



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

March 2019

Pond Hockey Tournament on Park Pond

by Chris Sheffield

Hockey Tournament Coordinator

Camp Berger, owned and operated by the Connecticut State Grange and nestled in Connecticut's Northwest corner, has been home to the only outdoor pond hockey tournament in the state. This picturesque event is held annually for players of all ages the weekend before the Super Bowl in late January.

The first 4 years of our event has hosted teams from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and the Poconos. This past year, we added a sled hockey division for players that are wheelchair bound. We proudly use local businesses as sponsors and our outreach into our community grows yearly.



Some of the many participants in the 2019 Camp Berger Pond Hockey Tournament held at Camp Berger in Winchester Center in January.

National FFA President visits Connecticut



Ekonk Community Grange hosted a special Roast Beef Dinner on Feb. 17 to welcome National FFA President Luke O'Leary from California to the state. Among the many CT and RI State Grange members present were the following FFA dignitaries: (pictured l to r) AlexaDeandrade, CT Parliamentarian; Madeline Roy, CT Sec.; Lauren Murtagh, CT Treas.; Luke O'Leary; Megan Davenport, CT VP; Michael Wetherell, CT Pres.; Todd Poulos, RI Treasurer.



The Connecticut State Grange

A part of the National Grange

*American Values,
Hometown Roots*

**NEXT ISSUE ...
Articles Due March 15**

Join us at Leaders Conference



George Russell
State President

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As we begin the month of March, we have pretty much put the final touches on the Northeast Leaders Conference. We have a great line-up of speakers for Friday evening and throughout the day on Saturday. On Friday evening Ed Martins from Web Industries will discuss, "Can Your Culture Help You or Hurt You?" Saturday speakers are Rick Hermonot from Farm Credit East. His topic is "Are We Recruiting for Success or SUCCESS?" Faith Quinlan, State Membership Director, will present a workshop on Membership. Burton Eller, Legislative Affairs Director of the National Grange will be speaking about legislation and updating us on the 2018 Farm Bill. To close out the day on Saturday evening we will have the Banquet and the presentation of Community Service Awards for firefighters, law enforcement officers and teachers. Marge Bernhardt, State Lecturer, has scheduled entertainment by cabaret performer Ashley Cruz. I am hoping for a good turnout from our Connecticut Grangers to meet Grangers from the Northeast for the three "F Words" – Fun, Food and Fellowship.

I have asked the three Pomonas to donate a basket full of items that can be raffled off at the Leaders Conference. If any Grangers want to donate items for the raffle, please bring them to the conference when you come on Friday, March 29. The money collected from this raffle will be

donated to the Love for Lillian Fund.

Ag Day at the Capitol will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. in the North Lobby and the Hall of Flags at the Capitol in Hartford. The snow date is March 21. The Connecticut State Grange Agricultural Committee is working on updating the booth that will be set up at the Capitol

that day. If you are in Hartford, stop in and see the Connecticut State Grange booth.

As I am writing this article, I am getting ready to attend the Master's Conference in Wichita, Kansas from Feb. 14 to the 17th. I will have more on the Master's Conference in my April article.

I would like to end this article with another old saying, will: "March come in like a lion and go out like a lamb?" Let's hope we have an early spring! I have had enough of winter.



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange friends!

I made my way to Wichita, Kansas for the State Masters Conference in February, and was able to catch up with some of my friends from the Herd. Lots of good information flowed through the Conference, and I'm sure George will be filling you in on the latest news.

Please take a minute to follow the link to my Facebook page, and click the "Like" button while you are too, then you can follow us on all of our Grange adventures. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>



In real life,
heroes

don't always
wear capes*

***BUT IF YOU WANT, WE'VE
GOT ONE READY FOR YOU**

JOIN GRANGE YOUTH TO BECOME A HERO
FOR THOSE IN NEED IN YOUR HOMETOWN

All Events are Membership Drives



Faith Quinlan
Membership Dir.

Winchester Grange #74
membership@ctstategrange.org

A Grange Membership Drive should be nothing like an Automobile Test Drive. The welcoming spirit of Grangers has more power than the best used car salesman. It is easier to get new people to a fun gathering that they have an interest in than to approach people out of the context of Grange and ask them to join. I have gone car shopping recently and no matter how many years go between my shopping experiences, the creepy car salesman is always there. He asks questions that feel too personal and he clearly wants something from me so I never feel like I can trust what he is saying. Please do not think of recruiting new members as something that requires an intense sales approach. We are some of the amazing stars of our community and we entice new members more by showing them our true family and community nature. This past month I had an opportunity to give a small helping hand to Barbara Prindle, Master of Taghhannuck Grange #100. The experience proved to be a great example of how to have a membership growth event. Events that we already are having plus some new interesting community related fundraisers are exactly how we can begin the conversation with new members. The conversation is easier when they are already visiting your Grange.

Barbara Prindle and her Grange used an event as a Membership Drive. Every event going forward they will have things in order to make each following event go the same way. The goal is to “show” them why they should join and follow it up with information. After attending an exhibit at the Sharon Historical Society about the history of Ellsworth, the part of Sharon where her Grange is located, Barbara and her husband, Brent, saw an opportunity to share this with their Grangers who had not attended the event. It started off as a plan for a short presentation to be done

just at a regular meeting but they saw the opportunity to invite more of their neighbors and potential new members to attend. This is when they opened the doors to a membership drive. They took a few more steps to ensure they made the best of this chance to grow. Simple steps you can use during every fundraiser or neighborhood event.

Below I am listing the general steps they took and how they put it into action at their Grange. Please think on how this might work in your part of the state.

➤ **ADVERTISING** - Free Resources like community calendars in the paper and on the town website, radio or television opportunities, Facebook and other social media (ask people to share) and if you have an email list you should send them all an invitation and let them know if they can invite others. Flyers and Signs and traditional methods are fine too if they usually work for your Grange.

➤ **TRACK RESERVATIONS** - When possible you should collect names, numbers, addresses and emails as early as when people sign up. This will give you an idea how many non-members will be attending and a chance to be prepared for that and learn where they may be coming from.

➤ **SIGN IN TABLE** - Someone near the door to greet attendees and sign them in. This table can include signs about membership, upcoming events and a “if you are interested in more information” name, info and email sheet. This can also be a chance to give a quick tour to new people, showing them where the bathroom, food, seating can be found.

➤ **INTRODUCE THE EVENT & GRANGE** - when things begin and you are introducing the entertainment you can also mention when your Grange meets, what you are working on and when the next event will be. Please tell them that everyone is welcome to join and you can mention things that you participate in that relate to your event (because obviously this is something they are interested in) You can mention programs that relate to advocacy, volunteering, crafts you make

for charities.

➤ **FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL** - Please enlist all members to participate.

➤ **FOLLOW UP** can really complete the positive experience for the potential new member. A chance to send an application and any relevant information about your Grange, next event or things you may want new members to know about. We can help you with a personalized sample letter that you can make small edits to and use over and over again. If you can collect the email addresses then you can link different Grange info to the email for them to have easy access.

➤ **KEEP IN CONTACT** by keeping their contact information and put them on your list to be notified of what is happening at your Grange as the year goes by and of course send a packet to anyone who explicitly said they want membership information.

Barbara had over 30 attendees and 12 were members. She collected contact information on almost all of them and has created a special email group for these people so she can send them special messages when appropriate. She may not appreciate me making a fuss over her and her work but I really must tell you how great her event was and how well she has shone a light on her Grange. We will wait and see how many applications for membership arrive. Though it would be great if that turned into a large number, the truth is this was still very successful and the potential members will come back again and will spread the word about what happens at a Grange, what Grangers are like and what kind of work we are out here doing.

Barbara Prindle is on the Membership Committee and could be a fantastic resource if you are planning something and want some practical advice on how to get great results. I am also available to assist and welcome your contact.

Your Grange can do this. If you don't get immediate sign ups you can still count the event as a success. Of course the goal is membership but in these times it is even more valuable to get their attention and participation. Membership will come in time.

WINDOW TO THE PAST

We heard from Joanne Cipriano on the February photo -- "I think the couple on the right is Ed and Marie Duhamel." Joanne also had some information on the January photo -- "The gentleman with the sash is State Past Master Joseph Bell - the other gentleman is Walter Woods (at least I think). I don't know the woman."

We heard from Alma Graham on the February photo too. She said the photo is of Quinebaug Pomona Royalty, from 1968-69. The couple on the left is Paul Miller and Diane Miller, both from Senexet Grange. In the back middle is John Halbach from Little River Grange and Alma Graham herself is in the front. On the right is Ed Duhamel and Lorraine Duhamel (Senexet).

Alma also sent information on the January photo saying she thinks the man on the right is from Southington Grange.

Then we had an anonymous email response on the January photo. The email states that then State Master Joe Bell is on the left holding the certificate, and Robert Woods is on the right, representing Suffield Grange as their Master. The woman in the middle the person believes is Talulah Creelman from Suffield Grange receiving her 75-year certificate. They think the photo was from the early to mid 1980s.

We also heard from Glenna Bruno of Killingly Grange: "The young couple are Ed and Lorraine Duhamel of Woodstock. The photo looks like the group of 'young couples'. Eddie and Lorraine belonged to Senexet Grange and were very active. They had three children, I think two girls and one boy. Eddie was a square dance caller for a few years. They often took me with them to the dances as I love to dance (can't anymore). Eddie & Lorraine also had a very good vegetable garden and sold same from their little farm and at the farmers market. As far as I know Ed still does. Lorraine passed away a few months back. The other two

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.



young couples I don't know and I did recognize Joe Bell but as usual could not remember his name. The lady does look familiar but as usual I can remember who she is either. I hope others can. Well, I just got off the phone with Ed Duhamel-pictured in the photo and he named all the young couples. I know them all also. 1st Couple - Paul & Diane

Miller. 2nd Couple - Alma Pearl, John Hallback. 3rd Couple- the Duhamels. All were chosen King & Queen of their Granges. I'm sure you will get lots of replies from that photo."

Editor's Note: Yes we have! Thank you to everyone who responded this month.



GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kay Ruff

Mar. 7: Meeting March In to Spring 7:30 p.m. Ref. Bob and Doris Nordstrom

Mar. 16: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party 7:00 p.m.

Apr. 4: Meeting April Showers, 7:30 p.m. Ref.: Peter and Pauline Hunt

It won't be long until Glastonbury Grange will have its own Grange website. I have been gathering pictures for the site and writing down some information to put on the site. If any member has information and/or pictures they would like to see on the site get the information to me. At this time I expect to be in contact with Terri Fassio around February 10th to begin the process.

When you are reading this in March, I expect the site will be up and running. We then need to vote for the member to keep this up to date.

I did not print the date for the April card party as it is questionable. It would be April 20th and that is Easter eve. Be sure to check with Master, Dan Posuniak before just going to the hall. Hope to see you at our March and April events.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Cherie Robinson

Mar. 1: Hungry?, Grocery Bingo; Refreshments: Joyce

Apr. 5: Grange Month, Rootbeer

In February, we enjoyed an informative, interactive and entertaining presentation by our guest Lec-

turer; cavy expert Ted Beebe. We made and donated Valentine decorations to two area nursing homes. We also collected, packaged with toiletries and donated new towels to Chrysalis Center in Vernon, to support veterans.

In March, we will discuss the issue of hunger and play Grocery Bingo. Please bring 3 nonperishable grocery items, for the Bingo winners and for the local food pantry. We welcome visitors!

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Mar. 8: "Automobiles, Buses, etc."

Mar. 22: "Waterpower" Canoes, Rowboats, etc.

We never knew there were so many parts to a bicycle! Sue's diagram had us all scratching our heads. I don't think anyone could name all of them. We did learn a lot about bikes, trikes and motorcycles, though, at our Jan. 11 meeting. We were very happy to welcome our Assistant Steward back to the fold. Clyde has been recuperating from surgery for a few months and he has been missed.

We are back to two meetings a month now that old man winter has (hopefully) run his course. Sings of spring should be peeping out in gardens. The weather should be warmer. Sue will be presenting her State Lecturer's program on the 22nd. She has taken first place at State for a few years now so you know this program will be really special. Please come and join us. And if the thermometer will just stay above zero for a few days, next time I'll tell you all about fabulous February.

EKONK COMMUNITY GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Twenty-four artists enjoyed painting fun at the February Junior Grange meeting! The Juniors are selling "Lilly Strong" key chains, specially designed in Leukemia orange and glittery. Honorary Mom, Jai Izzarelli is the designer and they are selling for \$5 with total

sales going to the Sharpe Family.

We donated 4 corned beef supper tickets to Voluntown Fire Department for their basket raffle/chicken barbecue held to start an "Emergency Need" fund for Voluntown families. We have 9-10 members participating in the March Northeast Leader's Conference in Norwich and hope they return with much information and even more enthusiasm!

February 17th was a red letter day at Ekonk. In the afternoon, we honored 40 year Grangers, Neil and Marlene Cook. Neil served Sterling in many capacities including First Selectman. Marlene has also served Sterling on numerous boards. Both are also active in the First Baptist Church and Sterling Republican Town Committee. State Senator, Heather Somers and State Rep., Brian Lanoue attended and presented the Cooks' with a citation from the General Assembly. Many awards were presented including one from First Selectman, Russell Gray, which proclaimed, henceforth, February 17th as Neil and Marlene Cook Day in Sterling. We voted our annual \$300.00 donation to the CT FFA Career Development Seminar and \$100.00 to the Killingly FFA Chapter.

We were absolutely thrilled to have as our special guest, National FFA President, Luke O'Leary from California and the complete CT FFA officer corp, headed by Michael Wetherell, President and RI State FFA Treasurer, Todd Poulos! A roast beef supper followed by a program, including a welcome to Sterling from First Selectman, Russell Gray; Noel Miller, representing State President, George Russell and numerous other dignitaries from CT and RI. Luke spoke eloquently and inspired the hall full of delighted listeners.

March 16th will be our first supper: corned beef and cabbage. Visit Ekonk any 1st Monday or support our Juniors any first Friday.



WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Mar. 12: Shamrocks, Ref. Sue Addison

Mar. 26: CWA Program, Ref. Craig & Todd

February was a rough month for Winchester Grange. Weather was an issue for both meetings, delaying the Obligation Ceremony for our two new members until the March 12 meeting. Hopefully the weather will have been more cooperative for this meeting. We have heard through the grapevine there may be other members from neighboring Granges visiting to receive the obligation. As always,

visitors are always welcome at Winchester Grange.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

Mar. 10: 2:00 P.M., Sunday, Meeting, Ref. by Eloise Osuch, Dorothy Dufresne.

Apr. 6: Flea Market, 9-1. We need stuff to sell.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the party for State Master George Russell.

On April 22 we will be back to meeting on Monday nights at 7:30 P.M. It will be an open house and awards night. Refreshments by all members.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Mar. 9: 120 years For Us.

Apr. 13: Show and Tell

May 11: Lilacs and Tulips – Baking Contest.

Our January meeting was a big

success with resolutions. We have 2 to submit and 3 more to work on. Our Community Service Committee has decided not to enter a Spring Boutique at a local Church as the price for a table has increased, which wouldn't leave much profit for the amount of work involved. The church group would not consider a reduced rate for non-profits.

10 new lap-gahans were enthusiastically accepted at each of 2 nursing facilities. Parkway Pavilion and Fresh Water Healthcare.

Our March meeting celebrates 120 Years. I wonder if the founders would be surprised if they sat in on a meeting today. And last call to members for canceled stamps as they will be mailed out to Stamps For The Wounded in early March.

Something to think about- Worry is a futile thing, it's somewhat like a rocking chair, although it keeps you occupied, it doesn't get you anywhere.

RIVERTON GRANGE PRESENTS

MAR. 24:

PEARL STRINGING CLASS

Cost \$15.00, RSVP 860-309-3160

RainePedersen@hotmail.com by Mar. 16



Island Breezes Coffee Cake



Spring is on it's way - and hopefully good weather will be accompanying it. Here's a super easy recipe from Taste of Home that is perfect for Spring Potlucks and Refreshments.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup sweetened shredded coconut, toasted
- 1 package (3.4 ounces) cook-and-serve coconut cream pudding mix
- 20 frozen bread dough dinner rolls
- 1 can (20 ounces) pineapple tidbits, drained
- 1 jar (3 ounces) macadamia nuts, coarsely chopped
- 1/2 cup butter, cubed

DIRECTIONS: In a small bowl, mix brown sugar, coconut and pudding mix. Place 10 rolls in a greased 10-in. fluted tube pan; layer with half of the sugar mix-

ture, 1 cup pineapple tidbits, 1/3 cup macadamia nuts and 1/4 cup butter. Repeat layers. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight.

Remove pan from refrigerator about 1-3/4 hours before serving; let rise in a warm place until dough reaches top of pan, about 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 350°. Remove plastic wrap. Bake coffee cake 35-40 minutes or until golden brown. (Cover loosely with foil if top browns too quickly.) Cool 10 minutes before inverting onto a serving plate; serve warm.

Note: To toast coconut, bake in a shallow pan in a 350° oven for 5-10 minutes or cook in a skillet over low heat until golden brown, stirring occasionally.

SOURCE: <https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/island-breezes-coffee-cake/>



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Nutmeg Pomona No. 16 will meet at Cheshire Grange on Sunday, March 24th at 2:00. The program for this meeting is entitled "Has Spring Sprung Yet?" Come and see what Lecturer Lois Evankow has planned. Refreshments are in the charge of Redding and Harmony Granges. I'm sure they could use some help.

Attendance has been good at our meetings. If you haven't attended a meeting, come it will be that much better.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Mar. 6: Musical Fun and Games

Mar. 20: Is Spring Around The Corner?

As mentioned earlier, just a reminder on our St Patrick's corned beef dinner on March 9th at our hall. Tickets are \$12.00. Dinner at 6pm.

We have two fund raising dinners coming up, one in March and the other in early April. They will benefit our treasury nicely. We all enjoyed our Valentines box supper and program last month at our open meeting.

Meteorological Spring is March first. A very pleasant thought.

MERIDEN GRANGE #29

Corr: Cindy Charbonneau

Mar. 8: Omitted

Mar. 16: Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

Mar. 22: "Spring Is Coming"

Meriden Grange meets once a month at 7:30 PM. Our meeting on March 22nd will be our "Spring Is Coming" program. Visitors are always welcome. We meet down-

stairs through the colder weather.

On March 16th we will be having a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner from 5 to 6:30 PM. For tickets call Cindy C. At 203-237-4617. Hope to see you then!

HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: George Ward

Mar. 8: Refreshments at 6:30, Meeting at 7:30

Harmony Grange was saddened by the death of Gloria Ward on January 13, 2019. Gloria held the office of Pomona at Harmony Grange at the time of her death.

As we are into the third month of the new year 2019, I would like to relate how our membership has been affected by members in nursing homes and by death. At the present time, we have three members, to my knowledge, in nursing homes. Gertrude Wilson a 70+ year member, in her high 90s, a Seventh Degree member, was a former Secretary and acted as Ceres when the Charter was draped. She not only attended the meetings but helped out at Fairs and other events. Arthur Luledjian, a WWII veteran, is in the former Masonic Home in Newtown. He used to bring hens to our Agricultural Fair and played the piano at our meetings. Nina Ten Eyck is in a local nursing home. She attended meetings when she had to use two canes for walking.

Basil Dikovsky, a 50 year member, died on June 8, 2018. He was a former member of Farmill River Grange. He was an Assistant Steward for many years. Being a graduate of the University of Connecticut with a degree in Agricultural, he was a big asset when we had our Agricultural Fairs. Susan Sulier died July 17, 2018. She was a former member of Trumbull Grange. She was a former Lecturer and was Secretary at the time of her death, the most difficult office in the Grange. Gloria Ward died January 13, 2019. She was a 7th Degree member. A former member of Farmill River Grange, she was a former Chaplain and held the office of Pomona at the time of her death.

All of the above were loyal, faithful members and could be called upon when help was needed. They are difficult to replace.

Seed catalogs are being received so spring and the planting season

must be fast approaching.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our first meeting of the new year was very productive with many positive ideas. We have scheduled a clothing drive for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 3, 4 and 5 from 9 to 5. When you are doing your spring cleaning, think of us. On Saturday, May 4 we will also have a tag sale from 9 to 2. The tag sale items will also be available the other two days. We could use some volunteers to be at the hall to collect the clothes.

Our members also agreed to have a cleaning party the third Wednesday of each month. As the saying goes "Many hands make light work."

In the last Granger I said we needed a larger audience at our Open Mics. Many took heed and the attendance at the January Open Mic doubled. Our hall holds many more. Mark the calendar "Open Mic – third Saturday of each month from 2 to 5."

Judi's program from our March 8th meeting is entitled "Spring – St. Patty's – April Fools." Carole Mancini will be in charge of refreshments. Come and enjoy her Irish soda bread.

We have started planning our 130th Anniversary to be held on Friday, May 31st. Please save the date.

In the next Granger we will have the date of our WalMart Bake Sale.

HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: Richard A. Prescott

Higganum Grange is still alive and kicking. We've just been quiet for awhile. A review of the highlights of our activities for 2018 found us still actively involved in supporting community activities and Grange programs.

As representatives of Higganum Grange, members have devoted much time in working with the Haddam Land Trust in planning and preparing new walking trails in town. Working with the SunDial Gardens found us pulling weeds and preparing the land for gardening. On average, our members devoted about 65 community service hours

Continued next page

a month to community projects/programs. While providing financial contributions to a variety of community programs, we take pride in providing financial support for two town youths to attend the Grange's Camp Berger, as we have for many years.

We've maintained our hall and building insuring its continued use as a successful food market and location for community and Grange meetings. To that end, we've installed a new laminate floor in the second floor meeting hall and kitchen.

Members have attended many state Grange meetings and functions. A continued outreach membership effort has proven modestly successful with the addition of three new members. And lastly, we continued to strive to maintain a sound fiscal management base to insure our future. We plan to be around for a long time. We are putting the finishing touches on program plans for 2019.

Our meetings are on the first Friday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Grange Hall in Higganum Center. Please drop in and say "Hello".

PROSPECT GRANGE #144

Corr: Jean Meehan

Mar. 11: Meeting

Apr. 12: Meeting

Prospect Grange once again was saddened with the loss of an officer. Our Chaplain was suddenly taken from us in January. Despite the loss of our Lecturer and Chaplain we are trying to survive.

A request from a Pee Wee League Team looking for a sponsor was brought to our meeting. As they are local students we decide to take on the task by purchasing them jerseys to start. Also we made a donation to a local bowling league for youth so they can compete in the Nationals in Washington, D.C.

We are now raising money to make a big donation to help build the Statue of Liberty Museum on Ellis Island. As many of our grandparents came through Ellis Island, we thought it would be a great way to honor our forefathers. A permanent plaque will be made with Prospect's name on it as a builder/supporter.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

Apr. 4: Hopefully our water will not have a problem this year. Cer-

tificate night.

May: TBD- Ninth Annual Plant & Food Sale

May 2: We will confer the Third & Fourth Degrees- Harvest Supper at 6:30 P.M.

Oh how wonderful! We have heat in our hall! Due to many years of neglect, our furnace is up and running smoothly again. Several new parts and stove pipe, thanks to the efforts of Skip Beebe.

Our January meeting was postponed twice. Our February meeting was held on time. The weather is cooperating, so far so good.

We draped our charter in loving memory of Leon Czikowsky, Jr., who passed away much too young.

Ways to make money were discussed at great length. A pleasant evening was enjoyed by all.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

Mar 7: Business Meeting

Mar 21: Business Meeting

Mar 23: Silent Movie Night with live piano - tickets at the door

April 4 - Business Meeting

Plans for our Agricultural Fair on August 25th are coming along. The committee has been meeting since January once a month with great ideas turning into action items. As part of our Culinary Arts Department contests, we're renaming our Cannon Grange Perpetual Trophy after our long time friend, Dave Barrett, who passed away last September. Over the years, Dave and his wife Joyce have each won this prize. Dave loved the Fair, and he loved Cannon Grange. With Joyce's permission we're thrilled to honor Dave in this meaningful way.

Tai Chi classes continue at our Hall. They are a relaxing time for improving balance, and the classes are instructed by a master. Drop ins welcome at the morning class or evening class on Wednesdays. See our website for times.

Our annual Silent Movie Night is on the calendar for March 23rd. John Mucci will be showing a collection of several Laurel & Hardy short movies; and he is planning a terrific piano accompaniment for each one! Doors open at 7 PM, and the first movie rolls at 7:30

PM. All sorts of refreshments will be available. This is a perfect event for young children on up through adults! Movies, of course, are Black & White. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Frances Maxwell

Mar 8: Spring

Mar. 22: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled.

Apr. 12: CWA

Apr. 26: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled.

Apr. 27: The Sharades to perform at Hemlock Grange, music of the 50s and more. 17 Sage Hollow Road, Portland, 7pm - 11pm, tickets \$12. Call 860-342-0290.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Rob Buck

Mar. 1: The Celts

Mar. 15: Pizza and Planning Meeting, 7:00 PM

Mar. 29: GOMAD Music and Dance Party, 7:00 PM-12:00 AM

Apr. 13: Chili Cook-Off, 6:00 PM

The winter has been slow with but one meeting per month until now. Keep posted to Facebook for the soon to start or perhaps continuing Climate Change series of lectures and discussions. With Spring approaching, we look forward to getting outside and working in the Grange Three Graces Garden(s), and continuing landscaping projects to reduce water leakage into our basement. The handicapped ramp should be about finished and we look forward to the return of visitors to our hall again.



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mike@monroeclassic.com

Learn more about our Grange Month theme that can be used all year long at nationalgrange.org/grange-month-2019/



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Did You Know: Resources Available

The CT State Grange, and in particular the Public Relations Committee, offers a number of resources to Granges and their members.

Here's just a few:

- Did You Know... that past issues of the Connecticut Granger are available in digital form online? Issues are made available for download as PDF files on the CT Granger Website (<http://www.ctstategrange.org/grangerdownloads.asp>) a month or so after the current issue has been mailed. This service has been offered since 2008, and now includes older archival issues as well, dating back to the very first issue of the CT Granger!

- Did You Know... that past Master's Addresses are available on the CT State Grange website? Complete versions of past Master's Address are available dating back to 1998 by following this link <http://www.ctstategrange.org/MastersAddress.asp>, and then selecting the year from the dropdown box.

- Did You Know... that Resolutions and their results as acted upon at the CT State Grange Annual Session are available online, dating back to 2003? Follow this link <http://www.ctstategrange.org/Resolutions.asp>, and then select the year from the dropdown menu.

- Did You Know... that the CT State Grange website has a list of all the Past State Masters/Presidents, with photos of all but three, dating back to Harvey Goddard, the first Master of the CT State Grange in 1875? Visit <http://www.ctstategrange.org/paststatemasters.asp#> to view the list - and each photo is clickable to a larger image too!

- Did You Know... that all of the Lecturer's Department newsletters dating back to 2009 are available for download as PDF files on the Lecturer's section of the CT State Grange Website (<http://www.ctstategrange.org/LecturersTips.asp>)? This newsletter is a great resource for Granges in planning programs for the meetings.

- Did You Know... that there are over 500 forms, flyers, promotional materials, booklets, resources and more available as digital downloads from the Downloads page on the CT State Grange Website? From the latest Executive Committee Form to Blue Books, Journals of Proceedings and Legislative Handbooks, to promotional posters and much, much more are all available for download. Visit this link - <http://www.ctstategrange.org/downloads.asp> - then select a category from the drop down menu to

Southern CT Past Masters Assoc.

The March meeting of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters will be held on Saturday, March 9th at Cheshire Grange. In place of the usual potluck supper we will enjoy Cheshire's corned beef dinner. Time is 6:00. Reservations are a must- call Marge Bernhardt (203) 272-4620.

Election of Officers will be the main item on the agenda.

view all of the different sections of downloads available.

- Did You Know... that the Public Relations Committee offers custom graphic design and printing services to all Connecticut Granges in black/white and color at low costs and quick turn-around times? Custom Brochures, Flyers, Posters, Banners and Signs and much more are available! Contact Terri or Bob for the details!

- Did You Know... that photography and videography services are available from the Public Relations Committee for awards nights, special meetings, programs and events at your Grange? All we ask is that you give us plenty of advance notice to ensure we can fulfill your needs.

These are just a few of the many resources available - and the list is continually growing! Contact any member of the committee, or e-mail us at information@ctstategrange.org or publicrelations@ctstategrange.org for more information.

The program in the charge of Vice President Cindy Legg is entitled "Little Green Men." We will have a Country Store.

Robert Buck, President will preside over the meeting which usually starts as soon as the dishes are done but as we do not have to do the dishes we will start as soon as we are all full.

Visitors are always welcome.



Vernon Grange #52 made Valentine decorations for two local nursing homes and to accompany their donated collection of new bath towels and toiletries for Chrysalis Center, a residence for previously homeless veterans.



Dawn Anstett
State Youth Director

Riverton Grange #169
Youth@ctstategrange.org

Youth Connections

In April of 2018, *The New York Times* printed an article “Why teenagers become ‘allergic’ to their parents.” They go over why it is important for them to go through this process of separating from their parents, to distinguish themselves from those who have supervised them from birth. Youth in our Granges are going through the same things, how we handle this may influence if they stay and grow with us or move on.

I remember when I was given the chance to spread my wings and grow... or crash and burn. At 14, I had just moved on from Junior Grange to the Community Grange. My cousin Nancy and I were told we could set up a “haunted house” for the Junior Grange meeting. So armed with duct tape and cardboard and digging out stuff they had there, we set out to do that. Things were going well. We had made a coffin out of cardboard, a couple of swords and gravestones, all placed behind the fake fence they had over there for other things. That was when we heard sounds in the Grange Hall and ran out of the Grange Hall letting the front door shut behind us... yes, we were locked out.

Being a logical person, I set out to figure who we could call. Preferably someone other than my aunt, Peggy Prelli. She scared me and I could just imagine how mad she would be with me for locking myself out. As I went down the list, I had my mother’s key, so she could not help me. I knew my aunt, Phyllis Bierce was at another Grange event and others who had keys, I didn’t know their numbers. So I had to call Aunt Peggy.

She did not give me the “look.” I would get that at other times. Without saying anything about us scaring ourselves and being locked out, she let us back in. We finished up as quick as we could,

those strange Grange Hall sounds could come back at any time, and we completed what we set out to do. Sometimes we have to let go and let our youth go with their ideas, just like my Aunt Peggy did for me that day.

Teenagers are going to look at our actions in one of two ways, is this something they want to adapt or are they going to disentangle from your action. We don’t want them to feel rejected, no matter what mistakes they make. Yes you have to allow little failures to happen and not berate them for them. Mentoring does involve communicating with youth, allowing them to express their interests and points of view, without making them feel defensive.

Our youth have a lot to offer about how we can make them feel like they have a role in our Granges and programs we can enact to draw more interest from this age group. I have already mentioned the value of active listening when trying to understand youth of any age. There are also other valuable communications skills, that you can use to mentor youth. The non-directive approach involves a good deal of listening and asking questions. If you tell them what to do, anyone can become defensive. We have to remember to listen more than ask. Let them tell you what they are thinking and use your questions to help them understand how we go about getting things done. Keep your questions open ended. Yes and no answers can make them feel defensive. What is it they want to try and do? What do they have in mind, that might interest others their age? Lastly, try paraphrasing what they said to make sure you understand what they are proposing. Do not assume you understood what they meant.

When I listen to problems with you attendance, I am reminded that it is not just a problem with our teenagers and twenty-somethings. As a generation Xer, I feel many of

the same things as youth trying to get to meet around school events and millennials trying to build something around school, work or family events. Any event not well attended is not a failure, we need to start to ask more questions to find out changes that need to be made. These are conversations we all need to have.

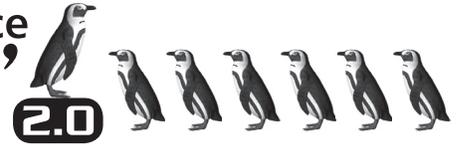
On the first Saturday in February, Riverton Community Grange opened their doors to what would be a youth planned event. My son, brother Rode Anstett, presented this first at their November meeting. It took some time and he made mistakes, but by going through the process, he learned the process and the importance of responsibility, in taking something like this on. Sometimes you have an event that you know should attract interest and just falls short. For example, Sister Jaimie Cameron mentioned to me a program she planned for the November meeting at Ekonk Community Grange on Threatened and Endangered Birds of Prey, that she felt would interest other youth, but did not draw as many as she had hoped. Let’s be open to asking hard questions of what we need to do as a Grange, listening to our youth, who might see things a little different and be open to make changes the next time you try and to roll something out. After posing several questions to think about to Brother Anstett and his friend, who is trying to interest in the Grange, they came up with several changes they want to try next month, to build more interest. Be there to guide, offer help and join us to discuss events like this at the New England Leaders Conference at the end of this month.

Damour, L (2018, April 11). Why Teenagers Become ‘Allergic’ to Their Parents. NY Times. Retrieved from nytimes.com.

“Mentor Tips.” Power 4 Youth, 2019, power4youth.org/mentor-tips/.



2019 Northeast Leaders Conference "Leading Leaders" 2.0



The Connecticut State Grange will host the 2019 Northeast Leaders' Conference **March 29 & 30, 2019** at the Holiday Inn, 10 Laura Boulevard, Norwich, CT 06360. This year's theme is "Leading Leaders 2.0" and ALL Grange members are encouraged to attend. Enjoy workshops, speakers and an opportunity to connect with Grange members throughout New England and New York. Rooms should go quickly, so please make your reservations with the hotel as soon as possible. The room rate is the same as State Session at \$105.00 per night (plus taxes/fees) for a King or 2 Queen bed room. Please call the Holiday Inn Norwich directly. Please **DO NOT** call the Holiday Inn corporate reservation line as they may not handle your reservations properly. **CALL (860) 889-5201** and ask for the Connecticut State Grange room block.

REGISTRATION FORM

Member #1:

Name _____
 Address _____ Phone _____
 Grange Name _____ No. _____ State _____
 State Office (if applicable) _____
I would like: _____ Breakfast _____ Lunch _____ Banquet (___ Vegetarian Banquet Required)

Member #2:

Name _____
 Address _____ Phone _____
 Grange Name _____ No. _____ State _____
 State Office (if applicable) _____
I would like: _____ Breakfast _____ Lunch _____ Banquet (___ Vegetarian Banquet Required)

Continental Breakfast (Saturday, March 30, 2019):

Assorted danishes, croissants, muffins, bagels, breakfast breads, sliced fruits & yogurt, fruit preserves, butter & cream cheese, assorted fruit juices, freshly brewed regular and decaffeinated coffee, assorted teas and hot cocoa.

of Members _____ x \$12.00 = _____

Southern BBQ Lunch Buffet (Saturday, March 30, 2019):

Buttermilk battered fried chicken breast, BBQ ribs, mashed potatoes, creamy cole slaw, buttered corn on the cob, freshly baked corn bread, freshly tossed garden greens with assorted dressings, warm apple crisp, assorted sodas, water, coffee and teas.

of Members _____ x \$25.00 = _____

Bella Roma Buffet Banquet (Saturday, March 30, 2019):

Freshly tossed Caesar salad, roasted vegetables & tortellini, roasted garlic bread sticks, chicken marsala, chicken parmesan, assorted sodas, water, coffee and tea, assorted cannolis & tiramisu.

of Members _____ x \$30.00 = _____

**Registrations Due:
MARCH 1, 2019**

Registration Fee: # of Members _____ x \$10.00 = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED WITH THIS FORM = _____

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 State Secretary Todd Gelineau on his cell at 860-307-1522 or email: Secretary@CTStateGrange.org

2019 General Assembly In Session



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Coventry Grange #75
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

The 2019 Connecticut General Assembly session is in full swing now with many bills being passed on to the different committees. There is quite an array of topics being addressed by the different bills being proposed by legislative members. I have seen a multiple of bills addressing the banning of single use plastic bags. Along with the plastic bag ban there are also bills banning use of plastic straws and Styrofoam containers. A bill has been presented that would prohibit the distribution of unsolicited marketing flyers to homes. That would affect some small businesses who leave flyers for their local services or businesses. Another bill that may be of interest to nonprofits addresses creating public utility service rates, such as water and electric, for nonprofit organizations.

Last year the General Assembly passed a bill to collect a \$10 fee with each motor vehicle registration that would be used for the state park system. This eliminated the parking fees for residents arriving in a Connecticut registered car at our state parks. Well this year there are bills to eliminate this fee or limit it to one motor vehicle registration per household. Some were complaining that they have multiple motor vehicles and were paying this fee a multiple of times. There are also a multiple of bills proposed to exempt senior citizens from this motor vehicle registration fee for the parks.

There are several bills proposed

that would legalize industrial hemp growing in Connecticut. The Federal Department of Agriculture had redefined the definition of hemp, legalizing the production of industrial hemp. Most states have already addressed this which allows their farmers to start growing and producing industrial hemp. Connecticut has not yet addressed this and needs to do so quickly to allow farmers to jump in on hemp production with this growing season. This could be a win for Connecticut farmers.

One bill that we are watching carefully is HB5254. This bill would allow municipalities to impose a buyer's conveyance fee on real estate transactions to be used to fund the purchase and stewardship of open spaces.

We have already submitted testimony on SB208, An Act Concerning Exempting From The Personal Income Tax Proceeds From The Sale Of Agricultural Land Development Rights To The State. This state program is designed to bring fair market land value prices down to a value that would make farmland affordable to others who wish to continue actively farming. Currently when

a farmer sells the development rights to the state, they have to pay income tax on the proceeds from the development right sale. Eliminating this would allow the farmer to utilize these funds for their farming production. We are also encouraging that this be expanded to those who sell their development rights to the local municipalities as well.

We are carefully watching what the new Governor will present in his budget. The fact that the Governor has yet to appoint a Commissions of Agriculture has us worried. In past years there have been previous proposals to eliminate the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) and merge it in with the Department of Environmental and Energy Protection (DEEP). The Grange has traditionally strongly opposed this merger. The Department of Agriculture has some important programs that the agricultural community depend on. They are also in charge of food safety and animal inspections for fairs and other events. We are concerned that if DoAg is merged with DEEP some of these programs will be diluted.

**THE GRANGE STRENGTHENS
INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND
COMMUNITIES THROUGH
GRASSROOTS ACTION, SERVICE,
EDUCATION, ADVOCACY AND
AGRICULTURE AWARENESS.**

Grange Mission Statement

Get ready for the warmer weather



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

Cheshire Grange #23
Lecturer@ctstategrange.org

They say that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. Let's hope that lamb gets here real early. While we haven't had much snow as of this writing, a lot of us are complaining about the damp, cold weather we have had.

With this in mind, let's talk about some activities to get ready for when the warmer weather approaches.

Lecturers' Conference will be August 5, 6 & 7 at the Devens Common Center in Devens, Massachusetts.

This will be a new and different type of conference aimed at helping Lecturers plan better programs. Each State will no longer put on a complete program. Instead, each State will put on one number in a Northeast Program. Our number will be a George and Harriet skit entitled "The Farmer's Wife" written by Nancy Weissmuller. There will be more workshops than there has been in the past and also ways for you to meet and greet Grangers from other States. Make your plans now.

Grange Sunday will be held at Cheshire Grange Hall on Sunday, June 9. All numbers in both the "A Number" and the Talent Contest go right to Cheshire for Judging on a State Level.

Every Grange in the State should be able to have an "A Number" entry. The theme this year is "Holidays". This can be on any recognized holiday. Any number suitable for a Grange Meeting is eligible. Time Limit: 6 minutes (includes set-up and performance). Numbers will be judged on presentation, quality, audience appeal, appropriateness of theme, and originality.

Have Talent? Why not show it off in our Talent Contest? Performance time allowed is six minutes. State winners will be eligible to perform at Lecturers' Conference and at National Session.

Hope to see you at Leaders' Conference and around the State.

State Secretary



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary

Winchester Grange #74
Secretary@ctstategrange.org

As of this writing, the deadline to register for Leaders Conference is just over a week away. The deadline listed on the registration form does say March 1, however, we will accept registrations up until it is necessary to give numbers to the hotel. The form is printed for a final time in this issue. Please clip it out and send it in as soon as possible. You may also call me (860) 307-1522 to let me know that your registration is on the way. As you have read in the Master's column, the Conference speakers are excellent and everyone in attendance will find the conference to be time well spent.

The State Master has decided to conduct a special gift basket drawing during the conference. All three Pomonas have been asked to provide a basket. Proceeds from the drawing will be donated to the "Love for Lillian" Fund of the Connecticut

State Grange Foundation. We have had many ask if they too can donate gift baskets from both individuals and Granges. The answer is yes, we would be delighted to have many more baskets. We only ask they be brought to the Holiday Inn on Friday evening at least before the official opening of the conference. Please let me know if you have any questions.

On the subject of "Love for Lillian" - donations continue to come in from around the state and we thank you all for your generous support. We will continue to accept donations to the fund for as long as there is a need.

BONDING

The annual bonding renewal letters went out to Granges in December. Unfortunately, I have a large number of Granges who have not responded. Our list has been turned in to National Grange and all Granges who did not respond will have their bonding renewed at the basic level of \$5,000 with a \$50 premium. Those Granges will be billed for the premium.

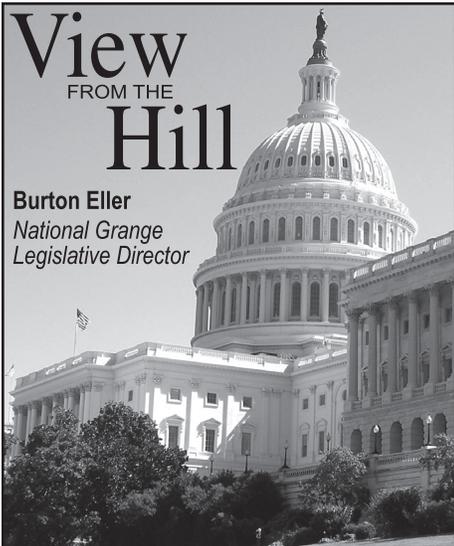
FISCAL YEAR

Letters have also gone out to all Granges regarding a required change of fiscal year if there are Granges who

operate on a January 1 to December 31 bookkeeping year. We have been informed that all Granges that fall under the State Grange group exemption must have the same fiscal year used by the State Grange (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30). The form enclosed with the letter must be filled out and returned to the Central Office regardless of which category your Grange falls under. We need these completed forms for our files. Please let me know if you have any questions.

The 990N filings will be completed for all Granges shortly and you will also be receiving the receipts from these filings. Please put them in a safe place as they are your proof of filing your tax return with the IRS. (The 990N is your Grange's version of a tax return).

All Secretaries interested in having access to an online program to maintain your membership records should contact me. I will provide you with the access information so you will be able to log on to the National Grange program that has been designed for all Granges in the country to maintain more accurate and accessible membership records. This has been a problem when Granges lose access to records maintained by their Secretaries.



AGRICULTURE & FOOD

The Shutdown

The federal government partial shutdown has ended...for now. The longest shutdown in history is over until February 15 to give all parties the opportunity to negotiate a compromise on border security, security for Dreamers, and other immigration issues. This was called a partial shutdown because FY19 funding for some agencies had cleared Congress but funding for others had not. Many agencies of government that producers and rural residents depend upon were shuttered for over a month and employees were furloughed. Employees considered "essential" were expected to work during the shutdown. These included meat inspectors, TSA employees, safety and security personnel and the like. Lights were out in local Farm Service (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) offices but Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) employees remained on the job using surplus funds from last year's budget; this scenario is raising questions on Capitol Hill. SNAP recipients not only received their January benefits but are getting their February benefits early. This was made possible by an obscure provision in the now-expired (December 21) continuing resolution that allowed SNAP and child nutrition programs to use funds within 30 days of the CR's expiration. Market and economic reports were suspended but care for plants and animals at research facilities continued. Most economists reported the shutdown

had a large negative effect in the nation's economy. Bipartisan lawmakers with reputations as "Deal Makers" from the House and Senate began meeting January 30 to seek a deal on border security that would prevent a second shutdown this year.

A New Quarterback and Lots of Rookies

Colin Peterson (D-MN), the new chairman but seasoned veteran of the House Agriculture Committee, has a new Democratic majority that's nearly half newcomers. That's not all bad, but his chairman's role will include lots of educating. The new Democrats are Axne (IA-3), Brindishi (NY-22), Carbajai (CA-24), Harder (CA-10), Cox (CA-21), Craig (MN-2), Delgado (NY-19), Hayes (CT-2), Kirkpatrick (AZ-2), Schrier (WA-8), Spanberger (VA-7) and Van Drew (NJ-2). New Republicans on the Ag Committee are Johnson (SD-All), Baird (IN-4), and Hagedorn (MN-1).

Regulatory Preview

What are the major agriculture regulatory challenges facing producers during 2019? Here are a few top-of-mind issues from across agriculture:

Revised WOTUS rule. The "Waters of the US" proposed rule as revised is meant to replace the 2015 regulation that has been so controversial among landowners. The proposal attempts to clarify how EPA and The Corps distinguish between intermittent and ephemeral streams and allows states to claim jurisdiction over waters unclaimed by EPA and the Corps. Plant-based "milk". Grange policy supports the definition on the books at FDA that milk is the product of a lactating animal and wants FDA to enforce that regulation.

"Healthy" definition. The food industry has long used the term "healthy" as a free-wheeling marketing tactic without having to define what healthy means. FDA will be proposing a rule that would require healthy claims to reflect current scientific and dietary guidelines.

Produce safety. FDA is proposing to clarify when certain requirements of the Produce Safety Act do not apply. This should help the Grange's smaller produce

growers.

Cell-cultured meat. USDA and FDA have agreed to share regulatory oversight of lab grown meat. The agencies plan to issue regulatory guidance documents in coming months which the Grange will monitor closely.

Bull Market Ending for Farm Land?

One dependable indicator of a farm's financial situation is a comparison between debt and the income available to service that debt. Farm debt in 2013 was \$315 billion; today it is \$409 billion. Net farm income in 2013 was \$123 billion; last year net farm income was \$66 billion. Interest rates are climbing making other investments more attractive than farm land. These appear to be warning signs of a possible slowdown for the farm land market.

HEALTH CARE

Opioids Remain a Rural Problem

The good news is that opioid prescribing rates are falling significantly. The bad news is that the percentage of patients prescribed an opioid is higher in rural than in urban areas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Drug overdose is the leading cause of nonintentional injury-associated death in the United States. Higher rates of opioid deaths have been recorded in rural areas. In 2017, 14 rural counties were among the 15 counties nationwide with the highest opioid prescribing rates. Patients in rural counties had an 87% higher chance of receiving an opioid prescription compared with persons in urban counties.

Rural Elderly Care Challenges

People 65 years old and older make up over 14 percent of the country's population. That same population is responsible for 34 percent of health care-related spending, according to the National Rural Health Association. But here's an even more sobering statistic: every day more than 10,000 Americans turn 65 years old and one in four of those seniors live in rural or small town areas. Major challenges to future care of these seniors are rural hospital closures, nursing home closures and qualified

staffing shortages. Infrastructure is another challenge as rural and small town areas struggle to provide health clinics, safe and affordable housing, and high speed broadband internet to connect with telemedicine, tele-education and more. Most elderly people in rural and small town America want to age in place at home in their community. Some elder care groups suggest that one way to address the scarcity of services is for providers to diversify and provide medical attention, assisted living, home care, meals and transportation through one organization.

National Grange Files Comments

The National Grange joined several patient groups to urge the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services at HHS to consider the success of Part D and Medicare Advantage as the agency prepares proposals to lower drug prices and reduce out-of-pocket expenses. The current program has successfully provided beneficiaries with access to prescription drugs and self-administered drugs. While the National Grange supports CMS' goal to reduce out-of-pocket expenses, the Grange is concerned that proposed policy changes generally favor health plans rather than focusing on patient care and program transparency. The Grange also expressed opposition to proposed step therapy because it would be an impediment to prescribed therapy, particularly for patients who require timely and personalized Part B medications.

IMMIGRATION/AG WORK FORCE Green Card or Blue Card

Older farmers and ranchers remember the "Green Card" that allowed workers to legally enter the U.S. for short term employment. They contend it worked well and should never have been discontinued. Now, Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and Representative Jimmy Panetta (D-CA 2) have introduced legislation to create a similar "Blue Card" program. Their bill enjoys a large number of cosponsors. It would provide the agriculture industry with a more stable workforce and allow an eventual path to citizenship. The National Grange will push for hearings

but remains skeptical that Congress has the will allow ag workforce legislation to pass without holding it hostage to other immigration issues.

Three Big Immigration Issues Congress Can Tackle

Michael Wildes is the mayor of Englewood, N.J. and managing partner of Wildes and Weinberg P.C. specializing in immigration law. Wildes laments the fact that immigration reform has eluded all efforts at reform for a generation. But the system is in dire need of reform he says. Here are three big immigration items he suggests Congress tackle:

Upgrade Immigration Courts. Immigration courts are small, overcrowded, and places where judges hand out trial dates two and three years in the future. He says hiring more immigration judges and restoring a level of autonomy to trial attorneys would go a long way to alleviating the excessive court backlogs.

Legalize Dreamers. These are legal recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) who were brought to the United States before they turned 16 and have lived here continuously since 2007. They are 800,000 students, college graduates, professionals and parents. They have been granted permission to work, attend school and live in the U.S., but if they leave, they cannot reenter.

Address Root Causes of Central American Refugees. Wildes says the fundamental cause of our Central American refugee crisis is the violence and instability in their home countries. He favors cooperation with law enforcement in those countries, improving economic conditions through foreign investment, free trade agreements, and volunteer initiatives.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS More Rural Broadband Funding

The Senate-House conference committee on USDA appropriations has awarded \$550 million in additional funds to a rural broadband loan and grant program created by Congress last year with an initial appropriation of \$600 million. Projects must serve communities

of less than 20,000 people with no broadband service or where service is slower than 10/1 Mbps.

Bridging the Rural Broadband Gap

A recent editorial in the Washington Examiner by National Grange President Betsy Huber applauded the Federal Communications Commission for its leadership toward closing the rural-urban digital divide. She then suggested the FCC make two changes to enhance rural efforts. The first is better data collection accuracy in rural areas which should be far different compared to urban areas. The second is to allow providers to wirelessly deliver broadband to rural communities using unused spectrum between broadcast television stations.

Check Your State Laws

Your state might need to update its laws to better compete for the new \$1.15 billion USDA funding for rural broadband projects and grants. Some states restrict rural electric cooperatives to only provide electric services to customers. In these states, such laws may have to be changed to allow electric co-ops to deliver broadband service or create public-private partnerships with rural telephone cooperatives.

PERSPECTIVE

The willingness of America's veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them everlasting gratitude. ~ *Jeff Miller*

Acknowledging the good that you already have in your life is the foundation for all abundance. ~ *Eckhart Tolle*

He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things he has not but rejoices for those which he has. ~ *Epictetus*

We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorns have roses. ~ *Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr*

The deepest craving of human nature is the need to be appreciated. ~ *William James*

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them. ~ *John F. Kennedy*

43 Naubuc Avenue, P.O. Box 1393
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Address Service Requested

Repentance



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain
Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

I've written on this subject before, but as the season of Lent is upon us I realize that that the subject is far from exhausted by what was previously said.

The call to repentance is found throughout both the Old and New Testaments. In Isaiah we read:

"let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

And in the Book of Acts we find:

"Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

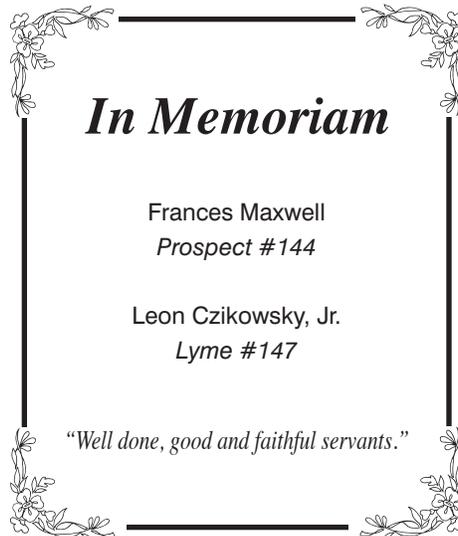
In the Greek New Testament the word we translate as repentance is "metanoia", which literally means changing one's mind. As used in the early Christian church it had a much broader meaning, not only changing one's mind but changing one's entire mode of thinking so that a person had a fundamental change in behavior. A person who repented not only changed his/her mind but underwent a sort of conversion, developing a new way of thinking and acting. This interpretation, of course, is entirely consistent with the passage from Isaiah at

the beginning of this article: "let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts".

"But wait", you might say, "I'm not wicked. Why should I repent?" At which point I would ask you to think deeply. Are you so much better than the rest of us? Do you always do and think that which is right? Remember what St. Paul said:

"I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh; for I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do. Instead, I keep on doing the evil I do not want to do."

Daily I remind myself that I have done those things which I ought not to have done and have not done those things which I ought to have done. I have not loved the Lord my God with all my heart; I have not loved my neighbor as myself. And then comes what should be everyone's response: "I am truly sorry and I humbly repent."

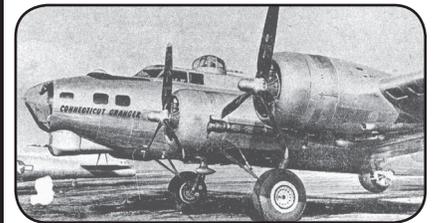


In Memoriam

Frances Maxwell
Prospect #144

Leon Czikowsky, Jr.
Lyme #147

"Well done, good and faithful servants."



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

STAFF

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Vice President Terri Fassio
Treasurer Jody Cameron
Secretary Noel Miller

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the
15th Day of each month
and should be sent to:
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