

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

Jan. 4: New Years

Regular meeting unless snowed out. Then Jan. 18. We delivered 18 bags of foodstuffs to Coventry Human Services for Christmas and the Food Bank. Thanks to all who brought items. We see snowbirds have flown south to stay warm and don't forget to return come spring.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

The December meeting was on the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Grange (Dec. 4th, 1867-Dec. 4th, 2017). Our new Program Director, Jai Izzarelli, did an exceptional job with the program, which featured not only the Seven Founders of our Grange, but Caroline Hall, as well. Jai, herself, represented

Caroline Hall. Jai wore a beautiful, gold evening gown that positively glittered! The seven gals who each had a candle, honoring a Founder, gathered on our south wall for a picture. Co-incidentally, they stood in front of the framed hand crocheted Grange emblem that the late Barbara Cameron made and donated to our Grange. Next to that is the picture of Oliver Hudson Kelley, Father of the Grange, whose framed picture was a gift from Alton and Marie Exley. We enjoyed decorated birthday cake and ice cream for dessert. State President, Noel Miller and his wife, Marcia, were our special guests. Brother Miller presented our Grange with its 6th annual Distinguished Grange certificate and 3rd prize award in the National Grange Community Service contest! He also brought home Junior Grange awards for several Juniors. They were thrilled to win at the National level. Special congratulations to Arielle Bessette, who won an amazing \$100.00! The Juniors did an amazing job in their Christmas Pageant. Each Junior had a display about the country they had studied, complete with Christmas customs and a food item popular at Christmas from their country.

We continue providing monthly food donations to seven families who appreciate a hand up. The non-perishables come mainly from donations brought to our suppers.

Special thanks to Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm, who donates a Gift Certificate to every supper for one lucky winner. For each item brought, the person gets a chance to win the Gift Certificate.

January 26th will be our annual Family Game/Casino Night at 6:00 p.m. We added two more members at our December meeting. Special hello to our Snowbird Chaplain, Paulette Craig, who is getting an awesome tan in Florida. Her niece, Brenda Craig, is doing a fabulous job as Chaplain Protém. Finally, Link Cooper, President, was unable to attend the December meeting, due to illness! He was seriously missed, although Ned Sebastian, Vice-President, did a super job!

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

Jan. 15: Business Meeting – Happy New Year

At our December meeting we held our Christmas Party with a potluck dinner and a yankee swap. This year we gave a monetary amount to a local charity. We held a tag sale which was profitable and are having a bluegrass show on the 25th with a chicken veggie tomato sauce and noodles dinner. We were short of help and need member participation.

We will begin having one meeting a month in January and February usually on Saturday during the day for the convenience of our elder members. Our Farmer Master Eleanor Davis is still in and out of the hospital. We wish her well and a healthier new year. Our new Master David Griffith will be installed very soon. It's been a long time since we Killingly Grange #112 has had a male Master. We wish him luck and enjoy the office. It can be fun!!

Our sympathies go out to Laurie Russell, wife of Phil Russell who just recently passed away. He was Pomona Deputy East at one time.

Be "1 in 1,000"

As we celebrate the first 150 years of service by Grange members across the nation, we unveil a new initiative that will propel us into our next century and a half: The 1 in 1,000 Club through the (National) Grange Foundation.

The Foundation is National Grange's 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit that supports initiatives of the Grange including training and activities for Juniors, Youth, leadership development and outreach opportunities for all members, deaf activities, the Kelley Farm and many other causes close to the hearts of the Grange family.

The 1 in 1,000 Club, introduced during the 151st Annual National Grange Convention in November and officially launched on Dec. 4 (the Anniversary of the Grange), allows you to invest in the future of the Grange while taking your place at the table of an exclusive support club with a limited 1,000 spaces available.

To join, fill out the attached form to reserve your place in the 1 in 1,000 Club and choose to be invoiced or make a payment in full or payment plan to contribute the \$1,000 to the charitable Grange Foundation – a contribution that may be tax-deductible; contact your financial or tax advisor. Club members will enjoy some exclusive benefits including invitations to special dinners and events, detailed correspondence about the Foundation's activities and more. Club members will also receive a pin and certificate to honor their status in the philanthropic circle.

The form to make donations to the 1 in 1,000 Club are available by visiting nationalgrange.org or by contacting the National Grange.

There will only be 1,000 members of this group in perpetuity. When the member passes away, the membership may be first made available to an individual designated by the late Club member but will require a "renewal" payment of \$1,000 in order to keep the membership number. Should the designated individual not wish to renew the membership, it will be offered to the person at the top of the waiting list (or general membership if 1,000 are not already assigned). Groups (Granges, other Foundations, other organizations) who wish to become members of the Club will require renewal every 10 years of \$1,000 in order to keep their number.

Camp Berger Pond Hockey Tournament



Saturday, Jan. 29, 2018
Park Pond/Camp Berger
Winchester Center, CT

SAVE THE DATE!

www.bergerhockey.com



By Hank the Burro

Happy New Year to all of my Grange Friends!

It was a wonderful Christmas with my host family. I got to find the pickle in the Christmas Tree, and received many wonderful gifts, including a brand new sweater, which will be sure to keep me nice and warm during these cold winter months.

I went with Noel when he had to plow and shovel out the 3 Grange Halls and the house too! We were tuckered out after all that work.

In early December we made the trek to Ekonk Community Grange in Eastern, Connecticut for their celebration party of the 150th Birthday of the National Grange. It was nice to see so many Grange friends, and to honor such a prestigious birthday!

We will be around as the weather permits this winter. Please say Hello is you see me!

Be sure to follow me on Facebook for news of my latest travels. Please take a minute to follow the link and click the "Like" button. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>



My Favorite Food



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer
lecturer@ctstategrange.org

HAPPY NEW YEAR... Wow! The years do fly by. Remember back in the 50's, 60's and 70's we thought the year 2000 was so far away. And now it's already 2018. Let's all strive to make this a good year for the Grange. Working together we can make it happen. Let's put away our differences and work together for the good of the order. And, remember, if

you need help in the Lecturer's Department I am here for that reason.

All the Lecturers' Contests will remain the same as last year. If you need a new copy of them please let me know and I will see that you get them.

Do you like hash? If not, read the 2nd Place Winner in last years' Essay Contest and you may change your mind.

MY FAVORITE FOOD

By Jeff Barnes

Hash has always been my very favorite food.

Thinking back now my mother wasn't a very creative cook, but she made corned beef hash that we had often and never got tired of.

I remember how she would clamp the food grinder onto a step on the cellar stairs and grind canned corned beef and potatoes from our garden, adding onions so strong that she cried while turning the crank.

Mom fried, or really burned, her hash in a cast iron skillet, cooking the concoction until it was almost crispy. This, along with home-made pickled beets was the supper meal. I don't remember ever having hash for breakfast because there was never any left over.

Now my wife makes hash as a special treat, but it's me who does the grinding so now it's my turn to cry. And there is still never any left over for breakfast.

Granger Shout Out



A little birdie told me that Eve O'Connell from Colchester Grange #78, was awarded 2nd place in the National Quilt block contest. She was one of 331 entries. Congratulations Eve.

Coventry Plus One Juniors

Corr: Ted Powell

The Juniors took care of two families this Thanksgiving with meals from turkey to pie. This December they helped raise food for the Coventry Food Bank.

Their big project is "Take a Vet Fishing" on April 21 at the Bozrah Rod and Gun Club pond. The last time they hosted this event, they had 60 vets come. This time they are hoping for 100 vets. They are working with the Lebanon Lions, the two Boy Scout Troops in Lebanon, Lebanon Fire Dept., Bozrah Rod & Gun and many other volunteers. The Juniors help in the kitchen making lunch for all.

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.



From **Marie Noyes**: I received the Connecticut Granger in yesterday's mail. The picture depicted for December has to have been taken at Ledyard Grange #167. The occasion I'm not aware of. I am a former member of Ledyard Grange and took my demit to Norwich Grange 172 when that Grange gave up its charter. The picture that is in the Granger for this month (December) is as follows:

First row left to right.....Virginia Laputz, Glenna Stenhouse, Marie Ellsworth, Laurie Laputz

Second row left to right..... Stephen Laputz, unknown, Danny LaVangie, unknown, Leslie Laputz

Wish I could tell you more about the picture, but identifying some of the folks may help. Good luck with more information.

We heard from **Joanne Cipriano** regarding December's photo — "The couple on the left hand side of the picture are Viginia and Steve LaPutz of Ledyard Grange. Virginia was a State Pianist and Steve I think was a Deputy. I don't recognize the other people."

150th Anniversary Gala of the National Grange



National Communications Director Amanda Brozana-Rios speaks during the 150th Birthday Gala in Washington, D.C.



National Grange held its 150th Anniversary Gala at the historic Decatur House near the National Grange Headquarters and just steps from the White House on Dec. 4, 2017



National Master Betsy Huber



National Overseer (and member from Connecticut) Phil Prelli speaks with guests including Susan Masino of Simsbury Grange in CT.





Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Making and keeping resolutions for your Grange

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

New Year's Resolutions are a long-held tradition. Folks make resolutions on a number of topics, such as losing weight, to stop smoking, to sleep more, to drink more water, to save money, to begin an exercise regimen, to be more organized or even to become a better person. But the fatal flaw in most New Year's Resolutions is that folks are not setting realistic goals for themselves, thus biting off more than they can chew and not being able to attain success, only disappointment.

The same pattern can happen in your Grange. Are you setting unrealistic goals for your Grange to achieve each year, only to be disappointed when they don't happen?

For example, is your Grange vowing to take in 10 new members, but then only takes in 6 new members, coming in short of the set goal? Instead of enjoying the addition of 6 new people to your Grange ranks, your members are concentrating on the 4 people that never materialized, bringing down the attitude of the other members who tried in the process, but did not succeed. Wouldn't it be better to set a goal of 4 new members, and thus exceed

that goal by taking in 6 new members, than having the above scenario happen?

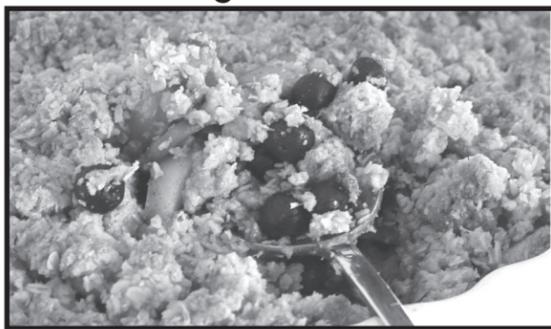
Setting your Grange goals and objectives, such as growing your membership and retaining existing members, offering more events, or taking on a new community service project are a perfect way to start off the new year. Remember that setting goals that are achievable is important in their successes.

Effective communication between your Grange, your members and the public is key to obtaining your Grange goals. Look for ways that your Grange can leverage existing projects and activities to achieve set goals.

Granges hold the keys to each of their futures. 2018 is a new year. Bolster your Grange's successes by communicating clearly and effectively with your membership, with other Granges and organizations, and with the public.

The CT State Grange Public Relations Committee is here to help. Contact Terri or Bob today at information@ctstategrange.org or publicrelations@ctstategrange.org.

The Ultimate Apple Blueberry Crumble



When the weather is cold and snowy, there's no better place to be than in the kitchen with the sweet smells of winter baking filling the air. BakePlaySmile.com has a super simple recipe for the Ultimate Apple Blueberry Crumble that is perfect for after dinner, and for wintertime Grange refreshments too! And don't forget to serve it with a big scoop of vanilla ice cream!

INGREDIENTS:

5 large apples, peeled and sliced	1 cup water
1/2 cup confectioner's sugar	2 tbs lemon juice
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon	1/2 tsp nutmeg
3 cups frozen blueberries	1 1/3 cups rolled oats
1/2 cup brown sugar	1/4 cup plain flour
1/2 cup butter - room temperature	

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Grease a large oven-proof baking dish with butter and set aside.

Place the peeled and sliced apples into a medium saucepan with the water, sugar, lemon juice, cinnamon and nutmeg.

Bring to a low simmer for 5-10 minutes or until just softened. Drain off the excess liquid.

Place the cooked apples into the baking dish.

Sprinkle the frozen blueberries over the apples.

To make the crumble, place the oats, brown sugar, plain flour and butter into a bowl. Use your fingers to squeeze and break up the lumps of butter until crumbs have formed and all of the oats and flour are completely combined with the butter.

Sprinkle the crumble over the apple and place into the preheated oven.

Cook for 35 minutes or until the crumble is golden and crunchy.

SOURCE: <https://bakeplaysmile.com/apple-blueberry-crumble/>

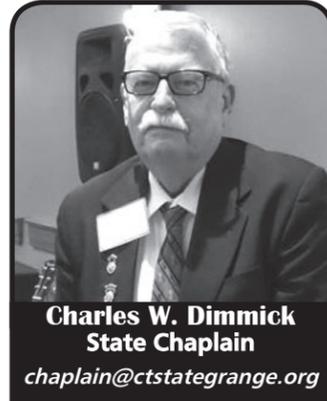
In Memoriam

Ellsworth M. "Bud" Beecher (G.S.)
Winchester Grange #74

Arthur Hight (75 Yr.)
Coventry Grange #75

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

Setting a bad example



Have you ever said of someone that he or she was setting a bad example? I have news for you: each one of us at one time or another has set a bad example. Many times we are not even aware of doing so. More often than not it is also unintentional. We can't help ourselves; it is part of human nature.

Sometimes teachers try to set before us examples of people doing the right thing. But

I think it is more instructional to learn about people doing the wrong thing. Certainly the people who wrote the Gospels seemed to think so. Search through all four Gospels and you will find that Jesus is the only one presented who never sets a bad example. The variety of ways of doing the wrong thing is endless, and if the Gospels were twice as long they would probably have twice as many examples.

The Old Testament, also, is full of its own bad examples. King David, one of the better people in the Old Testament, fell in love with Bathsheba, wife of Uriah, and treacherously arranged for Uriah to be killed in battle. David's son, Solomon, despite his great wisdom, made many bad choices, some of which led eventually to the division of his Kingdom after his death.

Of course the greatest bad example in scripture is Satan himself, who tries to tempt Jesus into doing various things that would have set very bad examples if Jesus had not resisted. Then we have King Herod, with his slaughter of the innocents, among many other bad deeds. And even if we look at the twelve disciples we have Judas betraying Jesus, Peter denying him three times, and doubting Thomas.

What messages should we take away from all this? Firstly, the reminder that none of us is perfect; we all have the ability to make bad mistakes, even calamitous mistakes. Being forewarned of this possibility, we should be more alert to the danger. Secondly, we should be more charitable in our reaction to other people's foibles and missteps. In the long run we are no better than they are. And lastly, God knows we are less than perfect, and will forgive us if we seek forgiveness and will raise us up and restore us to wholeness if we are truly sorry for what we have done.

New Agriculture Display Contest Introduced for 2018

Ted Powell, State Agric. Comm.

The Agriculture Committee is adding on a new contest to be judged at State Session. It is open to all Granges, Grangers and Junior Grangers. It is a Agriculture Education display. There are four divisions: 1. Granges, 2. Individual Grange Members, 3. Junior Granges, 4. Jr. Grange Members. The display has to be on one poster board or notebook. All entries must be on display by the start of State Session and will be judged by the Agriculture Committee on Thursday night. As far as Agricultural Education, it can be land or water.