



# Connecticut Granger



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The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

AUGUST 2018

## State President



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

My how fast the year has gone by. It seems we were just complaining about the bitter cold and now the unbearable heat is the talk of the day. State Session is fast approaching and I hope it will be a great successful event to end my term as your State Master. We are sorry but the hotel price has increased to \$105 per room this year. We have worked hard to keep it low for delegates but they cannot keep it low forever. It is important that each Grange send a delegate(s) to participate in the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut State Grange. Non-delegates are also encouraged to attend so you can have an insight into the legislative and committee of the State Grange.

Many Grange fairs will be starting and opportunities for membership promotion. Please have members greet the public with personal experiences of what the Grange has meant to them. Share the excitement of your Grange experience. It doesn't take much space and can reach many people.

I attended the funeral of Vivian Shaw of Granby Grange. I assisted the State Chaplain with the Graveside Memorial Service. Sister Vivian Shaw installed me when I was elected Master of Coventry Grange back in the

early 80s. Her excitement for the Grange had always impressed me even through the tough times she always had a twinkle in her eye and a big friendly smile. May she enjoy her time in the Great Grange above and enjoy the fellowship of other Grangers above. Well done good and faithful servant.

Hey- don't forget about the "C" dollars contest. For the last two years we have collected all the "G" bills and thought the "C" bills would be abundant, boy were we wrong. These bills are harder to find than a parking space at a Grange dinner. Remember the \$50 prize to the Grange that collects the most for large Grange and small Grange.

Installation teams are in short supply this year so Granges may have to do their own installations. Follow the Manual and if everyone helps out you can do it.

Community Granges, don't forget about the Honor Grange Awards that are in the Blue Book. If you meet the requirements, submit the entry to the State Master.

I thank the Youth members that attended the New England Youth Conference in Brooks, ME. I congratulate New York Youth Drill Team for winning first place. We hope our youth had a good experience in their first time. If any youth are interested in participating in the youth program, please contact Jean Meehan or Ann Marie Knochenhauer to see how you can become a Youth Member.

With July being hot as heck, let's hope that we get relief from this weather for the rest of the year.

## The end of membership

*Faith Quinlan, State Member, Comm.*

Over the past months I have been researching different methods to increase membership with the Grange. The methods that have been used to recruit for many years are not producing very good results any longer. I researched to see what has changed in our communities that could explain this difference. My research included studying what is going on with other membership based organizations. Some of those include organizations that have memberships associated with energy, education, banking, restaurants and marketing. They are organizations that accept dues and operate as a community. I am learning that their problems are very much the same as the ones the Grange Membership Committees across the USA are facing. It can seem rather bleak thinking about the future if we do not start making big changes in our approach to new members.

To get the best picture of why there is such a drop in new members it requires looking at how society has changed. The top explanation for this is the huge difference in society and culture in the past 20 plus years. This is not an article to pass judgment on those difference but to see what is true and learn how to still keep this great organization moving forward. I would like to share some quotes from a book called, *The End of Membership as We Know It* by Sarah L. Sladek, a media professional who started researching demographic shifts in 2002. She writes about what is happening and how to recognize areas where we may be able to make changes. Sladek discusses the difference between the generation that is retiring out of organizations, the Baby Boomers, and the generation that is next largest in size and moving (or at least there is hope they will) to continue the work of their predecessors on the organization stage.

For the Traditional Generation, the Great Depression brought a loss of confidence in America's economic future which was followed by World War II. Tough times gave way to a recovery and by

1946 the Baby Boomers were beginning to be born. "Their parents would encourage them to attend college, work hard, raise families, and pursue the American Dream. This generation would be raised to give generously of their time and money to community organizations and causes. The Baby Boomer generation would become passionate about joining, volunteering and serving membership associations."

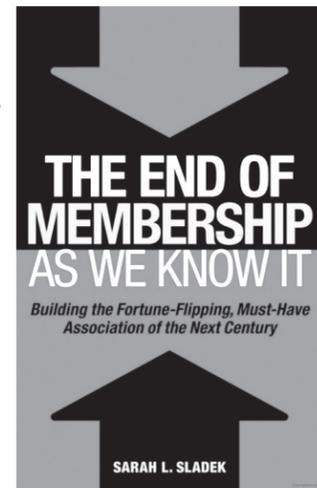
The first Baby Boomers came of retirement age in January 2011. "It's long been predicted that this will be the year that launches our nation's enterprises into a downward spiral composed of retirement waves and talent turnover." By 2030, 78 million Boomers will retire. The workforce as we know it will end. That

combined with the rapid advances in technology and demographic shifts make the perfect storm to change what has worked for the past 50 years.

Membership associations have existed since the 1600's but the years between 1946-2000 were the biggest years for many organizations. For years there was very little competition and these membership organizations offered a valuable commodity that members paid dues to have access. Starting in 2000 a sequence of events unfolded that changed not only how membership organizations would continue but it changed how future generations would see and feel about America.

First, from 1995-2000 there was a spike in new business with the growth of "dot-coms" and investors had confidence in technological advancement and the stock market prices of these companies grew quickly until the bubble burst in March 2000 and the NASDAQ lost nearly 9% and that led to hiring freezes, layoffs and many industries consolidated. Second, the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks rippled into substantial losses in meeting and event attendance and how to deliver content to membership needed to be considered. Third, on October 6, 2008, the Great Recession began as the stock market spiraled down 18%. This led to persistent unemployment, declines

*Continued on page 3*



### IN THIS ISSUE...

Eastern Connecticut Pomona No. 14 .....	4
Mountain Laurel Pomona No. 15 .....	6
Nutmeg Pomona No. 16 .....	8
State Session Registration & Reservations .....	2
Looking Back at Stafford Grange No. 1 .....	10

**NEXT ISSUE ...**  
**Articles Due Aug. 15**

# 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange

## October 18, 19 & 20, 2018 • Holiday Inn Norwich



**Reservations:  
860-889-5201**

**Conn. State Grange Rate:  
\$105.00/night, plus tax**



The Connecticut State Grange returns again to the Holiday Inn Norwich for the 134th Annual Session, October 18-20, 2018.

The most important thing we can impress upon you at this time is to **MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**

We had some difficulty with room availability last year because the Holiday Inn is so close to Mohegan Sun Resort & Casino. Many members waited until the end of September and early October to make the call and rooms were either in

short supply or sold out.

Members who have special room requirements should also call as soon as possible. We have a specific number of rooms reserved in our block. Once those rooms are sold we can only add rooms if they are still available and the hotel is reluctant to release additional rooms at a late date because they can be sold a full rate to the general public rather than at the discounted rate the Grange receives.

Please call the local number we have listed at the beginning of this article.

Calling the Holiday Inn corporate line can result in misinformation about room availability and pricing. If you do have difficulty reserving a room or are quoted a price that is more than the \$105/night Grange rate, please let me know by email or phone and I'll make sure your reservation is corrected.

When calling be sure to tell them you are reserving under the Connecticut State Grange block of rooms and rate.

We will have more information regarding the schedule for session in next month's issue but please note that this is a full election year. It is also the year when National Grange will meet in Stowe, Vermont. Members who need the Sixth Degree before heading for to Vermont for the Seventh should plan on attending the Sixth Degree on Saturday at State Session.

The Celebration Banquet worked extremely well on Friday evening last year, so it will be held again on Friday, October 19 beginning at 7 P.M. in the Grand Ballroom of the Holiday Inn.

We have four new menu options this year with Fillet Mignon, Chicken Marsala, Shrimp Scampi and Pasta Primavera. All are served with a tossed salad, warm rolls and butter, vegetables, chocolate mousse cake and coffee/beverages. The \$30 price is an exceptional value when you consider the cost of restaurant meals today.

Your full or one day registration will include the buffet luncheons for that day as well. A Deli Luncheon will be served on Friday and a Southern Barbecue will be served on Saturday.

We encourage all members to come for all or part of State Session. It's not just for the officers and delegates. We want all members to come and experience Session and go back to their Granges energized for the new Grange year.

Any questions about Session can be addressed to me at the Central Office or by emailing: secretary@ctstategrange.org.



## 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange

State Session is not just for the officers and delegates. All members are encouraged to attend all or part of the Connecticut State Grange convention to help celebrate our accomplishments during the previous year and start a new Grange year inspired and energized.

**ALL MEMBERS** (Delegates and Non-Delegates) are required to register to attend most sessions/activities of the convention. The exceptions are the Sixth Degree on Saturday and the Lecturer's Program during the Celebration Banquet on Friday evening, along with the Installation of Officers.. All other events require payment of a registration fee and/or purchase of a ticket. Registration for Friday and Saturday also includes admission to that days' buffet luncheon. The Celebration Banquet is a separate ticketed event. Please contact the Central Office if you have any questions. Make additional copies of this form, if necessary.

### REGISTRATION

Grange Name \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name _____	Delegate? <input type="checkbox"/>	Jr. _____	Adult _____	Banquet Choice # _____
Name _____	Delegate? <input type="checkbox"/>	Jr. _____	Adult _____	Banquet Choice # _____
Name _____	Delegate? <input type="checkbox"/>	Jr. _____	Adult _____	Banquet Choice # _____
Name _____	Delegate? <input type="checkbox"/>	Jr. _____	Adult _____	Banquet Choice # _____

### FULL SESSION (Full Session Registration includes lunch on Fri. & Sat.)

Adult Registration - \$30.00	# of Members _____ x \$30.00 = _____
Junior Registration - \$20.00	# of Members _____ x \$20.00 = _____

### CELEBRATION BANQUET (FRIDAY Evening at 7:00 PM.)

# of People \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Meal Choices (indicate the number of each person's choice above): **BEFORE SEPT. 15, \$30 - \$40 AFTER**

- 1) Grilled Fillet Mignon served with a Rosemary Demi Glaze
- 2) Chicken Marsala with Wild Mushrooms in an Italian Wine Sauce
- 3) Shrimp Scampi
- 4) Pasta Primavera

All entrees include Freshly Tossed Garden Salad, Warm Rolls & Butter, Chef's selection of Vegetables, Chocolate Mousse Cake, Coffee, Tea, Soda, Water



### THURSDAY, OCT. 18 & FRIDAY, OCT. 19 (ONE DAY Registration includes lunch on Friday)

Adult Registration - \$15.00	# of Members _____ x \$15.00 = _____
Junior Registration - \$10.00	# of Jr. Members _____ x \$10.00 = _____

### SATURDAY, OCT. 20 (ONE DAY Registration includes lunch on Saturday)

Adult Registration - \$15.00	# of Members _____ x \$15.00 = _____
Junior Registration - \$10.00	# of Jr. Members _____ x \$10.00 = _____

**TOTAL** = \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to the Connecticut State Grange**

**Mail to:** Connecticut State Grange, P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033

**Questions:** Please call the Central Office at 860-633-7550 or the State Secretary's Cell 860-307-1522 or email: Secretary@CTStateGrange.org

### SESSION & HOTEL ROOM REGISTRATIONS DUE NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 5

#### HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS:

Call the Holiday Inn Norwich at 860-889-5201 (mention the Connecticut State Grange to receive our group rate)

# 2018 Session Schedule

(This schedule is tentative and subject to change without notice)

## Thursday, October 18, 2018

- Ballroom, Holiday Inn Norwich, 10 Laura Blvd., Norwich, CT*
- 7:00 P.M. Opening in form in the Sixth Degree  
Introduction of National Representative,  
Amanda Brozana-Rios, National Grange  
Communications Director
  - Roll Call of Officers, Deputies, Committees  
Lower Grange to Fourth Degree  
Presentation of Fourth Degree Delegates  
Roll Call of Granges  
Report of Credential Committee  
Session Committee Announcements
  - 8:00 P.M. Introduction of Business to be referred without debate  
Address of State President Noel T. Miller  
Report of Overseer  
Reports of Secretary  
Reports of Treasurer  
Report of Executive Committee/Board of Directors
  - 9:00 P.M. Closing
  - 9:15 P.M. Committee Work Begins

## Friday, October 19, 2018

- 9:00 A.M. Opening & Introductions  
Roll Call of Officers  
Minutes of Previous Day's Session  
Introduction of Business to be referred without debate
- 9:15 A.M. Special Order of Business: Election of the Officers  
of the Connecticut State Grange
- 9:30 A.M. Report of Legislative Committee  
Report of Agriculture Committee  
Report of General Deputy  
Reports of Pomona Deputies
- 10:45 A.M. **BREAK**
- 11:30 A.M. Report of *Connecticut Granger*  
Report of Camp Berger  
- Ruel Miller, Camp Liaison  
- Lyn & Chris Kimberly, Camp Directors  
Report of Connecticut State Grange Foundation  
Business Session (Resolutions)
- 12:00 P.M. Luncheon (*Nutmeg Ballroom*)  
Hosts: TBD  
- Blessing by State Chaplain Charles Dimmick  
- Family Activity Presentation & Awards  
- Membership Awards  
- Public Relations Awards  
- Agriculture Contest Awards
- 2:00 P.M. Recognition of Past Voting Delegates
- 2:15 P.M. Address of National Representatives
- 2:45 P.M. Business Session
- 3:15 P.M. **BREAK**
- 3:30 P.M. Report of New England Grange Building Trustees
- 4:30 P.M. Closing
- 7:00 P.M. Celebration Banquet (Ballroom)  
Professional Agric. Awards  
Scholarships  
Lecturer's Program  
Past Deputies Raffle

## Saturday, October 20, 2018

- 9:00 A.M. Opening & Introductions  
Roll Call of Officers  
Minutes of Previous Day's Sessions  
Introduction of Business to be referred without debate  
Junior and Youth Tour
- 9:15 A.M. Memorial Service
- 9:45 A.M. Business Session
- 10:45 A.M. **BREAK**
- 11:00 A.M. Budget Approval
- 11:45 A.M. FFA Representative
- 12:00 P.M. Youth & Junior Recognition Luncheon  
Hosts: TBD  
- Blessing by State Chaplain  
- Junior Recognition  
- Youth Recognition
- 1:30 P.M. Business Session
- 3:00 P.M. 6th Degree Conferral, Grand Ballroom,  
Holiday Inn Norwich  
(Open to Sixth Degree members, registration not required)  
Opening in form in the Sixth Degree  
Escorting of National Representative  
Recognition of Honored Guests & P.V. Delegates  
Conferral of the Sixth Degree in full form  
Rose Drill  
Recognition of G.S. Grangers  
Community Service  
Honor Grange Awards  
Closing in form in the Fourth Degree  
March to the Table - Officers and Court

Installation of Officers of the Connecticut State Grange - to immediately follow the Sixth Degree Conferral (a brief recess may be called in between).

**Please Note:** Candidates must be at the Holiday Inn Norwich by 2:30 P.M. Candidates must have the Fourth and Fifth Degree words and the Sixth Degree ticket stub to give to the Deputy at the door. Applications for the Sixth Degree will be on sale during the Session and at the door on Saturday. Cost of application: \$10.00.

# The end of membership

Continued from page one...

in home values, a federal debt crisis, inflation and rising gas prices.

Working a lifetime for one company is an extremely rare opportunity. Millennials have a higher percent of entrepreneurs most likely because they do not trust they will have job security. Affordable health benefits and a fair salary are more than most can ask for because pensions, 401ks and paid vacation are luxuries that are like unicorns in the professional world. These young people have watched their parents and grandparents get forced out of jobs they dedicated their lives to because companies are no longer loyal to their employees.

The details about growing up as a Millennial may not resonate with a lot of Baby Boomers. I understand the huge generational shift in mindset can be frustrating on both sides. This is exactly why I have been working so hard on what the membership committee may be able to do to bridge this chasm. I do not want to see the Grange fade so much in popularity that it is unable to continue its great works. I believe that if we can share even a portion of the magic we feel when helping our community and spending time with our Brothers and Sisters, we must find a way to reach across the divide and welcome the friends like us, who want to make this country strong.

Millennials are a generation who has not known life without technology. They have had access to information and their education has increasingly incorporated computers into their lives. Like our own generations, they

are products of the world in which they grow. "Like it or not, joining an association doesn't necessarily top the generation's list of things to do." They have come of age during the Great Recession and they are questioning the value of membership. They look for a return on investment in every aspect of their life. They have huge demands on their time in this very fast-paced world we live in and even more demands for their money.

"Younger people seek and demand a return for membership, including tangible member services, high levels of accountability, identifiable career advantages, a sense of professional community, and opportunities to serve within organizations." The Grange can match every one of these points in its current structure. What needs to change is how it is presented to younger potential new members and then how the new membership is cultivated to continue Grange work and carry on the history of the hard work that came before them.

Our youth/ junior programs declined during the years when we may have been more influential in our traditional path to membership. We did not have a chance to show these younger people how and why we are proud members but I have no doubt that with smart marketing and understanding our target members we can come to embrace their love of individuality and social, economic and environmental concerns but show them how to work in a supportive organization. Please contact me if you have thoughts or questions about this article, membership\_faith@ctstategrange.org.

## Stitham honored



Norman Stitham of Lyme Grange #147 receives a "Quilt of Valor" at the July 5 meeting of Lyme Grange. The quilt honors his service in the military and was pieced by Lois Evankow, quilted by Frances Walsh and the binding was by Lois Evankow. Also pictured in the photo is his wife, Marilyn.

The following note was received from Brother Stitham following the ceremony:

"Thank you! Thank you! For the honor of receiving a "Quilt of Honor" for my service to our country. Sixty-eight years ago I took a pledge to "Preserve, Protect and Defend the Constitution of the United States, as my family and ancestors have done since the Revolutionary War in 1776. We were and are just ordinary people who love this country and the flag..."

The honor of receiving the "Quilt of Honor" I do in memory of family members who suffered wounds and some paid the ultimate sacrifice. I have a motto I go by: "Freedom Isn't Free."

**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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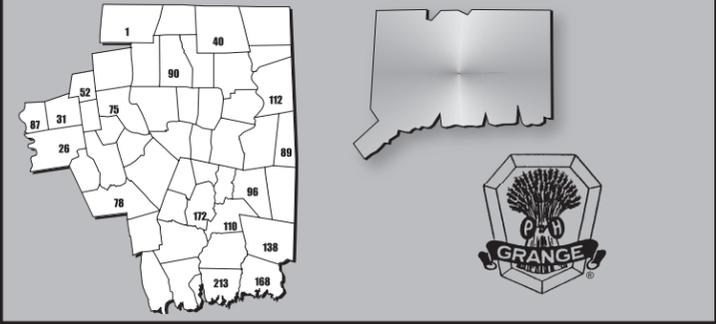
### DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the **5th Day** of each month  
 and should be sent to:  
 Connecticut State Grange  
 P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033  
 or  
 Todd Gelineau, Editor  
 P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069  
 Granger@CTStateGrange.org

### Connecticut Granger Staff

President/Editor . . . . . Todd Gelineau  
 Vice President . . . . .  
 Secretary Treasurer. . . . . Edith Schoell

## E. Connecticut Pomona No. 14



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	Stonington No. 168
Colchester No. 78	Norwich No. 172
Hillstown No. 87	Groton No. 213
Ekonk Community No. 89	

### EASTERN CT POMONA #14

*Corr: Noel Miller*

**Sept. 14:** Meeting at South Glastonbury Masonic (Grange) Hall.

### VERNON GRANGE #52

*Corr: Cherie Robinson*

**July 6:** Freedom!

**July 10:** Deaf Committee Booth at Rockville July in the Sky Celebration

**August 3:** Annual Potluck Picnic

In June, Manchester Grange brought their program "The Movies", complete with popcorn to munch on during the presentation. We enjoyed a fun program and great company. On the 25th we took our program "Looking in The Rearview Mirror" to Manchester Grange. As always, we had a nice evening visiting there. We enjoy exchanging programs and encourage your Grange to try it!

In July, our topic will be "Freedom!" at our meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup>. On July 10<sup>th</sup>, we will have a booth set up at Rockville's July in the Skies Celebration. Stop by for some free hearing protection to conserve your hearing during the fireworks displays.

August brings our annual potluck picnic. On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, it is held at the Strong Family Farm, weather permitting. We will be writing postcards gathered from our summer vacation trips, to send to military personnel to thank them for their service that allows us the freedom to travel.

We welcome visitors, please feel free to come to our meetings.

### COVENTRY GRANGE #75

*Corr: Noel Miller*

**Aug. 1:** Summer Fun, Ref. Noel & Marcia

We were saddened by the death of Raymond Gergler, a 70 year member and owner of Wilcox

and Reynolds Insurance Company. A great community service member with over 70 years with the Eagleville Fire Department. Our September meeting will be instillation of officers. Keep cool and picnic on.

### COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

*Corr: Bonnie Trecarten*

At our July meeting we welcomed several guests: Grange member Karen Wax, George Rood and Scott Duffany from Florida, Ted Beebe, Norwich Grange and Lois Evankow, Lyme Grange.

A special thank you to George Rood for his piano playing, helping our singing voices to sound almost good.

Memorial services were held for those Grange members we have lost in the past year; Marion Culhane, Phyllis McCall, Walter Pieniadz, and Sela Palmer. All were dedicated members and contributed greatly to our Grange, we will miss them all.

We continue with our community service activities with Apple Rehab and Harrington Court. We are also contributing plastic containers to Willimantic Soup Kitchen and providing can flip tops to Boy Scouts to be given to Shriners Hospitals.

We have donated several items to this years Big E, including 4 wreaths, 19 hats, and one apron.

Our annual cook out was planned at Polly Leonards Farm in August, thanks to Polly for offering us a great place to get together.

Let's get out there and enjoy the beautiful summer weather and continue representing our Granges in our communities.

### EKONK COMMUNITY & JUNIOR GRANGES

*Corr: Sue Gray*

As you are reading this, visualize us preparing for our own Fair (Sat., August 11th), helping Richmond Grange at Washington County Fair (Aug. 15-19) and running our Ekonk booth at Brooklyn Fair (Aug. 23-26)! We sent two Juniors to Camp Berger as CIT's (Victoria and Evelyn). If you visit our Grange, you cannot help but admire our new, improved driveway; expensive but so much improved and offering more parking too.

Our Judge of Probate, Andrea Truppa, did an excellent program at our July 2nd meeting, answering numerous questions and educating us as well as several from the public about Probate, Wills, Living Wills, etc. She also spends much time helping with children's issues, which she is passionate about and shared what help Probate Court can provide.

We are collecting travel size "personal items" for both men and women veterans; Jody and Jodi Ann Cameron will be taking these to National Grange where they will be combined with donations from other states and distributed. The Veterans Home in Jewett City was most appreciative of the almost \$1,000.00 donation from our Roast Beef Supper.

August 3rd we will be joining Richmond Grange at Larkin's Pond in West Kingston for a picnic, swimming and fellowship with great friends! Two Juniors (Lillian Sharpe and Connor Sebastian), winners of 7th and 8th grade Patriotic Essay contest, were invited to march in the Town of Groton 4th of July Parade by our State Senator, Heather Somers. Senator Somers had come to Sterling to present them with citations from the General Assembly in honor of their achievement. They also enjoyed a day at the State capitol as her guest and marched with her in Groton as "Junior Senators".

August will also find Granger's, Karolyn Card and Ethan Jordan marrying and a Jack & Jill for Past President, Katie Molodich and her fiance Tom Sweet Jr. Colin Sebastian, another Ekonk member, will be marrying his College sweetheart, Carly, in August as well. All of these young people are Granger's in their 20's: "Love is in the air" and we all wish them all of the best!



## A great time to work on contests

*Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director*

The Public Relations committee is once again offering three contests for 2018, all with a deadline of October 1. It's easy to participate. Let's take a quick peek at each one.

1) Promote Your Grange Creative Video Contest: Create a video promoting your Grange. The video can be any length, and of any theme. New this year — the video must be created by the Grange (or a member of the Grange) and not be produced by a non- Grange entity.

2) Best Cooperative Partnership Contest: An integral part of Grange public relations is partnering with other local groups and organizations. This could be a co-hosted event, a co-sponsorship of a project or initiative, a project to benefit or honor a group/organization, and so much more! Write a description of how your Grange has integrated/ utilized a Cooperative Partnership, and include a photo to accompany the description if appropriate.

3) Social Media Participation Contest: Create a Buzz about your Grange, its projects, activities and events by managing a proper Facebook or Twitter Page. This contest is open to all Community Granges, Pomona Granges and Junior Granges. Pages must be active at any point within the period of November 1, 2017 – October 1, 2018.

All of the complete details, rules, and information for the contests can be found on the Connecticut State Grange website at [www.CTStateGrange.org](http://www.CTStateGrange.org), and are also available in the Blue Book. Entries should be mailed to Robert Charbonneau, 102 Spring Street, Meriden CT 06451, or sent via e-mail to [publicrelations@ctstategrange.org](mailto:publicrelations@ctstategrange.org).

## State Lecturer



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

It's Summertime and I think the weatherman is out to make sure we remember. Our Grange activities have slowed down and living is easier. Look around. There are Grange picnics, mystery rides, and the start of the fair season. Our Grange Brothers and Sisters are our extended family. Let's support each other. We should all be right in there helping to plan these

activities as well as attending and supporting each other with theirs. Fun events don't just happen. They take a lot of time and hard work, but are most definitely worth it in the end.

If you have more of these activities scheduled, why not ask your neighbors, your relatives, or even that nice lady that waits on you at the store to come and meet some new people. We all have to work together. Just think, if you help your Membership Committee to get a new member, that person in turn might be a regular contributor to your programs.

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!

## The Connecticut State Grange & Peoples State Forest



It's summertime in Connecticut and time for many of us to get out of the house and enjoy nature. A favorite for many is People's State Forest in Barkhamsted, CT. Did you know there's a Grange

connection to this beautiful place? Lida Ives wrote about the Forest and the Grange connection to it in her book "The Grange in Connecticut."

At the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange held in January 1930, the following resolution was accepted and adopted: "Brother Albert W. Lillibridge, Chairman of the Legislative Committee, offered a favorable report on a resolution pertaining to the Peoples Forest. Report accepted and the resolution adopted and placed in the hands of the Executive Committee for action.

WHEREAS: The state forestry department is doing valuable economic and demonstrative work, and

WHEREAS: The Peoples Forest, so-called, in Barkhamsted, is being purchased with funds donated by individuals and associations, and more land is desirable and available.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange appropriate the sum of one hundred (\$100) dollars for this purpose."

In the Executive Committee minutes of January 16, 1930, we find that Chairman Allen Cook was instructed to request the State Forest and Park Association to use the appropriation of the State Grange in one plot so that it may be known as the State Grange plot... In the February 17, 1930 Executive Committee minutes we find the following: "As an appropriation was made to aid in the purchase and development of a State Forest more generally known as the Peoples Forest and owing to the nature of the organization, it developed that the \$100 thus appropriated appeared to be rather small and consequently inadequate to purchase a plot worthy of bearing the name of our organization, therefore, the State Master and Chairman Cook were directed to formulate a letter to go to Pomona and Subordinate Granges asking small contributions to the above fund.... Brother Cook later reported that \$484 was available toward a plot in the People's Forest and presented a diagram of twenty acres located near the highway. Upon motion of Brother Welton, it was voted to direct Brother Cook to take the required action to have the section referred to, designated as the "Grange Plot." Upon motion duly seconded it was voted to authorize the drawing of an order on the Treasurer for \$16.00 to complete a fund of \$500 to pay for the plot with the anticipation that the \$16 would be collected to reimburse the treasury. Brother Welton was granted permission to invite some of the good brothers in his part of the State to meet him at the plot referred to and clear some of the brush near the parking space.



## State Secretary



Todd A. Gelineau  
State Secretary  
secretary@ctstategrange.org

I have to lead with an apology this month... I'm sorry the room rate for State Session was incorrect in the last issue. The correct rate is \$105.00 per night plus applicable taxes and fees. I have communicated the correction to all Granges in the form of a postcard and a mass email sent out in July. The Call to Session will be sent out to Granges by the time most of you are receiving this issue.

When your Grange's packet arrives, please remember to send the appropriate copy of the credentials back to the Central Office in Glastonbury (completed)

and the other copy should be given to your delegates to present at State Session for registration. Also please register for session and select your banquet meals as soon as possible as well. Our planning for State Session is much easier when we have information early. Especially for the Banquet on Friday evening, it's important for us to know how much space we will require (this determines which ballrooms we will need).

While the room rate was incorrect last issue, the urgency in making your hotel reservations as early as possible IS IMPORTANT. Rooms at the Holiday Inn are in high demand and they have no trouble selling rooms to the general public, which is what happens when we wait too long and there are no additional rooms available beyond the block of rooms we have already reserved.

Our Pomonas are up and running. I know Nutmeg

had a picnic this summer and soon the fall schedule of meetings for each will kick in. At the Central Office, we are working to get the paperwork for your incorporations completed. However, it is much more complex (and expensive) process than it may have been when most of our Granges were incorporated in the middle of the last century. To help us in this task, the State Grange Board of Directors authorized the hiring of an attorney to guide us through the maze of requirements. Our law firm handled the creation of the CT State Grange Foundation a number of years ago and specializes in not-for-profit organizations. By her estimation, we should have the incorporations for all three Pomonas in place by the end of September, barring any complications.

Until next time, enjoy the rest of your summer and try to make some memories that will help you "stay warm" during the cold months of winter!

## Past Deputies Association

The next meeting and picnic of the Past Deputies Association of the Connecticut State Grange will be held on Saturday, August 11. The afternoon will begin with a social hour at 2:00 P.M. followed by the meeting at 3:00 and then a picnic supper

to follow. The festivities will be held at the home of Marge Bernhardt at 424 Cedar Lane in Cheshire. The country store will have items that begin with the letter "D". See you there!



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange friends! It's Fair season in Connecticut - and I can't wait to start going to all the Fairs across the state. Perhaps if everyone reading this could enter at least one item in a Grange Fair - then there would be a really great showing of items in all the different categories!

Don't forget 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>

## Handmade items needed

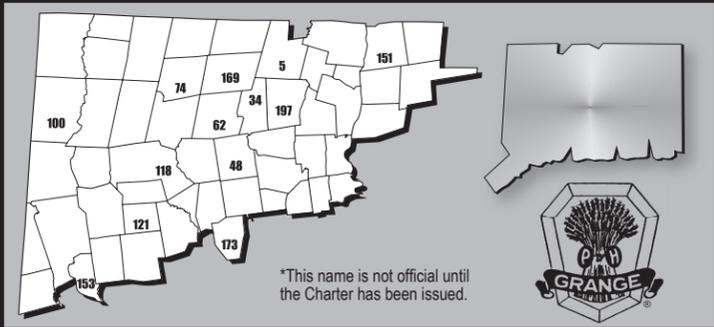


Irene Percoski  
CWA/Family Activ. Director  
cwa@ctstategrange.org

National Grange Session in November will have a country store and is asking for handmade items to sell. If you have any items and are willing to donate them, please contact State Master Noel Miller. If you have any items that you are donating to the New England Grange Building, please contact me.



## Mountain Laurel Pomona No. 15



Granby No. 5  
Cawasa No. 34  
Whigville No. 48  
Eureka No. 62  
Winchester No. 74  
Taghannuck No. 100  
Beacon No. 118

Bethlehem No. 121  
Enfield No. 151  
Bridgewater No. 153  
Riverton No. 169  
Wolcott No. 173  
Simsbury No. 197

### MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

The next meeting of Mountain Laurel Pomona #15 will be held on Saturday, August 25, 2018 beginning at 4:00 PM. The meeting will be held at Memorial Hall on the Green in Bethlehem, the meeting place of Bethlehem Grange #121.

### CAWASA GRANGE #34

*Corr: Lin Erickson*

Two great ladies of the Grange have passed on to the Great Grange above this summer.

**Vivian C. Shaw** was a very devout Granger. She belonged to Granby Grange and knew the degree work by heart for all four degrees. The last time that I heard Vivian as Master of each degree, she could no longer recite from memory because of a stroke that had taken its toll on her, but even with her affliction she read them in such a way that anyone not watching would never have known she was not reciting from memory. She was one of two installing officers on the Farmington Valley Pomona installing team. At that time, Vivian and I looked much alike, or so many people thought. If I came into a Grange hall and said hello, people looked at me like I had lost it and said we already said hello to you. I knew Vivian had gotten there before me. She became the second lady master of Farmington Valley Pomona. When she served the Connecticut State Grange as Flora, her stage was beautiful with the trellises that Lyall made for her. And, as was her wont, had the ladies in her court and others working feverishly making the pink roses that would adorn them. She was a willing worker and could be found volunteering or helping out in any way she could. She worked at the Connecticut Agricultural Fair in several capacities and could always be counted on to rake some leaves each spring at Camp Berger. Even when she could no longer stay in her home and went to Kimberly

Hall in Windsor, her desire to help the Grange did not stop. She wrote notes and made telephone calls to promote activities. Vivian was a great friend to the Grange and to me. I will miss her.

**Frances M. Sarnecki** was a very active lady in Simsbury Grange having served 12 years as Master. She was a nurse at St. Francis Hospital and after retiring took her volunteering very seriously. She served the North Central Area Agency on Aging, the Simsbury Aging and Disability Commission, Seniors of Simsbury and Farmington Valley Chapter of AARP. When it came to any questions on aging and seniors, Frances was the lady to ask. She devoted time at each meeting to answer anyone's questions and would gladly contact members afterwards to discuss any items that were confusing or troubling them. Frances and her husband, Ted, worked hard on Grange fairs and other activities. Very outgoing in such a pleasant way, she made everyone feel welcomed and comfortable. Although my visits to her home were few, I always lingered because talking with her over tea was such a pleasant experience.

### WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

*Corr: Debbie Brown*

**Aug. 25:** Grange Fair

Want to show off your homegrown veggies and flowers? Do you like homemade jam, pickles? Homemade baked goods too? Anyone can enter the Whigville Grange Fair. No entry fee. Kids can enter too. Enter or just come to see your neighbors.

All the fun is from 10 A.M. – 2 P.M., Saturday, August 25 at the Grange Hall, S. Main Street, Burlington (Whigville). Free parking and admission, entertainment, food, teacup auction. Craft and vendors are welcome, call or email. For more information, please contact Debbie @ 860-582-9863 or email at b\_gary@sbcglobal.net.

### WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

*Corr: Todd Gelineau*

**Aug. 11:** Winchester Grange Fair & Flea Market, 10-3

**Aug. 14:** Dog Days (Country Store), Ref. Marie Steiner & Sue Kline

**Aug. 28:** Awards Night, Community Picnic

**Sept. 11:** First & Second Degrees (if there are candidates), Ref. Peter & Mary Lou Keefe

**Sept. 18:** Third & Fourth Degrees (if there are candidates), Potluck @ 6:30  
**Sept. 25:** Installation of Officers, Ref. Ramona Fassio

It's DONE! Winchester Grange has a new parking lot and driveway and it looks beautiful. While we don't exactly know when the old pavement was installed, it has been decades. The old potholes, cracks and waves are gone, replaced by brand new smooth pavement. In addition to the parking lot, the front step was replaced and a new railing with a solar light was installed leading up the side of the portico. The project was made possible by a generous donation from the Winchester Center Volunteer Fire Dept. and a loan from the State Grange. Actually, it was an extension on the existing loan we took out to replace our boiler system. In the end, the payments on the revised loan are actually less than the original loan.

We get to show off the new pavement at our annual

Winchester Grange Fair & Flea Market on Saturday, August 11 from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. at the Grange Hall and on the green in Winchester Center. The fair, as always, features baking, flowers, vegetable and fruit judging. There will be a chance table, giant book sale and a flea market on the Green. And did I forget... there will be plenty of food available all day long. Admission and parking are free, so fill up the car and head to the peaceful hills of Winchester Center.

### TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

*Corr: Barbara Prindle*

Aug. 23: "Being Optimistic"

Taghannuck had a very successful Rummage and Plant sale. This is our big fund raiser for the year and we are very happy with the results. A **big thank you** to all our members who helped out by putting up posters for donations and then again for the sale, donated rummage, sorted and priced it, picked up the plants and then put them out again, helped the day of the sale and then helped clean up afterwards. It was worth all the work and effort.

We have begun working on our display for the Cornwall Agricultural Fair that takes place September 8th in Cornwall. We are hoping some of you reading this will come and enjoy the

fair and say hello. We feel this exhibit will bring in new members and the more Grangers there to talk to visitors the better.

August 9th is our picnic at the Master's house (yes, it is also the Treasurer's house) at 6:30. It is potluck with bbq hamburgers and hot dogs. So bring a covered dish as all are welcome including non-grangers (again this is outreach for new members). Please join us.

### BETHELEHM GRANGE #121

*Corr: Al Maddox*

**Aug. 27:** Meeting, 7:30 P.M.

We had a food bank collection and pet food for the Bethlehem Food Bank on July 23, 2018.

Mountain Laurel Pomona will meet at Bethlehem on Sat., Aug. 25 at 4:00 P.M.

### ENFIELD GRANGE #151

*Corr: Irene Percoski*

**Aug. 11:** Summer Fun

**Sept. 8:** Back to School

**Oct. 13:** Pumpkin Time

Our picnic in July wasn't as well attended as we had hoped but the food was plentiful and every dish started with the letter "G" We had goulash, garlic croutons for the garden salad, goldfish, green pepper soup, Grinder rolls and green gelatin with strawberries. Nobody brought grapes! Come visit.

**67th Annual**

# WINCHESTER GRANGE

# FAIR AND

# FLEA MARKET

**SATURDAY**  
**AUGUST 11, 2018**  
**9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Winchester Grange Hall**  
**100 Newfield Road • Winchester Center**

.....

**Contests & Exhibits • Food from Café 74**  
**Book Sale • Bake Sale • Kid's Games**  
**Flea Market On The Green • Fun**

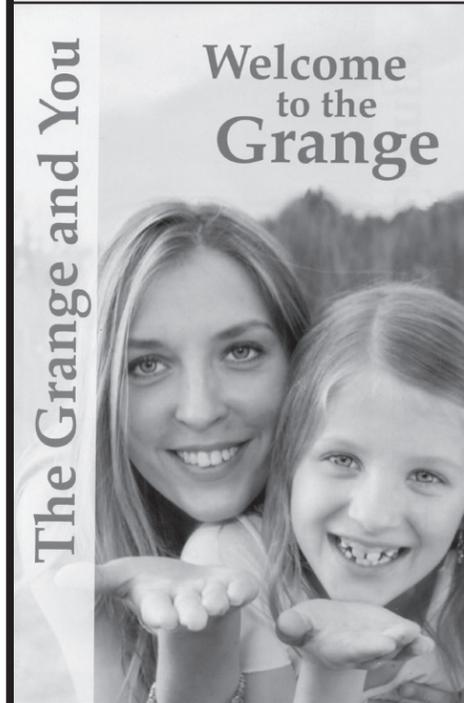
[www.WinchesterGrange.org](http://www.WinchesterGrange.org)

# It's a smooth drive at Winchester Grange



Winchester Grange was transformed in July with the completion of its much anticipated paving project. The decades old pavement (above left) seemed to be less of a parking lot and more of a collection of asphalt islands interspersed with gravel, sand, dirt, potholes and ruts. The new parking lot really "dresses up" the neighborhood!

## NOW Available from the State Grange Store



The CT State Grange has just received a fresh supply of "The Grange and You." This booklet is designed to give new members (especially those not immediately receiving Degrees) important background information about the Grange. Contact the State Secretary for more information.

This booklet can also be useful and informative for existing members!

# 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](mailto:submissions@ctstategrange.org).



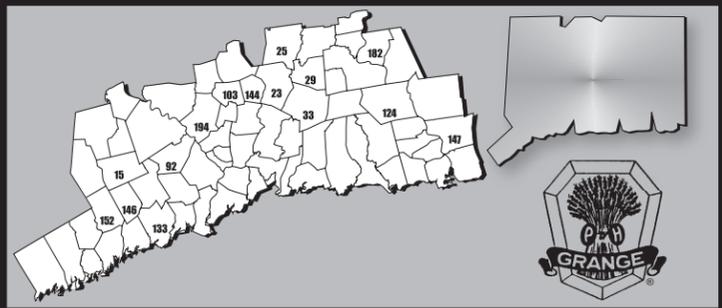
*This Month*



*Last Month*

There were no answers to last month's picture.

## NUTMEG POMONA No. 16



Redding No. 15	Greenfield Hill No. 133
Cheshire No. 23	Prospect No. 144
Southington No. 25	Norfield No. 146
Meriden No. 29	Lyme No. 147
Wallingford No. 33	Cannon No. 152
Harmony No. 92	Hemlock No. 182
Beacon Valley No. 103	Oxford No. 194
Higganum No. 124	

### NUTMEG POMONA #16

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

Nutmeg Pomona does not meet in August. Our next meeting is September 16, 2018 and we will be conferring the Fifth Degree at Cheshire Grange Hall, time 2:00. If we have no candidates Lecturer Lois Evankow will present a program titled "How did your garden grow?" Refreshments will be served by the members of Hemlock and Southington Granges.

Degree rehearsal will be held on Sunday, September 9 at 2:00, Cheshire Grange.

### REDDING GRANGE #15

*Corr: Marie H. Parker*

We held a regular meeting on June 11. Our program was about Father's Day. The following meeting, June 25, was "What is everyone doing for summer?"

We are still working on making our hall look better. Redding would welcome some visiting Grangers anytime. Redding Grange meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.

### CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

*Corr: A. Ruel Miller*

**Aug. 1:** Those Lazy Hazy Crazy Days of Summer

**Aug. 15:** Work Night for Our Fair. No meeting

With the summer rolling along, our Monday craft nights continue making favors for a local retirement home. August is fair month with a myriad of preparations for same. We are distributing signs for the fair around town and getting our fair premiums books out to the public.

Our officers will be installed on September 4th by the team of Jody Cameron and Jeff Barnes. A pot luck supper will precede the meeting.

### HARMONY GRANGE #92

*Corr: George Ward*

**Aug. 10:** Regular Meeting @ 7:30 P.M., Refreshment @ 6:30 P.M. Lecturer's Program

to be announced later.

Harmony Grange has scheduled its Agricultural Fair for August 25, 2018 at the Grange Hall. Vegetables will be registered beginning at 6:00 P.M. on Friday, August 24 and on the morning of the Fair from 8:00 to 9:30 A.M. For more information on the Fair, contact our Master, Ronald Bunovsky, 203-261-3074, E-mail: gailron@mac.com or our Overseer, Betty Blackwell, 203-268-9045, E-mail: readnweed@charternet.

The roundabout at the intersection of Rtes. 111 & 110 and the closing of traffic entering and existing Herd Avenue from Rt. 110 are now realities. Herd Avenue can be reached from Rt. 110 using Moose Hill Rd. & Ruth St. and from Rt. 111, use Jeannette St.

Harmony Grange will be draping its charter for 50+ year member Basil Dikovsky. He was a former member of Far Mill River Grange and become a member of Harmony Grange when the two Granges consolidated.

Basil died at the VA Hospital in West Haven, CT. and was a Navy veteran of WW11. He graduated from UConn with a BS Degree in Horticulture and was known for his gardens and bonsai trees. He owned and operated the Dikovsky Poultry and Egg Farm in Shelton. Basil was the devoted husband

of Nancy Dikovsky, our Grange, Treasurer. Our Grange Secretary, We also mourn the passing of Susan Sulier. She had been a patient at Bridgeport

Hospital and at the Lord Chamberlain Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Harmony Grange wishes everyone a Happy and Healthful summer and we look forward to cooler weather.

### BEACON VLLY. GRANGE #103

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

Our 129<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration turned out to be a great night. We were fortunate to have our State Master Noel Miller, First Lady Marcia Miller and Hank present. Also the Mayor of Naugatuck Pete Hess. Present to receive certificates were: William Brush, Jr. (70 years), Thomas Honyotski (60 years) and David Knapp (45 years). Kimberly Brush Tompkins was present to receive her father's 65 year seal. Unfortunately, Robert Burns who was to receive his 75 year certificate had a medical problem and was unable to attend.

We honored John DeBisschop III, a Naugatuck Firefighter, as our "Citizen of the Year."

During the program Ellen Brush won the Miss Congeniality Contest.

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> we had a bakery sale at WalMart and on June 30 we had a tag and bake sale and pancake breakfast at the Grange Hall. Both were very successful.

Our next meeting is August 10<sup>th</sup>. It will be our annual picnic with potluck supper served at 6:00.

Ron Fischer will hold the next Open Mic on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 5 P.M. As usual we invite everyone to come and enjoy the music or participate. Snack food will be available. As always, everything free of charge.

### LYME GRANGE #147

*Corr: Lois Evankow*

**Aug. 2:** Picnic, 6:30 P.M. What will the weatherman send us for our fair?

**Sept. 6:** Have all your reports been sent to State Grange?

**Nov. 1:** Will any of us venture up to National Grange in Vermont to see the Seventh Degree?

In April, Old Man Winter came and kidnapped spring. Now it's June and I think it is fighting with spring as it has been 60° all week.

We had a wonderful meeting. A decision was

made to donate leftover tag sale items to a non-profit agency who would like them.

Coming up is our Hamburg Fair in August. It takes many months of planning and many volunteers to achieve a successful fair. A visitor, third selectman, John Kiker, came and said he enjoyed our meeting.

Once again, a good time was had by all.

Our charter was draped in loving memory of Charlotte Beers.

With 90 degree heat we had a very quick July meeting. It was special. Two members from "quilts of valor" came. Lois Evankow made a quilt and had a special label made. The quilt was presented to Norman Stitham. A very moving ceremony to a very deserving veteran.

Two of our members completed the safe food class as they will be our "cooks" at the Fair. Mary Powell-St. Louis and Nancy Beebe. Congrats!

Due to the heat it was a very short and to the point meeting.

### CANNON GRANGE #152

*Corr: Donald Offinger*

**Aug. 2:** Business Meeting

**Aug. 16:** Fair Set-Up

**Aug. 26:** 86<sup>th</sup> Agricultural Fair, 10 A.M. – 4 P.M.

**Sept. 6:** Business Meeting

**Sept. 20:** Nbw Officers are Seated

Many thanks to Gail Lavielle and John Kriz for coordinating an informative Legislative Night with our 3 state legislators: Rep. Gail Lavielle, Rep. Tom O'Dea and Sen. Toni Boucher. Good questions raised by members of the audience; not sure they heard the answers they wanted to hear but a good conversation was had.

We are in the final planning stages for our 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Agricultural Fair which will be held on Sunday, August 26 from 10-4. We hope to see many Grange members come to the fair. There will be some new activities and some "tried and true" events at the fair. You'll have to come to the fair and see what they are!

We have revamped and updated our hall rental program to be competitive with other venues in town for

parties, events and business seminars and retreats. We owe much thanks to Dearta Fusaro for tackling this important issue.

When you access our website at [www.cannongrange.org](http://www.cannongrange.org) you're going to see an entirely new format with greater functionality for the user. Loads of thanks to Michele Clark for spearheading our migration to the gmail platform for email and document sharing, and for the new website platform.

Doug Shepherd has been busy this summer refinishing the floor in the hall so that it will soon be glistening like new. Thank you, Doug!

We remind everyone to support your local farmstand, as we all know: "No Farms = No Food."

### HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

*Corr: Maureen Sanborn*

**Aug. 10:** Livin' Is Easy

**Aug. 24:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled

**Sept. 14:** Installation

**Sept. 28:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

### OXFORD GRANGE #194

*Corr: Rob Buck*

**Aug. 3:** Gardening Topics

**Aug. 17:** Botany Bay

**Aug. 31:** G.O.M.A.D. Music and Dance Party/Potluck 7:00 PM, Music at 8:00 PM-12:00 AM

Latest news we have received is that our Selectman Jeff Haney is very ill with cancer for which he is receiving treatment. There is no expectation that he will be able to oversee completion of our handicapped ramp at this time, so we may have to make alternate plans for its completion. We have been talking over having a fundraiser musical program to help Jeff with mounting bills. He has done so much for the town of Oxford above and beyond the duties of the selectman's office.

The garden spaces outside the hall continue to develop as new things are added constantly. The goal is to represent the three graces of Grange ritual, Ceres, Pomona, and Flora, symbolically in the space around our building.

# Resolutions and mid-term elections are upon us



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

Have you done your resolutions yet for the upcoming session? Proper resolutions must be submitted to your local community Grange then onto your Pomona Granges for action. The deadline for resolutions for State Grange is September 15<sup>th</sup>. If it is received later than that we cannot guarantee that it will be printed in the State Grange program but it still could be presented at the session.

I am aware that Pomona Granges are only meeting four times

a year and that the last meeting before the State Grange session will be in September. Many of our Granges are also only meeting the beginning of the month which can make for a tight timing schedule to get your resolutions through. If you missed your Pomona Grange meeting and find a subject that you wish to bring to the Granges attention as a resolution, submit it to your local Grange anyway. Once it is acted on by your local Grange send the resolution on to the State Grange. Do remember all resolutions must be submitted and voted on by a local Grange, they cannot be submitted by an individual to the State Grange.

This years "mid-term" election cycle is in full swing. The primaries

have been completed and the parties' slates have been chosen. The Nation will be watching Connecticut closely as we have two big seats up for changes. Governor Malloy has decided to not seek re-election so there will be a hotly contested fight by both major parties for that seat. Representative Elizabeth Esty of the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional district has also chosen to not seek re-election which leaves a Congressional House seat open. At this time all five of our Congressional districts are held by Democrats. The Republicans will be vigorously fighting for that seat. There will be more to come once the tickets are finalized by the parties. I am sure we will also see some third parties and write-ins appear for these positions.

# Cheshire Grange No. 23



Getting ready for the Cheshire Grange Comm. Fair



Donations of eyeglasses ready to be sent to the Lions Club.



One of the many tray favors made for Marbridge of Cheshire.



Cheshire members enjoy their annual picnic at Marge Bernhardt's home.



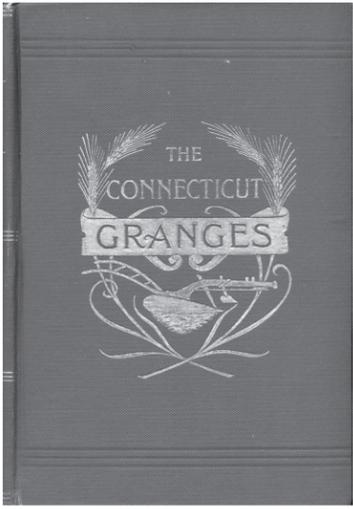
Samples of gifts for shut-ins to be presented this Christmas.

**Everybody's Going this Year!**  
**Greenfield Hill Grange # 133**  
**Agricultural Fair**  
**Celebrating 125 Years**  
**1893-2018**  
**Special Events:**  
**Judged Exhibits:**  
**Vegetables-**  
**Flowers-Fruits-**  
**Baked Goods-**  
**Photography**  
**Arts - Crafts -**  
**and more**  
**Games -- Raffle --**  
**Vendors**  
**Lectures on:**  
**Raising Chickens**  
**Antique Farm Tools**  
**Fairfield Community**  
**Garden**  
**Food & Refreshments**

**Saturday**  
**August 18, 2018**  
**10am-3pm**

**Grange Hall**  
**1873 Hillside Road**  
**Fairfield, CT**

# A look back at Stafford Grange No. 1



This month we look at the history of Stafford Grange No. 1. The town and the Grange have an interesting history. Spoiler alert: The language of the following history is challenging and quite dramatic to say the least. It is entertaining just as much for the style of writing as it is for its content. The history appeared in *The Connecticut Granges*, ©1900 The Industrial Publishing Co.

Situated at the head waters of the Willimantic River, with two powerful streams traversing its length, and an extensive bed of bog-iron ore in its midst, Stafford had its uses mapped out and its destiny foretold in advance of the coming of the utilitarian Englishman with his pluck, perseverance and adaptive fecundity.

The town is a bond holding together a half dozen villages, each identified by its own manufacturing interests in all the various stages of prosperity, inanition and decay. These villages are Stafford Springs, Glenville, Furnace Hollow, Hydeville, Staffordville, and West Stafford. Although distinctively separate by centripetal influences, a common experience with industrial, church and social affairs has furnished a community of feeling which makes them common integers of the town.

The town was surveyed in 1718 and settlement commenced the following year with twelve families. The first meeting-house was set upon a hill, after the manner of those days, and became the radial center for the settlement. Along the broad roadway leading up to the meeting-house the settlers planted their habitations and this became Stafford Street, which meant the central nucleus of the town. At the foot of the hill, to the southward, were the Springs whose habitat was regarded with aversion

by the dwellers upon the hill, but which was destined to arrest growth there and become the animating centre of the town.

The First Congregational Church of Stafford was organized in May of 1723 with twenty-three communicants. Its first minister, the Rev. John Graham, was settled the same year. He was dismissed in 1731, at his own request, the reason being that his support was insufficient. His successors were several and of varying degrees of acceptableness until 1757, when the Rev. John Willard was settled. His pastorate covered a period of more than fifty years and was a perpetual benediction.

In 1771 West Stafford Society was set off. Dr. Willard died in 1807, and for ten years thereafter the church was visited with distress and travail. Schisms infected it; the hateful colors of heterodoxy were flaunted within its portals; rival creeds recruited from its thinning ranks and fattened upon its affliction; it was unfortunate in its pastors; the blighting influence of bigotry was poured on it; its identity was eclipsed by fraternizing with Methodists and Baptists; and at last, in

sores straits, it bargained with these to determine by ballot if a minister of their creed should be hired. The vote proved unfavorable to such an effacement of the old church, by a majority of one. This was viewed as a special intervention of Divine Providence by a pastor who came later to lead the stricken remnant to new life. Helping hands now came to rescue it from its dire extremity.

## Stafford Grange No. 1 & 55

The name of this Grange was taken from the town where it is located. Stafford was the 51<sup>st</sup> town established in the State of Connecticut and received its name from Stafford, a village in Staffordshire, England. It was organized by the 1<sup>st</sup> State Grange, under S.M. Harvy Godard. It was organized by George H. Newton, Deputy of Massachusetts. Organized January 2, 1874, with 13 charter members.

Disbanded 1875

Reorganized under 2<sup>nd</sup> State Grange as Stafford Grange No. 55

Reorganized on February 4, 1887, with 15 charter members.

On May 1, 1929, Mashapaug Lake Grange No. 101, merged with No. 55.

In 1933 the No. 55 was returned to be known as Stafford Grange No. 1 on Dec. 21, 1933.

Hall dedicated on January 17, 1913.

In 1840 a new meeting-house was dedicated and the Rev. George H. Woodward installed as pastor. In 1850 thirty-one members were dismissed to an Ecclesiastical Council to form a church at Stafford Springs. In 1853, again, twelve members were dismissed to organize a Congregational Church at Staffordville.

Stafford Springs is much the largest settlement in the

town. Its mineral springs attracted visitors in the early days and its excellent water-power was speedily developed. Its large woolen mills are now the principal manufacturing interest of the town. At the beginning of the present century the spring house, which stood on the site of the present house, was the only building there. Stafford Street was the old "post road" through

the town, and on the hill stood the "Old Blue," a great public house, famous in its day for its hospitality and the multitude it could entertain. When the new Spring House was erected affairs at the "Old Blue" fell into decline. In fact with the beginning of the village growth of the old village ceased and retrogression speedily followed.

Stafford Springs was incorporated a borough in 1873. It has three banks, four churches with various mercantile and manufacturing interests.

Like many other towns with abounding water power Stafford's sources of prosperity in agriculture lie at the end of long and arduous labor. The tale of stone-gathering is never done. Though these mechanical conditions

give to the soil invaluable attributes not otherwise obtainable, farming methods course along the beaten way gathering in toil that which should be the spontaneous gift of the earth. But Connecticut farmers have been inured to hard hoeing, through all the generations, and in Stafford, as elsewhere, their task is pursued with a mental vigor and robust purpose which wrings triumph from all conditions. The existence of a strong Grange in the town attests the quality and caliber of its farming population, and augurs well for the future.

It was about the first of February in the year 1887 that a notice appeared in the *Stafford Press* which read something like this:

"On the evening of February 4<sup>th</sup>, State Master J.H. Hale, will be at the Springs House for the purpose of organizing a Grange in this town. It is hoped farmers and others interested will be present."

Accordingly, at the appointed time and place, a few met the Worthy State Master, and after discussing for some time the purposes of forming a Grange, he decided to organize. So, at a late hour on a bitter cold night, as those that were present will remember, nine charter members received their first instructions in Grange work. Five more names were enrolled as charter members who were not present until our second meeting.

Worthy Master Dennis invited the Grange to meet at his house where several

meetings were held.

It was thought by some that the "Hollow" would be a more central place for our meetings, consequently they met at the Town Hall, where meetings were held from September until January, when the Grange hired Masonic Hall and held meetings there three years until the purchase of the Grange building in March, 1891.

The building has cost the Grange about \$1,450. By earnest effort and united labor, we have reduced the debt to \$600. We have given an entertainment each year, of which the proceeds have been applied to this debt. Our Hall is pleasant and homelike, where we have spent many pleasant evenings together for improvement and enjoyment.

The first year of our existence as a Grange we met with many discouragements. We were like a weak, helpless infant – we needed strength and watchful care to keep us alive; but after a time the prospect began to grow brighter; new members were admitted who proved to be earnest workers and faithful Patrons. This gave us a membership of twenty-one at the beginning of our second year.

As an educator the Grange has been of great benefit to its members. It has not only proved an instructive place, but one well fitted for awakening

thought and promoting intellectual and social progress. It has helped to develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood among ourselves, and brought cheer and happiness into many homes. In the

Grange we are led out of ourselves and our wonted channel of thought. We are led to think of others, to give as well as receive helpful words.

The Grange has failed to reach many that it was

designed to benefit, but how to accomplish this has been a problem that we have not yet been able to resolve.

Let us not be discouraged if we are slow in reaching results; but may the good work of the Grange go on

until every home is made better by its influence, and by patient continuance in well-doing we will trust in the future for better results.

## More West Nile Virus detected in CT

New Haven, CT – The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) has identified West Nile virus (WNV) infected mosquitoes in eight new towns: Bethany, Franklin, Greenwich, Madison, New Haven, Waterford, West Haven, and Weston. The mosquitoes were trapped from July 12 to July 19, 2018. WNV positive mosquitoes were also identified in Bridgeport, Darien, Easton, New Canaan, Stamford, Stratford, and Waterbury earlier this year.

"We are seeing a major expansion and build-up of West Nile virus in the mosquito population" said Dr. Philip Armstrong, Medical Entomologist at the CAES. "We are also

detecting the virus in human-biting mosquitoes comparatively early in the season, which substantially increases the risk of infection."

"The current warm weather and high humidity provide ideal conditions for further amplification of West Nile virus and this is likely to continue as we move into August" said Dr. Theodore Andreadis, Director of CAES. "We urge everyone to prevent mosquito bites by using insect repellent and covering bare skin, especially during dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active."

No human or horse cases have been reported with WNV-associated illnesses acquired in Connecticut

this season. One hundred thirty four human cases of West Nile virus, including three fatalities, have been diagnosed in Connecticut residents since 2000.

The State of Connecticut Mosquito Management Program is a collaborative effort involving the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Agriculture, and the University of Connecticut Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science. These agencies are responsible for monitoring the potential public health threat of mosquito-borne diseases.

The CAES maintains a network of 91 mosquito-trapping stations in 72 municipalities throughout the state. Mosquito traps are set Monday – Thursday nights at each site every ten days on a rotating basis. Mosquitoes are grouped (pooled) for testing according to species, collection site, and date. Positive findings are reported to local health departments and on the CAES website at <http://www.ct.gov/caes/mosquitotesting>.

For information on West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis viruses and how to prevent mosquito bites, visit the Connecticut Mosquito Management Program Web site at [www.ct.gov/mosquito](http://www.ct.gov/mosquito).

## Plant Science Day announced by CAES

Hamden, CT -- The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) invites you to attend its annual field day open house, *Plant Science Day 2018*. The outdoor event will be held at Lockwood Farm, the Station's 75-acre research farm located in Hamden, Connecticut and features updates on the Station's research advances in agriculture, food safety, the environment, forestry, and public health. The event is

free, open to the public, and takes place rain or shine. Among the day's highlights will be the Century Farm Award and Samuel W. Johnson Memorial Lecture. This year's Century Farm Award, presented to a farm that has been in family operation for more than 100 years, will go to Zentek Farms LLC in Cheshire, Connecticut. The Memorial Lecture, named for Dr. Samuel Johnson, director of the Station from 1877 to 1900, was established as a forum focusing on current issues of concern to Connecticut residents and beyond. This year's lecture, *Profitability: The Key to Sustainable Agriculture*, will be presented by Mr. Henry N. Talmage, Director of Member Relations and Economic Services, New

York Farm Bureau. Oral presentations by CAES scientists will include (1) *Are Nanoparticles the New Weapon Against Plant Disease?* (2) *Fire Blight: History, Management, and New Challenges*, and (3) *Climate Impacts on Hemlocks and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in the Northeast*. Additional highlights will include technical demonstrations on *Beekeeping Systems Used in Connecticut* and *CAES's Invasive Aquatic Plant Program*," and poster displays featuring several of the Station's current research programs. Plant Science Day offers opportunities for attendees to engage in informal discussions with CAES scientists on a variety of scientific topics. Attendees can also visit 80 field plots

and exhibits, participate in riding bus tours, and activities for children, including the ever-popular "Passport for Kids" program. As always, the Station's experts will be available to diagnose plant diseases, identify plants, insects, and weeds, and collect soil samples for testing. Connecticut pesticide credits will additionally be offered.

Media are also invited for on-site interviews with CAES scientists about their research projects and other services and programs at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

For more information, call new haven (203) 974-8500, toll free statewide (877) 855-2237, web site: [www.ct.gov/caes](http://www.ct.gov/caes) or [www.ct.gov/caes/psd18](http://www.ct.gov/caes/psd18).

### End of Summer Lobster Bake & Barbecue Cookout

Fundraiser

Come enjoy a Party on the Porch as the Summer winds down

Save the Date for Saturday September 15, 2018

MENU

Lobster or Barbecue Chicken

Corn on the Cob

Boiled Red Potatoes

Cole Slaw

And more Water and Soda Bar

BYOB



Call Jim 203.259.8023 Or Steve 203.367.4373 for reservations and info

This will be a reservation only event – Tickets and food orders must be purchased in advance so we can purchase enough lobsters. Cost to be determined.

Come One, Come All, INVITE A FRIEND



That's The GRANGE WAY

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# Hank's Pudding Icebox Cake



This recipe from Delish is super easy, tasty, and perfect to take to any picnic, potluck or Grange meeting for refreshments.

## INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (11-oz.) box Nilla wafers
- 3/4 c. cold milk
- 1 (3.4-oz.) box instant vanilla pudding
- 5 large ripe bananas, thinly sliced in rounds
- 8 oz. Cool Whip, plus more for decorating

## DIRECTIONS:

Prepare pudding according to box instructions. Arrange a layer of wafers (21) on the bottom of an 8" springform, dipping each cookie in milk before adding to the pan. Spread a third of the pudding on top of wafers. Arrange a layer of bananas on top of pudding. Top with a third of the Cool Whip. Repeat 2 more times. Smooth top of cake with a spatula. Cover with plastic and place pan in freezer until firm, about 4 hours. Unmold and place dollops of Cool Whip around the cake and alternate standing up Nilla wafers and banana slices in the dollops.

SOURCE: [www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/a20964914/banana-pudding-icebox-cake-recipe/](http://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/a20964914/banana-pudding-icebox-cake-recipe/)

## In Memoriam

Raymond Gergler  
Coventry Grange #75

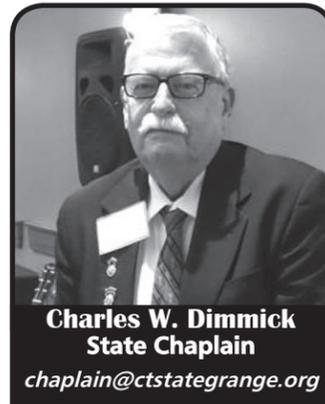
Susan C. Sulier  
Harmony Grange #92

Liam Blair  
Cannon Grange #152

Frances M. Sarnecki, G.S.  
Simsbury Grange #197

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

## A Fair Balance



Charles W. Dimmick  
State Chaplain  
[chaplain@ctstategrange.org](mailto:chaplain@ctstategrange.org)

"Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, as it is written: "The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little." (2 Corinthians 8: 11-15)

In the above passage Paul is asking the Church at Corinth to share what they have in abundance with those who are in want, and stressing that he is not asking them to give so much that they themselves will be found wanting but rather that since they have enough for themselves it is appropriate that they give all that is in excess of their actual needs to those who do not have enough. There is no promise of special blessing in giving of their abundance; rather the implication is that such giving is an obligation, something that is expected. He wishes that there be a fair balance.

There is a similar theme that is to be found in Grange ritual, in the ceremony for the Third Degree, where the harvester is urged to share the abundance of the harvest.

The philosopher Immanuel Kant in his "Lectures on Ethics" states that "A man ought not to be flattered for his acts of charity lest his heart swell with generosity and desire to make benevolence the sole rule of his conduct" I'm not sure that Kant had Paul's letter to the Corinthians in mind when he wrote that, but he goes on to suggest that in giving of one's abundance one is helping to balance justice, in that if God has given you much you are obligated to share with those who have little.

One last quote, from Jesus himself, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked" (Luke 12: 48).



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