



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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April 2020

A time of uncertainty



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March has come in like a lamb this year as this article is being written. In the middle of March, we had warmer than normal weather; not much snow but plenty of rainy days. The lion part of March is that we are dealing with the Coronavirus which seems to be spreading across the country. Here in Connecticut, schools are being closed for at least two weeks. Churches and places of worship are also closed with no Sunday mass and many of our Granges have canceled events

such as dinners, chili cook-offs and Grange meetings. The Northeast Leadership Conference, which was scheduled for March 27-29 has been rescheduled for June 5-7 in Albany, New York. Ag Day at the State Capitol (which the State Grange has participated in for many years) has been canceled for this year.

This statement was issued by National Master Betsy E. Huber and I quote: "With the elderly at heightened risk, Granges may want to consider postponing or canceling meetings if they feel it advisable in their communities. In the face of such an emerging health crisis, the By-Law (6.12.1) that requires Subordinate Granges to meet monthly will not be enforced."

Let's hope this will be over in a couple of weeks so we can get back to our normal routine.

I have sent out a letter concerning alcohol at Grange functions. As Grangers are planning for the spring and summer dinners and Grange fairs, we've had some questions about wine-tasting or beer tasting at fairs and events. Whereas the Connecticut State Grange does not have an alcohol policy, we will abide by the National Grange By-Laws on their alcohol policy. Alcohol will not be served at Grange functions, including BYOB.

National Grange By-Laws:

10.11.1 All Granges are prohibited from having alcoholic beverages either in the Grange Hall or on any Grange Property during any Grange meeting, except
... continued on page 2

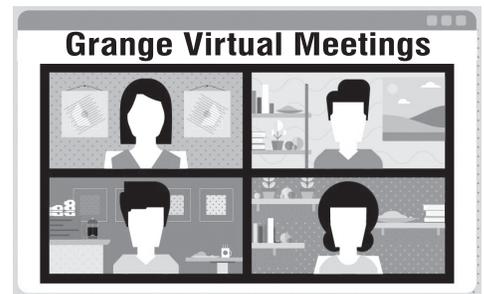
Try meeting virtually

I am writing this article while home schooling the twins. It has been challenging to say it mildly. They are frustrated and so am I. We are in the midst of a change in our routine. No one is quick to give up what is familiar. Embracing new technology and new concepts is uncomfortable. It's not impossible and when we have successes we realize in many ways things are easier or more simple than we thought. The teachers are learning also so we are all trying to be patient with each other.

While learning a new way to educate our children we, of

course, are feeling bombarded with science and stressful news from around the globe. This "New World" arrived quickly and without permission. It seems as though the entire world is negotiating how to keep moving forward with so much uncertainty. New approaches are being developed to help us around all of the road blocks.

At this time I am particularly pressed because of my new role that I am quite passionate about as Membership Director. My platform was based on attending Grange meetings and facilitating events to attract new



members. In light of meeting and event cancellations my original plan needs a big detour. Some out of the box thinking and some uncomfortable stretches to make the Grange relevant as it
... continued on page 2

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

NEXT ISSUE ...
Articles Due Apr. 15

A Time of Uncertainty

Continued from page one...

as provided in Sections 10.11.3. Granges meeting in buildings or on property not owned by the Grange may not allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages during any Grange meeting.

10.11.3 All Granges may have sealed containers of alcoholic beverages at Grange meetings and activities for use as demonstration aids, gifts, or fundraisers. Such containers shall remain sealed at

such Grange meeting or activity.

Your Connecticut State Grange does not have a policy on alcoholic beverages. We will abide by the National Grange By-Laws stated above.

The Connecticut State Grange Board of Directors has decided to hire a paid, full-time Membership Director. As there has been a decline in membership over the last two

years, we thought it was time to hire a full-time Director. Faith Quinlan, our current Membership Director, will fill this position. Being a full-time person, she will have more time to work with Granges, set-up workshops and form new Granges in our State. Faith will be starting this position on March 15. I am looking forward to working with Faith in her new position.

I'd like to end this article by wishing all our members to be safe and stay well.

Virtual Meetings

Continued from page one...

has always been when the U.S. is in crisis.

The bad news first, we are postponing the Carmen Brickner event in April. A new date will be announced once one is set. If you would like a refund, please let us know. Otherwise we will hold your registration for the rescheduled date.

The good news is that there is still a lot that can be done to keep Grange life alive. We need a way to speak and see each other and the best way is through a Virtual Grange Meeting. This type of meeting is supported by the CT State Grange Board of Directors and works well for crises like this or on cold icy nights when meetings would usually get cancelled. So, in working toward Virtual Grange Meetings we need to understand the technology and how to use it. That is why I am announcing a video series to teach the steps you will need to have an online meeting and to answer questions you may have

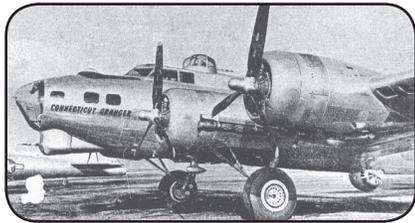
about technology, policy and procedure.

By the time you read this the video series may already be posted on the Facebook page "Connecticut State Grange Membership" and on our Connecticut State Grange YouTube channel. At the least this is a resource to continue meeting during these times of social distancing/ quarantine and at best this opens a whole new door of possibility to communicate with your committees and the community. Virtual Events and Summits have been successful for a long time. Our focus is much smaller but the possibilities are endless.

Let us connect and keep doing Grange work.

With Terri Fassio's help the information will be distributed to as many people as possible through various sources. Please do your best to stay safe and let's work together to keep Connecticut State Grange moving and thriving.

the Connecticut Granger
Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

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Marge Sendewicz

On March 15, 2020 Sister Marge Sendewicz passed away at the age of 79. Marge was a Past Voting Delegate to the National Grange, a 41 year member of Redding Grange No. 15, Nutmeg Pomona No. 16 and the Connecticut State Grange. Marge served in many capacities during her Grange career including a member of various State Committees, Co-Community Service Director and Junior Deputy.

Marge loved the Grange and her Grange family, always willing to pitch in whenever something needed to be done.

She was born on March 26, 1941 to William and Sophie (Novicky) Andros of Danbury. Shortly after her birth, her mother passed away and in November 1948 she was adopted by Frank and Dorothy Salerno.

Margaret graduated from Danbury High School in 1960 and worked as a medical secretary in the office of Dr. Dean Edson.

On June 29, 1963 she married Robert J. Sendewicz. After giving birth to three sons she worked as a waitress at the Ridgewood Country Club, the Holiday Inn and other restaurants in the area. In addition to the Grange, she belonged to the Ladies Auxiliary of the Polish American Citizens Club and served several years as President.

She enjoyed bowling and crocheting and made several afghans for friends and family. Margaret enjoyed life with friends and being a part of three large families.

Margaret is survived by her loving husband Robert of fifty-seven years. Her sons Kevin of New Fairfield, Brian of Danbury and Erica and his wife Amy of Spring Hill, TN and grandson Connor Sendewicz of Danbury. She is also survived by her brother Walter Andros of Danbury and several brothers and sisters in law and numerous nephews and nieces.

Funeral services and burial will be held at the convenience of the family. There are no calling hours. To place online condolences or light a memorial candle, please visit www.cornellmemorial.com





SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane & Paul Miller

Apr. 15: Showers Bring Flowers, 6 P.M. Program

We have been very busy so far this year planning and preparing and it has been worth all the hard work. We are ready to start hosting new programs and events. We held an open house in February with 29 attending. Many had no idea or misconceptions about the Grange organization. There were sign-ups for Juniors to join a cooking club and a craft club as well as become a member through the +1 Program. We held a Soup Supper also in Feb. We have parties and dinners booked for the spring. Breakfast with the Easter Bunny was scheduled for April. Coffee Hours both during the morning and afternoon are attracting future members. These offer beverages, snacks, games, cards, puzzles and great conversations. We had a WW2 Army WAC Scrapbook of time in Europe on display. A big Thank You for the support of our terrific members for the extra financial donations with this year's dues. WiFi is also coming to the Grange Hall. We also have a Book Swap shelf. Something for everyone. Come join us. Meeting are 6 P.M. on the third Wednesday and social time from 2-4:30 P.M. on that day. First Friday will be the morning coffee hour 8-11 A.M. Hope to see many there.

EKONK COMMUNITY GRANGE #89

Corr: Jaimie Cameron

As we make our way into 2020, we have a full schedule ahead of us for this Grange year. We held a new

event this year, an Indoor Flea Market with all profits going to help with food for the Sterling families in need. We will be holding another Flea Market again this year at our Grange Supper on March 14th. Even with the virus going around we took all precautions that are needed and encouraged Patrons to still come to the supper or to do take-outs.

April 10th we will be having our annual Good Friday Chowder n' Clamcakes Supper. White and Clear Clam Chowder available as well as Corn Chowder. Meal starts at 5 PM. On April 26th at 1 P.M. we will be having our annual Awards Luncheon with Arlene G. Boucher being recognized for 80 years Grange membership along with other members receiving awards for 25 or more years of membership. We will be presenting Community Citizen of the Year as well as Granger of the Year. Well done good and faithful servants. Throughout the winter we have had some of our members under the weather and others having surgeries. Wishing all the best to all our members. Check out Facebook for any and all updates on meetings and events.

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

Apr. 25: Bluegrass

Killingly Grange #112 held its January meeting with a quorum of members. The hall was set-up for a regular meeting, however due to misinformation or none, our Master and Secretary did not arrive. I could have held the meeting as I was present. Hind sight.

Discussion about the upcoming bluegrass functions was held. A supper of meatloaf was held on Feb. 22. The events are to be held on the fourth Saturday of March and April, perhaps longer. Check the newspaper, bulletin and WINY radio for further information.

This correspondent has been on the sick list a few times lately as she doesn't go out too much during the frigid weather. Our Chaplain has also been ill and was hospitalized for a time. Anne Duval may be home now

or recuperating elsewhere. Just hope you're getting better Anne.

Mikel Fiske, a 50 year member of Killingly who lives in Texas has missed the Grange news about Killingly Grange #112 and called to see what happened. Sorry Mike, I'll try to do better hereafter.

Gert Blain and I each received a Christmas card from a former Brooklyn Granger, Lindall Berry. He always signs his name The Lone Granger, as there are no Granges in South Carolina. (*Editor: There are Granges in S. Carolina, just not where this member lives*). I'm not sure if there is anyone from Brooklyn Grange who corresponds with him. At this writing I have no further news or activities going on at Killingly Grange.

By the way- the daffodils are just peeking up in a corner of my yard. It's warmer out there so let's get the best of the sunshine.

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Apr. 10: "The Stars in the Sky"

Apr. 24: "Community Citizen Program"

February was a quiet month. We plan only one meeting with a snow date. Luckily there was no snow; but who knew? Our Charter was draped in loving memory of Mary Eppler, a Golden Sheaf member. We had a guest from the TVCCA who told us about their programs for seniors and the disabled. Then we learned a lot about love and took some quizzes on love and lovers. Lecturer Sue Pianka asks anyone who would like to participate in the Talent or A-Number contests to come and perform at our first meeting in April.

We will be honoring long-time members with seals and certificates at our April 24th meeting as well as recognizing our Community Citizen. Hope to see a large crowd there.

Unfortunately we have several members who are on the sick list. We wish them well and a speedy recovery! And if my daffodils don't get buried under a surprise blizzard, next time I'll tell you all about marvelous March.



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

May 2: Fifth Degree Conferral, Winchester Grange, 4 P.M.

We are hoping by the time May 2 the terrible days of Coronavirus will be behind us. We know there are candidates in waiting for the degree and we hope to be able to confer it for them. Our Worthy Secretary does an excellent job updating all of us on news and upcoming activities of Mountain Laurel Pomona via email. If you are not currently receiving

her emails, why not send her a message asking to be on her list: cjswanson59@gmail.com.

Until next time, take care.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Apr. 14: 1st & 2nd Degrees, Ref. Ted & Linda Benedict

Apr. 28: 3rd & 4th Degrees, Harvest Potluck (6:00 PM)

May 12: Music Night, Ref. All Members

May 26: Mother (Country Store)

Well... we have to start by saying the calendar above depends on many things waaaaay out of our control! I'm hoping when we are finally given the green light to resume some of the social aspects of our lives Grange activity will boom across the state!

We met for our first meeting of March with a program on St. Pats Day. The second meeting of the month was canceled due to the social distancing requirements caused by the Coronavirus.

Due to the generosity of our

members, a large number of the new folding chairs were purchased for the hall. Unfortunately, the wrong chairs were shipped and they all had to be sent back! This happened just before the Corona "lock down" in March. Hopefully the new chairs will be on their way to us soon. Even with the large number ordered, there is still a very good number of chairs that still need replacement. Donations of any size will be gratefully accepted towards this project. The chairs we are replacing are the ones originally purchased for the hall when it was rebuilt following the fire of 1952. They have served us well and are slowly (or maybe not so slowly) giving up on us.

Discussions remained unresolved regarding the merger of Eureka Grange with Winchester Grange. All members of Winchester agree that Eureka members are absolutely welcome to join us. However, they own a hall that would become the responsibility of Winchester Grange to maintain should it not sell right away. This kind of financial drain on Winchester's finances would not bode well for us. When we are able to meet again, discussions between Winchester, Eureka and the State Grange Executive Committee will resume and I'm sure we will come to an agreement on how to move forward.

Until next time give a fellow member a call or send an email to check in with them. Social distancing doesn't mean we can't keep in touch! Stay well everyone.

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Taghhannuck Grange hosted Mountain Laurel Pomona on March 7. We would like to thank all the members who donated to the refreshments and thank you also for your compliments on our hall.

At our regular meeting on March 12th we began a new community service project. We donated \$200

Symptom Comparison

Symptoms	Cold	Influenza (Flu)	Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Cough	Rare	Often	Often
Fever	Rare	Often	Often
Fatigue	Sometimes	Often	Often
Shortness of Breath	Rare	Rare	Often
Stuffy Nose	Often	Sometimes	Rare
Sneezing	Often	Rare	Rare
Sore Throat	Often	Sometimes	Sometimes
Headache	Rare	Often	Sometimes
Body Aches	Often	Often	Sometimes
Diarrhea/GI	Rare	Sometimes	Sometimes

*Symptoms may range from mild to severe depending on individual health and/or pre-existing conditions. Consult your physician with questions.

Mountain Laurel Pomona #15

Continued from previous page...
to the Feed Your Mind Program (a group snack program) for the Sharon Center School pre-K and Kindergarten students. The program helps kids taste new foods and learn healthier eating habits along with

learning some cooking skills. This is a great program and would be wonderful if your local schools could do the same thing.

I am sorry to report that we lost a 75 year member. Francis Gomez was originally from Cornwall

Grange and joined our Grange when Cornwall closed.

It does not look like we will have a meeting in April due to the Coronavirus and I hope that by May things will be better. Stay healthy and take care of yourselves.



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Scheduling our meetings has not been easy. Our December meeting was postponed until January because of the weather. This meeting was canceled due to weather problems. We were prepared for our March 22nd meeting which was degrees and inspection. Rehearsal was held on schedule. Now because of the Coronavirus situation, this meeting has also been postponed. Too early to set a date. Good luck Donnie!

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

May 6: Ballroom Dancing

May 20: CWA Night – Open Meeting

Plans for our August fair are underway and our Monday night craft nights are continuing. We had a fundraising dinner on March 28 and a second one scheduled for April 18th. We are looking forward to our annual Ballroom Dancing program above as well as our CWA night and Tea Cup Auction which will fill our hall. At this writing it appears we are enjoying a winter-less winter of some sort. All of us are looking forward to the Spring season.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our April schedule is: April 10th the program is “Peter Cotton Tail” in the charge of Joanne Cipriano. Joann Muscillo and Pat Fischer will be in charge of refreshments. April 18th is “Open Mic” Ron Fischer is in charge. Time 2 to 5. April 15th is clean-up day- we meet at 1 o'clock. We could always use more help.

As I have been reporting, our hall needs new windows in the lower hall and a new roof. We have replaced 5 windows with funds from our treasury and have received donations of 5 more thanks to Kim Tompkins and the Brush Family, Lee and Frank Behlman, Pat Bisson and Rachael and Michael Bisson.

We met last night and have received additional donations from William and Ellen Brush, Barbara Kirk, Joan Reed, Terri Tully and Lois Anderson. We are most appreciative.

As I have also been bragging about our excellent attendance, the Coronavirus didn't help our attendance at our meeting last night. Stay well members. Hope to see you all soon.

We will have a bake sale at WalMart on Saturday, May 2. All donations of bakery items will be appreciated.

HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: Richard A. Prescott

The March meeting of Higganum Grange opened in regular form with a quorum plus, on March 6. The Building Committee reported that all taxes have been paid and required building maintenance completed. The Treasurer reported that we have \$400 plus, in the checking

account, the 990N filing has been received from the State Grange and organization taxes have been paid. Helen Luk, our Lecturer, has written two rough drafts for the Land Trust regarding the blocking of the sales in Connecticut of invasive worms and a second draft report regarding the updating of Connecticut's recycling program. Helen and Edith Ross will participate in the Higganum Musket Celebration by participating in that day's triathlon. We are planning on having a Grange information table for this celebration.

The evening's program was presented by Lindamae Peck. She presented a report regarding her great grandfather, Myron Skinner, who was Higganum Grange's first Master. She shared photos and newspaper articles from 1945 when he celebrated his 90th birthday, and his obituary when he was 96, in 1952. After the meeting's adjournment, Helen and Albie's homemade cookies were shared by all.

All are welcome to join us at any of our meetings at 7:00 P.M. on the first Friday of the month.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

May 7: Birds, bees and flowers

May 9: Breakfast- plant and food sale, 8-1

June 4: A Rose is a Rose, Happy Spring!

Our Master, Assistant Steward, and Secretary were sick and could not attend our March meeting. However, it was a very productive evening.

Dan Mutchler is heading up our breakfast, slated to be held along

Continued next page

Nutmeg #16

State Grange Open for Business

Continued from previous page...
with our annual plant and food sale on May 9 from 8-1. He has his act together and hopefully we will have a successful fundraiser. We need all hands on deck for donations of plants and food. Also help in the kitchen. As usual, any fundraiser events need everyone to participate. Our own Norman Stitham is taking care of our advertising.

Just hope the man upstairs sends us a nice day.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Apr. 10: Omitted for Good Friday

Apr. 24: CWA

May 8: Election of Officers

May 22: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Robert Buck

Apr. 1: Business Meeting, 7:30 P.M.

Apr. 15: Social Meeting, 7:30 P.M.

Apr. 18: 6th Annual Chili Cook Off, 6-9 P.M.

Apr. 24: GOMAD Potluck and Music Program, 7-11 P.M.

With the impending departure of Master Raye Hodgson and husband Randolph Brown, it appears that Oxford Grange is about to be reborn with an influx of four new members and a rearrangement of officers. We held a special election on February 19th to fill positions essentially vacant or vacated, and have filled most of the 16 elected positions, and all the essential offices. We are in a better place than we have been in quite a while. We still have an uphill climb as many people are new to Grange and need to be taught the proper way to conduct meetings. We have members who are enthusiastic, and have new ideas to bring to the group. The next event is our 6th annual chili cook-off on Saturday, April 18th at 6:00 P.M. Buy tickets for \$8.00 and come eat!



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary
Winchester Grange #74
Secretary@ctstategrange.org

On March 17, the State Master announced that all Granges should cease all meetings and activities through at least April 1 with a reassessment after that date. No one really knows when it will be safe to resume meeting in groups and doing the many things we do outside of the home on a daily basis. We are all hoping it will be sooner than later.

In the meantime, I would strongly encourage you to reach out to members of your Grange and see how they are doing, especially if they live alone. Isolation is so much more difficult when you go it alone. Give them a phone call, use FaceTime or send them a daily email. It will make both of you feel better!

Our Granges may not be able to meet in-person but there are resources available to us. Freeconferencecall.com and Zoom offer excellent platforms for holding online meetings. The National Master has temporarily relaxed the National Digest clause (6.12.1) requiring Granges to meet at least once a month. Try holding a virtual meeting or at the very least invite members of your Grange to an online gathering to chat and reconnect. Let me know if you need any assistance in getting an online meeting organized.

The work of the State Grange continues (with limitations, of course). I am in the State Grange Office on a regular basis and get a great deal of work done there and in my home office. Please feel free to contact me if you need anything. I am able to fulfill your orders for Membership Recognition certificates and seals, so please send them along. If you need Golden Sheafs or letters and certificates for 75 years and beyond, please understand

that National Grange has reduced staffing at the headquarters to minimize the health risk for staffers so orders may take a bit longer to arrive. I would expect there to be an additional amount of lag time once we are able to resume more regular routines.

I sent a letter to all Granges in mid-March explaining the suspension of Grange activities through April 1 and also discussed the payment of quarterly reports. I have extended the deadline for the March 30 quarterly report to May 31. This means no late fee will be assessed if your quarterly report is received on or before May 31, 2020. Of course, if you are able to send your report in on time, please do so. We still have to compile our report to National Grange and having reports in as early as possible helps greatly.

Several weeks ago, a mailing was sent to all Granges that included the 990N E-Postcard filing receipts, Legislative Policy Guides, Journals of Proceedings and any billing due to the State Grange. I thank all of the Granges who have responded with payment of past invoices and quarterly reports. When sending in those quarterly reports, please remember to settle these invoices as well.

Until next time, please take care of yourselves and check in with your Grange family as well!

Please Note:

We have included all calendar items submitted by Granges for this issue. Please keep in mind that virus related restrictions may cause cancelations or postponements. Hopefully we will be resuming some semblance of our normal routine before long. Even then, you might want to reach out and find out definitely that an activity is in fact taking place.



Adjust your Grange strategy

Terri Fassio,
Public Relations, Co-Director

Ways to adjust your Grange strategy during the Coronavirus situation

The Coronavirus, formally known as COVID-19 according to the World Health Organization (WHO), has disrupted not only our personal lives, but also all Grange meetings and activities. Here's a few suggestions to keep your Grange active (and in the public eye) during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Plan future events and activities. Now is a great time to begin the leg-work for your Fair or Festival, start soliciting vendors for a Summer Flea Market or Fall Craft Fair, and brainstorm other events and activities for the end of the year. Just be sure to pick a date for upcoming events and activities that is far enough out, so that you don't have to keep adjusting the date if the COVID-19 situation lasts longer than the next month or so.

- Update your Grange Facebook page. Keeping you Grange Facebook page updated frequently will help it show in your readers timelines, and keep it in everyone's sights. But what do you post about if your Grange is not gathering? You can profile a member, reminisce about historic past events (and post old photos!), discuss community service ideas and projects, and even start promoting future events. Don't have a Facebook page for your Grange? Why not start one! Contact the Public Relations Committee so that we can help you get it set-up correctly and according to Facebook standards.

- Contact all of your members, especially those who are not active

members, via USPS newsletter or card, email or phone call. As many members are over the age of 60, I'm sure they would appreciate the effort and communication - and don't forget to ask if they need anything, especially if they are unable to get to the grocery store or pharmacy.

- Begin a community service project. It could be as simple as collecting food for the soup kitchen or blankets for the local animal shelter.
- Start an indoor garden.

Ag Notes

Irene Percoski, State Ag. Committee

I recently attended the Northern Agriculture Summit. The seminars that were provided were extremely varied from growing hemp, climate change and impact on agriculture, meat regulations, and hydroponics and several more. I attended four of the seminars, farming resiliency, improving your soil's health, climate change and impacts and adaptation, raising backyard poultry and hydroponics.

Farming resiliency is now advocating no-till farming. Each time a field is plowed the soil loses nutrients, especially carbon into the air. The key is using organic matter; this increases productivity and reduces the need for fertilizers. Intensive tilling causes more erosion causing the surface to become compacted which then begs for more tilling a vicious cycle producing a reduced crop yield which results in hunger and malnutrition in the soil, and eventually in humans. Adding winter crops such as rye or winter wheat maximizes the soil cover and minimizes disturbance. All of this can be utilized in your own back

yard. Leave your grass clippings, to feed the ground, cover your garden with organic matter over the winter, disturb the soil as little as possible and plant perennials wherever you can.

- Choose a popular best seller and start a virtual Grange book club, where readers can discuss the book using conferencing software on the computer, such as Skype, ZohoMeeting, Zoom or GoToMeeting.

Your Grange is a hub of the community. Get creative to keep it relevant during these difficult times.

If you or your Grange has questions or needs assistance, please contact the Public Relations Committee. We're here to help! E-mail: publicrelations@ctstategrange.org or information@ctstategrange.org.

yard. Leave your grass clippings, to feed the ground, cover your garden with organic matter over the winter, disturb the soil as little as possible and plant perennials wherever you can.



Irene Percoski & U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney.



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer
Cheshire Grange #23
Lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Greetings! Hopefully by the time you read this the worst of this new virus situations will be behind us. But if it is still with us, why not sit and write a few letters to our service men and women serving in harms' way. From the replies I have received from Afghanistan and Iraq I can guarantee that they really appreciate hearing from folks back in the States. Tell them how much you appreciate them. Tell about your hometown or if a family member has been in the service, mention that. You can get addresses at anysoldier.com, by contacting your local VFW or other veterans' organization or just get them to me and I will see that they get to a Chaplain who will see that they get to someone who doesn't get mail from home.

I know many of you have had to cancel your meetings. If so, please let me know. Otherwise it looks like you didn't send in a report. My goal is to have as many Granges as possible be recognized at State Session.

Looking ahead, Let's Celebrate weekend will be held this year on June 13th and 14th at Cheshire Grange Hall, 44 Wallingford Road, Cheshire. The Photo Contest will be judged on Saturday. Photos can be sent to me ahead of time or brought to the Grange Hall on Saturday between 9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

Remember the winning entry goes on to National for judging. The Talent and "A Number" contests will be judged on Sunday as part of Grange Sunday. The hall will be open at 10:00 A.M. so everyone can view the Photo and CWA contests in



the lower hall. Our State Chaplain's service will begin at 11:00 A.M. followed by a luncheon in the lower hall. We will start our contests at 1:00 P.M. sharp. If you need more information on any of these contests please let me know. It's time to start planning to attend these events. Mark your calendar now. That's June 13th & 14th.

I continue to see some excellent programs as I travel around the

State. We have a lot of excellent Lecturers in Connecticut and to you I say thank you. You will play a big part in making our organization grow.

Please, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. I am more than willing to help you in any way I can.

Please stay safe and healthy

A must-have baseball card for Grangers



Theda Marshall, who played first base for the South Bend Blue Sox in the All American Girls Baseball League during the 1940s, was an active Junior Granger, having played coronet in the Garden Home Grange #407 (CO) Junior Orchestra as a child.

Many thanks to Mifflin Grange #1725 (PA) for the original photo and information



Little legislative work getting done in Hartford



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

The Connecticut legislative process has almost come to a complete halt. The Governor closed down the Legislative Office Building and the Capitol to all outside and non-legislative activities. All hearings and committee meetings are on hold as of this writing. The popular Ag Day at the Capitol (sponsored by the Dept. of Agriculture) was canceled. The State Grange Agricultural Committee usually has a booth supported by the Legislative Committee.

Before the shutdown due to the virus, the Grange was supporting two bills. We submitted a letter of support for Senate Bill 26 – An Act Exempting from the Personal Income Tax Proceeds from the Sale of Agricultural Land Development Rights to the State. The feeling is that this bill will encourage more landowners and farmers to protect their farms and farmland. We were ready to support House Bill 5345- An Act Concerning State Review of Farmland Preservation Transactions. This bill would decrease the amount of time it takes to process the paperwork to protect our state’s most valuable farmland from development. The committee hearing was cancelled before we could send in testimony.

Even though the Legislative building is closed to the public, some legislative activities are still going on. The Legislative leaders are still actively working on the budget adjustments. The Governor and different commissioners have requested some minor budget adjustments and changes and these

were being addressed in the budget draft. Lawmakers are also pursuing an expedited process to adopt the 2020 budget as much as a month early. Traditionally the budget is not voted on until the last days of the session or sometime in a special session.

We should be grateful that in 1991 the legislature voted to return to a two-year revenue and savings plan. The present biennial budget was approved in the 2019 session so

the state has a working budget right now. Because of that, the budget is basically balanced so residents and municipalities have a basis to work with.

As far as other bills that have been proposed this year, it is unknown if any will be able to be moved along. With public gatherings being limited, public hearings cannot be held, which is a necessary part of the bill process.

Say safe and well everyone.



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange friends!

It’s an interesting and uncertain time these days with the COVID-19 virus affecting gatherings and activities, and having an impact on Grange meetings and events. We did attend the National Grange Master’s Conference in Baltimore mid-February where I got to sample the goodie basket before the shutdowns began.

During our stay at home, we’ve been catching up on family time, which has been relaxing and fun.

Keep an eye out as we will hopefully be visiting again as soon as we can.

Want to keep up with the latest news? Just follow the link to my Facebook page, and then click the “Like” button once you are on the page to see our updates in your FB timeline. http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro/en_us/recipes/easy-easter-pie.html



Leaders' Conference Postponed

Todd A. Gelineau, State Secretary

The New York State Grange was scheduled to host the 2020 Northeast Leaders' Conference in Albany, NY in late March. Unfortunately, they were forced to postpone the conference due to Coronavirus concerns. They have reached an agreement with the Hilton Hotel to hold the conference June 5-7, again in Albany, NY. All room registrations for the original conference were canceled by the Hilton and the registrations made by the CT State Grange will remain in place for the rescheduled event in June. For those who planned to attend, please let me know if you have any conflict with the new dates. Otherwise we will plan to have your rooms and registrations in place as they were for the original date.

Thank You

Thank you for all the prayers and well-wishes that were sent my way with the many cards, notes and messages while I undergo a very challenging time with my health. My goal is to hopefully be well enough to be able to travel again so that I can attend State Session in 2021! Your thoughtfulness is appreciated. ~ Terri Fassio

"Building Our Brand by Engaging Our Communities"



**Saturday, April 18, 2020
POSTPONED - T.B.D.**



Easter Pie



Easter calls for fun desserts, and this recipe from Hershey's Kitchen for Easter Pie is as easy as it gets!

INGREDIENTS:

- 50 HERSHEY'S KISSES Brand Milk Chocolates, unwrapped
- 20 REESE'S Peanut Butter Cups Miniatures, unwrapped
- 1 large tub frozen non-dairy whipped topping (12 oz.), thawed
- 1 packaged graham cracker crumb crust (6 oz.)
- REESE'S Peanut Butter Cups Miniatures or HERSHEY'S KISSES Brand Milk Chocolates (optional)
- Additional HERSHEY'S Candy-Coated Milk Chocolate Eggs (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS:

Chop each peanut butter cup into 6 pieces; set aside. Microwave 50 chocolates in medium microwave-safe bowl on MEDIUM (50%) 1 minute or just until chocolate is melted when stirred; stir in 3-1/2 cups whipped topping until blended. Spread half of chocolate mixture into crust; sprinkle with peanut butter cup pieces. Top with remaining chocolate mixture. Refrigerate 3 hours or until set. Spread with remaining whipped topping just before serving. Garnish each serving with additional candies, if desired. Makes 8 servings.

SOURCE: https://www.hersheys.com/kitchens/en_us/recipes/easy-easter-pie.html

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.

This Month



We heard from Nancy Strong of Vernon Grange regarding the March Window to the Past photo --

“This months picture was take at Vernon Grange #51 100th Anniversary that was celebrated with Tolland Grange #52 on 11/2/86. This is a picture of all Vernon’s Past Masters: Standing L-R - Gordon Gibson, Ernest Graham, Doris Callahan, Everett Gardner, Earl Purington, Norman Strong, Kenneth Hill. Front row: Herbert Niederwerfer, Pearl Gibson, Francis Lyman, Nancy Strong”

We heard from Alma Graham, who was able to identify one of the photos in the Scrapbook on the CT State Grange website —

“The photo is of the Youth Coronation. In the back from the left is Ed and Lorraine Duhamel, I am next to them (with the long hair) Sitting in front on the left is Beverly and Earl Peck as Young Couple. I think that John Halback is behind me on the right but I can’t get be sure. I also think that Gail Prelli is next to me.”

SUNDAY, JULY 31, 1960

Connecticut Grange Will Mark 75 Years of Service to State



OLDEST GRANGE HALL: The oldest Connecticut Grange Hall still in use as such is that of Coventry Grange, above. The Grange was founded in 1888, with 24 charter members. The hall, built in 1890, has been used continually by the Grange since then. According to Mrs. Sherman K. Ives of Morris, State Grange historian, other serious contenders for the title of Grange with oldest hall are Plymouth Grange, Mad River Grange of Waterbury and Hillstown Grange of East Hartford (Courant Photo by Maurice P. Murray).

The Connecticut State Grange, an important force in rural life in Connecticut for many years, will celebrate its 75th anniversary next weekend.

Grangers from all over the state will gather at the University of Connecticut for the celebration Friday and Saturday.

Highlights of the celebration will be a talk by Herschel D. Newsom, Master of the National Grange Friday night; and a historical pageant, depicting State Grange progress in the past three-quarters of a century, Saturday night.

The celebration will start at 4 p.m. Friday, with exhibits prepared by each subordinate (local) and Pomona (district) Grange in the

state, to be displayed in the UConn College of Agriculture Auditorium.

A dinner is scheduled at 6 p.m. in the ROTC hangar on campus followed by Newsom's speech. Other dignitaries expected for this occasion are E. Carroll Bean of Winterport, Maine, National Grange High Priest of Demeter in charge of ritualistic work for the Grange; Lt. Governor John N. Dempsey; and Joseph N. Gill, State Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources.

On Saturday, the exhibits will be on display from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. A reunion for past state officers and deputies will be from 2 to 5 p.m. The pageant in the University Auditorium, will be at 8 p.m. Saturday.

About 600 Grangers are expected to participate in the pageant. Scenes will be staged by each of the 13 Pomona Granges in the state.

The Connecticut State Grange dates its anniversary from its second organization, 1885. The State Grange has been in continuous operation since that year.

First Grange

The first State Grange, made up of 20 subordinate Granges, was organized in Danbury in 1875. It died in 1878, following the death of 19 of the 20 subordinates.

Hope Grange of West Torrington, the only survivor, continued to pay dues to the National Grange. Hope Grange still exists and is recognized as the oldest continuous Grange in Connecticut.

Sherman Kimberly, a West Torrington farmer and member of Hope Grange, is considered the father of the present Connecticut State Grange.

Kimberly, who had served as master during part of the life of the first State Grange, was appointed

National Grange Deputy without pay in 1884, charged with organizing Granges in Connecticut. His travels and lecturing throughout Connecticut were successful, and 14 subordinate Granges, including Hope, made up the second Connecticut State Grange, organized in South Glastonbury in June 1885.

Kimberly was the grandfather of Sherman Kimberly Ives of Morris, a leader for many years in the State and National Grange and Master of the Connecticut State Grange in 1940-43. Ives and his wife, who is State Grange historian, are now National Grange deputies for Florida and have organized several Granges in that state.

Through the years, the Connecticut State Grange has been the leader in a number of projects of benefit to Connecticut farmers and rural residents.

The State Grange was instrumental in getting legislation under which Storrs Agricultural School, now the University of Connecticut, became a public institution. It resisted efforts to liquidate the school or place it under other state agencies.

Grange members contributed money for the construction of Grange Hall, a dormitory for agricultural students at UConn, completed in 1950.

The State Grange was active on behalf of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven.

In 1930 the State Grange launched one of its most valuable projects, the campaign to "Get Connecticut Out of the Mud." The campaign got its start when the late Louis G. Tolles of Southington, then State Master, became appalled at the horrible condition of rural roads in his town

Continued next page...

Continued from previous page... and elsewhere in the state.

Tolles rallied Connecticut Grangers behind his effort, and became the first and only president of the Connecticut Rural Roads Improvement Assn. He and other officers stumped the state at their own expense, pleading the cause of better rural roads.

Their efforts were rewarded when the General Assembly passed the Town Aid Bill, making substantial payments to towns for better roads.

Grangers rallied to support the war effort in World War II. As result of their bond-selling efforts, a Flying Fortress bomber was named "Connecticut Granger."

Among the highlights in State Grange history were two National Grange conventions held in Hartford. The first was the 41st annual National Grange session in November, 1907. A class of 2,490 Grangers took the Seventh Degree,

the highest Grange degree, at that session.

The second was the 68th annual session, in November, 1934. The city was jammed as an estimated 20,000 Grangers converged upon Hartford.

A record-breaking class of 12,679 took the seventh degree in five continuous sessions in Bushnell Hall. Grange displays in the State Armory attracted an estimated 100,000 visitors.

The 50th anniversary of the Connecticut State Grange was celebrated in Glastonbury, in June 1935. Every Pomona Grange and nearly all Subordinate Granges were represented, with 500 to 600 Grangers attending. Highlight of the one-day anniversary session was a 20-scene historical pageant.

Connecticut now has a Grange membership of about 30,000. The state has 157 Subordiante and 13 Pomona Granges; and 36 Juvenile Granges for children under 14.



STATE GRANGE SECRETARY: Ellsworth L. Covell, secretary of the Connecticut State Grange, is shown at his desk at State Grange headquarters in Glastonbury. Covell handles a variety of operations of the 30,000-member State Grange (Courant Photo by Herman F. Marshall).



Nancy Mascio recently ended her run as Master of Bridgewater Grange. She was honored with a plaque recognizing her service.



Shawn and Tamra Weeks received the obligation as new members of Riverton Grange #169. Riverton Member and National Overseer Phil Prelli conducted the ceremony.

Temporary Limited Staffing at HQ

Until further notice, as a way to ensure the health and safety of our staff, the National Grange will have only one staff member per day in the office and staff will rotate shifts. Staff will be working from home, checking email and phone messages at this time as scheduled. You may see a delay in sales items or membership recognition materials. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience.



Remembering Doris Shaw

By Lin Erickson

The February 27 edition of the *Hartford Courant* tells us that another special lady of the Grange has entered the great Grange above. Doris Shaw died on February 25, 2020.

Through the years, Doris and her husband, Don, were very active in Tunxis Grange No. 13 in Bloomfield in Farmington Valley Pomona and the Connecticut State Grange. They attended National Grange every year when they were able to. They served the Grange as deputies and with her meticulous capabilities as a seamstress, she was always asked to serve on committees and to judge needlework contests. Doris made many of her own clothes and the Shaw's outfits were always matched.

Doris was known for her hair bows and rings on each of her fingers. Don and Doris worked tirelessly at the Connecticut Agricultural Fair, setting up displays and guarding the handicraft and sewing entries and answering questions.

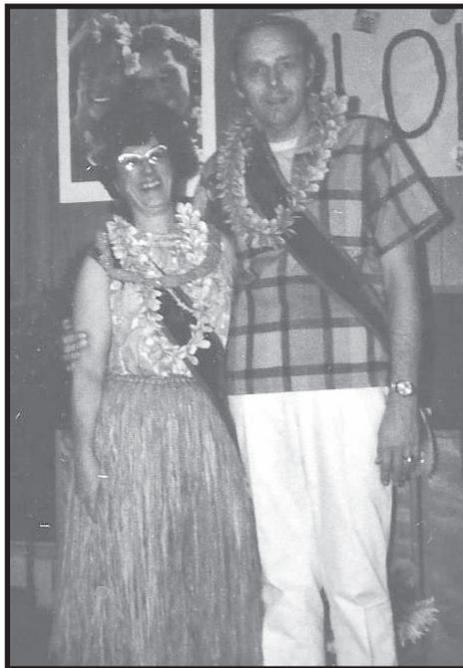
Doris made several gowns for the ladies in the Rose Drill.

Both Don and Doris served in many offices in Tunxis Grange and also in Pomona. Doris was the first lady Master of Farmington Valley Pomona.

The Shaws were generous with their time and finances. They gifted Tunxis and Pomona with full sets of officers' sashes. Because of illness, Doris was not able to attend Grange in the last few years.

Those who knew Doris will never forget her. She will be missed.

Editor: One of my most vivid memories of Doris was my first inspection of Farmington Valley Pomona as Pomona Deputy West. Doris was the Master and she took inspections VERY seriously. Doris had already served as a Deputy and was well-versed in the process and knew what to expect. Doris was so



Doris and Don at Tunxis Grange.



Doris (State Ceres) & Master Joe Bell.



(L to R) Doris Shaw, Joan Ziegler, Betty Jane Gardiner, Lois Evankow and Marge Sendewicz.

nervous her hand shook visibly as she rapped the gavel. Even though we had known each other for quite some time by this point and she had much more experience as a Deputy and as a Grange Master, the visit of the Deputy was stressful for her. She had nothing to worry as her conduct of the meeting and her ritual in the Degree were flawless (as always). She was always the perfect host and made sure each inspecting deputy received a fruit basket on the night of inspection. Doris is one of many special members that highlight my memories of the Grange. She will be greatly missed.

From her obituary: Doris (Therault) Shaw, 93, of Hartford, beloved wife of the late Donald A. Shaw, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at Avery Heights in Hartford. Born in Webster, MA on August 26, 1926, she was the daughter of the late Francis

and Mabel (Devio) Theriault. Doris worked as a machinist at Hamilton Standard for many years. She was a former member and Master of Tunxis Grange #13 in Bloomfield, a lecturer for Farmington Valley Pomona Grange #11, a Deputy for the Connecticut State Grange, a lifetime member of the St. Francis Hospital Women's Auxiliary, a member of the Daughters of Isabella #280, Guild of St. Agnes Home and AARP. Doris was an excellent seamstress, a collector of thimbles, toothpick holders and hat pins. Doris will forever be missed by her son, Joseph Shaw and wife Susan of Hartford. She is also survived by her nieces Patsy and Terry. In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by her brother, Francis Theriault, Jr. To share a memory of Doris with her family, please visit www.desopofuneralchapel.com.

The Empty Tomb

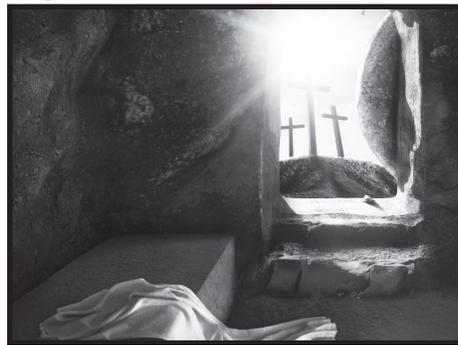


Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee.'" Matthew 28: 5-7

The overriding message of Easter for Christians everywhere is Christ has risen from the dead. And the first message to Jesus' followers that this had happened was the empty tomb. The details of finding the empty tomb vary among the four Gospels, but the essential message is the same. To his followers this was the second major reversal in their lives to occur in a three-day period. Only a week before they had been celebrating Jesus' triumphal entry



into Jerusalem, the festival we now call Palm Sunday. This was followed just a few days later by Jesus' arrest on Thursday evening and crucifixion on Friday morning, bringing them to a new spiritual low; and now on Sunday morning came the news that the tomb was empty, and Christ had risen from the dead.

Many did not know what to believe; was this *really* true? Was the empty tomb really proof that Jesus had been resurrected? Or were they being set up for another disappointment. Did they *Dare* to believe? Then the reports started

coming in of Jesus appearing to various of his followers. According to Matthew's Gospel, an angel appears to Mary Magdalene "and the other Mary" when they find the empty tomb, and announces Jesus' resurrection. Hurrying from the tomb to tell the others, they suddenly encounter Jesus himself. Jesus told them "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." In Luke, Jesus appears to Cleopas and an unnamed disciple on the road to Emmaus, then to Peter, and then to the other disciples. Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, states that shortly thereafter Jesus appeared to 500 disciples at one time.

Gradually hope turned to certainty. Jesus had indeed risen from the dead. And then they remembered that Jesus himself had foretold all this, when he stated, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again."

CSG Past Deputies Assoc.

Happy anniversary to us. We will be celebrating our 50th anniversary at our meeting and party on Saturday, April 25th. Place: Cheshire Grange. Agenda 4 o'clock social hour, 5 o'clock Roast Beef Dinner and after the dishes are done a short meeting presided by Noel Miller President. Followed by the program. Meeting agenda will include election of one member of the Executive Board and the Raffle Committee will be soliciting raffle gifts. Please come prepared. Anniversary plans have been made by Joanne Cipriano and Barbara Robert but need your help. Any volunteers? We will be at the hall at 2 o'clock.

We could use some desserts for a dessert table and door prizes.

To make planning easier, it would help if you let Joanne or Barbara know if you are planning to attend.

In Memoriam

Margaret Sendewicz
Redding #15

Phyllis P. Beard, G.S.
Cheshire #23

Doris Shaw
Glastonbury #26

"Well done, good and faithful servant."