

CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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Meet our new President



Robert Buck State President Bethlehem Grange No.121 president@ctstategrange.org

Many Grangers around Connecticut know me but some do not, so I want to introduce myself and recount my Grange journey here. I am a third generation Granger going back to my mother's family who were active in Washington Grange #11. I grew up in Hamden in the 1970s and knew well the Wetmore family including Past State President Duane Wetmore who was President when I took the sixth degree in 1991.

In 1988. Fran and Bob Whitehead of Washington invited my parents and me to join the Washington Grange. We took our subordinate degrees in Wichita Grange in Warren that spring, then the fifth degree, but waited until 1991 to take the sixth in Meriden and the seventh in Burlington, VT. I was lecturer of Washington #11 for many years until we merged with Bethlehem Grange in 2004, and remain in that office. I met my wife through a combination of work and Grange and we married in 1998 after which I affiliated with Oxford Grange #194 to which she belonged. I was Master there for some years and now serve as Secretary.

Russell Gray gave me my first pink sash on Conservation and Ecology, Phil Prelli appointed me Deputy of Excelsior Pomona and I was General Deputy under Bob Sendewicz. I served in several offices in Excelsior Pomona and now am Master of Mountain Laurel Pomona #15.

I was elected Gatekeeper of the State Grange in 2010 and now serve as your President in 2022. I must thank Brother Phil as I feel he really started me on this path to where I am. I must acknowledge all the positive support I have received from Brothers Bob, Jody, and George as well. Thank you all.

I would also point out that I will continue to work full time as an optometrist in Waterbury. Hours are M/F 8:30-5:00, and T-Thurs. 8:30-6:00. If you need to contact me, please take this into consideration, as I wish to be as accessible to people as I can

As I write this, I am preparing to attend National Session in November in Sparks, NV along with Jody Cameron as delegates. It will be a new experience and I look forward to representing the Connecticut State Grange for all of you.

There is much work to be done. Good things are happening with reorganizations of Redding, Cannon, and Wallingford Granges. Harmony and Greenfield Hill Granges have taken in significant numbers of new members. It is possible to attract new members but it takes one on one contact and requires connecting with the community and its needs. Elizabeth Jensen, re-organizer and President of Redding Grange has shown us what can be done and she was appointed to the Membership Committee to be able to share her methods with us all. However, overall, membership is declining and the Connecticut State Grange ...Continued on page 2

The facts about Q Fever

by Todd A. Gelineau, Editor

On Jan. 12, 2021, Past State President Russell Gray passed from the little known infection Q Fever.

Q Fever is a disease caused by the bacteria Coxiella burnetii which naturally infects some animals such as goats, sheep and cattle. It is found in the birth products (i.e. placenta, amniotic fluid), urine, feces and milk of infected animals. Transmission is typically caused by breathing dust that has been contaminated by infected animal feces, urine, milk and birth products.

About half of people infected with Coxiella burnetii will get sick and less than 5 out of 100 will develop the more serious infection, Chronic Q Fever. If not treated correctly, Chronic Q Fever can be deadly developing within 2-3 weeks of exposure. Symptoms include high fever (up to 105°), fatigue, severe headache, general malaise, myalgia, chills or sweats, non-productive cough, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal or chest pain.

Clues to disagnosis include low ... Continued on page 2





New State President

Continued from page one... is operating at a loss.

Folks hear how much the State Grange is worth in dollars and while it may sound like a lot, we need to realize that the lion's share of these assets are tied up in funds and escrow accounts and are not liquid assets. We need to think out of the box in terms of fundraising beyond sales of items as in the past to make the money we need. For that purpose, a Fundraising Committee

Connecticut Granger



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the
15th Day of each month
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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Connecticut Granger, 100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3 Winchester Center, CT 06094 will be appointed to explore and establish new ways to raise needed funds for operation of the State Grange. There will be a modest dues increase, but keep in mind that our dues are far below that of other fraternal organizations.

I have tasked the committees of the Connecticut State Grange to start sharing themes to get some common directions among Committee projects and contests. This endeavor may take some time to coordinate, but I would love to see coordination between committees. With declining numbers of members and dropping numbers of contest entries, I see the need for simplification of the diversity in their work. I have also asked directors to re-examine their projects and contests in order to make changes and try new things to see what might boost participation. Some of our contests haven't changed for a while.

After reading the community service reports as Community Service chairman, I know the things of which our Granges are capable. We all know what must be done. Please join me as we move forward together to do it. To our Grange: Esto Perpetua!

Learning about Q Fever

Continued from page one...
platelet count, normal leukocyte
count and elevated liver enzymes.

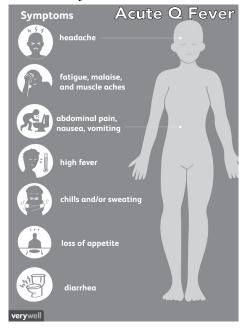
Q Fever is so rare that it is relatively unfamiliar to the medical community, often requiring diagnosis by an infectious disease specialist. Once diagnosed, the disease can be effectively treated. According to the CDC, "Most people who are sick with Q Fever will recover without antibiotic treatment. However, for people who develop Q fever disease, treatment with 2 weeks of doxycycline antibiotic is recommended."

Resolution #26 regarding Q Fever was adopted by Ekonk Community Grange and sent to the Conn. State Grange for action. The resolution passed with minor amendments and has been sent on to the National Grange for consideration.

An identical resolution was sent to the New York State Grange for their consideration and adoption.

Both resolutions call on healthcare providers to pay close attention to patient history, especially when they have lived, worked or visited rural or agricultural communities where livestock are present. Veterinarians are also a high-risk population that should be aware of Q Fever and its effects.

In the words of Russell Gray's wife Susan, "This resolution is close to the heart of the entire Gray family. Russell became a victim of Q-Fever, which, undiagnosed and mistreated for two years, wore down his ability to fight the disease down to the point where he finally succumbed to its effects... We feel education is essential not only to the medical community, but the entire agricultural community. Caught quickly, the disease can be treated, and the patient quickly recovers. If education saves only one life, it is worth every effort made."



What do the resolutions mean?



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

It seemed State Session would never get here and now another has gone into the history books... well at least the Journal of Proceedings!

Unlike any other Session, the 138th Annual Session featured a large number of resolutions that dealt with Grange law. This month's column will review those resolutions that effect rules and procedures that fall under the Secretary's office.

Quarterly Grace Period

Delegates adopted Resolution #6 which shortens the grace period for filing quarterly reports from 30 days to 14 days from the close of each quarter, regardless of the date they were mailed. For example, for the fourth quarter ending December 31, Granges will have until January 14, 2023 to file their reports without a late fee of \$25 being assessed.

As always, if there is a compelling reason why a report cannot be filed within this grace period, please contact me. Communication is key!

Associate Members

Connecticut has had a provision for Associate Members in its bylaws for quite some time. However, the delegates to the 2021 Session passed a resolution asking the State Membership Committee and the Executive Committee to review Associate Membership and recommend changes to the program. They have done so and a new Associate Membership program will be rolled out beginning with the first quarter of 2023.

Details of this program will be provided in a separate mailing to all Granges. Reporting for this program will be included in the revised Quarterly Report Form which will be distributed for use in the first quarter of 2023.

Electronic Media

Resolution #9 establishes an official policy for the use of electronic media to conduct Grange meetings. Connecticut has been operating under a general allowance made due to the COVID-19 pandemic allowing Granges to meet 100% electronically or in a hybrid format of in-person and electronic participation. Under the new policy members are permitted to attend meetings through applications like (but not limited to) Zoom. In addition, Secretaries should record these members as present in their records of the meetings. This means your count of the Grange should include all members attending inperson and electronically. resolution permits "any means of communication by which all members participating in the meeting may simultaneously hear one another during the meeting."

Pomona Dues

Resolution #8 has elminated payment of Pomona Dues to the State Grange. This resolution DOES NOT eliminate the requirement of members to pay dues to their respective Pomonas. It just means that any dues paid by members to their Pomonas will remain entirely within those Pomonas.

This resolution also DOES NOT elminate Quarterly Reports for Pomona Granges. All Pomonas are still required to file their Quarterly Reports with the State Grange as we still need to be aware of each Pomona's membership condition.

Community Grange Dues

Resolution #13 dealt with dues paid to the State Grange. Currently Granges pay \$6.25 per quarter, per member to the State Grange. Beginning with the first quarter of 2023 this amount will increase to \$7.50 per quarter, per member.

As this change does not go into effect until the quarter ending March 30, 2023, the current forms and amounts will remain in effect for the fourth quarter of 2022.

Revised forms for Pomonas and Subordinate Granges will be sent out at the end of the current quarter along with summaries of all resolutions passed and the revised by-laws of the State Grange which will reflect all changes adopted at this year's session.

Roughly 1/3 of our Granges were not represented at this year's session. This means 2/3 of the Granges made decisions for all of the Granges in the State. As you can see from just the resolutions explained here, representation by all Granges at State Session is extremely important. As is often said about state and national elections... it's difficult to complain if you don't participate in the process!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about these resolutions or any other issues regarding the Secretary's office. I'm here to serve you!

Thank you for your support!



\$810 was raised for the Connecticut State Grange Foundation through the first annual raffle at State Session. The raffle would not have been possible without the tremendous outpouring of prize donations from Granges and members. Thank you!

Resolutions adopted at Session

The following resolutions were adopted at the 138th Annual Session of the CT State Grange. The resolutions printed below were not printed in previous issues of the CT Granger. The full text of all adopted resolutions will be printed in the upcoming Journal of Proceedings. Additional copies of adopted resolutions will be sent to each Grange with the revised State By-Laws

the COVID-19 Pandemic, persevering though it all.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

Worthy Master George Russell is to be commended for his excellent report and wish him well as he and Sharon continue on to their next Grange journey and this report is to be printed in the Journal of Proceedings as a permanent record of

26) RE: MASTER'S ADDRESS

WHEREAS State Master George Russell has given his fourth and final address as Master/President of the Connecticut State Grange, and

WHEREAS his dedication and love for the Order has been clearly evident in every report including this report to the 138th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange, and

WHEREAS these past four years have been extremely challenging with the many difficulties caused by

27) RE: Q-FEVER

Brother Russell's term.

WHEREAS is a disease caused by the bacteria Coxiella Burnetii. This bacterium naturally infects some animals such as goats, sheep and cattle. C. Burnetii bacteria are found in the birth products (i.e. placenta, amniotic fluid), urine, feces and milk of infected animals, and

WHEREAS people can get infected by breathing in dust that has been contaminated by infected animal feces, urine, milk and birth products that contain Coxiella burnetii, and

WHEREAS about 5 out of 10 people infected with Coxiella Burnetii will get sick. Less than 5 out of 100 who become infected will develop a more serious infection called Chronic Q Fever. Chronic Q Fever develops months or years following the initial infection. Chronic Q Fever is very serious and can be deadly if not treated correctly, and

WHEREAS Q. Fever can cause acute or chronic illness, which usually develops within 2-3 weeks of exposure. Symptoms include: high fever (up to 105 degrees), fatigue, severe headache, general malaise, myalgia, chills or sweats, non-productive cough, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal or chest pain.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that the Connecticut State Grange encourage the Connecticut Department of Health to create and disseminate information that would inform the medical providers and the at large community with signs, symptoms, treatment, and causes of the infection known as "Q-Fever" which results from the exposure to infected feces, urine and birthing products, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange encourage the National Grange to encourage the Centers for Disease Control to do further research on "Q Fever" and develop effective treatments for this illness, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange and National Grange publish information about Q-Fever through our own publications such as the Connecticut Granger and the National Grange magazine, "Good Day" and encourage other agricultural organizations to publish information to inform their members about "Q Fever."

29) RE: GRANGE HALL ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS Granges who own halls are having trouble with large maintenance expenses, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Connecticut State Grange Board of Directors investigate a process where the State Grange can assist in providing funds for the major maintenance and repairs of Grange buildings before the costs result in the downfall of Granges with halls and report back to the next annual session of the Connecticut State Grange.

Summary of Action on all Resolutions

| 1) RE: Options for Conferral of the Seventh Degree Adopted |
|--|
| 2) RE: Grange Roof Repairs Rejected |
| 3) RE: Obligation of Candidates for the 6th & 7th Degrees . Rejected |
| 4) RE: Suggesting People for All Offices Rejected |
| 5) RE: Elevated Surfaces Rejected |
| 6) RE: Grace Period for Quarterly Reports to State Grange . Adopted |
| 7) RE: Associate Members Adopted |
| 8) RE: Pomona Dues Adopted |
| 9) RE: Use of Electronic Media Adopted |
| 10) RE: Alcoholic Beverages Adopted |
| 11) RE: Alcoholic Beverages in Grange Halls Rejected |
| 12) RE: Alcoholic Beverages in Grange Halls by Non Grange. Rejected |
| 13) RE: Dues |
| 14) RE: Grange Term Limits Rejected |
| 15) RE: Ending Free Viagra & Cialis Funding Rejected |
| 16) RE: Taxing Church Property for Using Public Ed. Dollars . Rejected |
| 17) RE: Banning Stock Trading for Fed. Legis. in Office Adopted |
| 18) RE: USDA Emergency Farm Aid Adopted 19) RE: Connecticut Student Assistance Adopted |
| 20) RE: Electric Fence Loaner and Subsidy Program Adopted |
| 21) RE: Wildlife Feeding Ban & Orphaned Bear Cubs Adopted |
| 22) RE: Matching Funds for Community Granges Rejected |
| 23) RE: Natural Systems for Health Rejected |
| 24) RE: COVID Loans Rejected |
| 25) RE: Q Fever Rejected |
| 26) RE: Master's Address Adopted |
| 27) RE: Q Fever |
| 28) RE: Pomona (Did not meet 30 day notice req.) Disqualified |
| 29) RE: Grange Hall Assistance Adopted |
| *Bolded resolutions have been sent on to National Grange. |

138th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange



President George Russell presides over the opening Session of the 138th Session of the Conn. State Grange.

Front Row (I to r): Nancy Strong, Alma Graham, Carol Hnath, Robert Buck, Michelle DeDominicis, and Jane Miller



National Rep. Kathy Gibson and Glenn

Gibson at the Pre-Session Dinner.



Isabella Marino receives her scholarship from State President George Russell.



Amy & John Burroughs (center) of BZB Farms receive the Ag Professionals Award.



George Russell (left) and Dave Roberts (right) present the Lecturer's Awards.



Dave

from President Bob Buck.

Back Row (I to r): Ted

Beebe, Ted Powell, Jaimie Cameron, Todd Gelineau,

Dawn Anstett, Charles

Dimmick, George Russell,

Roberts,

Miller, Don Lanoue, Jody

Cameron & Noel Miller

Ruel



New State President Robert Buck.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Start Fresh with New Ideas

By Terri Fassio, State Public Relations Co-Director

As we begin a new Grange Year, now is the time for Granges to be creative and think outside the box while they begin planning their programs and events for the holidays and for 2023.

The following is a list of events, activities and project ideas for all times of the year to put your Grange on the Map.

- Pet Photos with Santa (Contact a local animal shelter and combine the photos with a pet adoption event)
- Monopoly/Scrabble/Clue/Uno Tourn.
- A Chocolate Social
- Cemetery Clean-Up / Park Clean-Up
- Celebrate Baseball with a Pre-Season Party featuring Hot Dogs, Peanuts & Cracker Jacks
- Awards (Oscars/ Grammys/Tonys)
 Viewing Party (This could be a Red Carpet Event)
- Cupcake Decorating Workshop
- Baked Potato Social (Switch it up by hosting a best topping contest)
- Gingerbread House Building Workshop
- Celebrate Pride w/a Sunday Drag Brunch
- Host a Pajama Party with prizes for most creative slippers
- Apple Picking / Berry Picking Trip
- Treasure Hunt / Scavenger Hunt
- Local Artist Expo
- Coffeehouse Cafe Music, coffee and pastries
- Halloween Vampire Ball
- Children's Book Reading (Work with your local library)
- Themed Dinners (Pirates, Royalty, Superhero, Dinosaurs, Circus, French, Italian, etc.)
- Lego Building Workshop
- Dinner and Dance
- Sponsored Walks / Hikes / Runs
- Floral Arranging Lecture
- Tip a Waiter Dinners
- "Soupstock" Soup Supper with Music
- Trivia Bowl

- March Madness Celebration
- Health Fair / Expo (Work with local hospitals, clinics, and more to share valuable resources such as screenings and vaccines and help the community connect to vital services.)
- Crock-Pot Chili Cook-off
- Lasagna / Pasta Supper
- The Dictionary Project
- Holiday Pie Sale
- Mystery Rides
- Host a Farmer's Market
- Cookie Walk / Cake Walk / Cupcake Walk
- Group Trips / Cruises (Such as a day trip to Yankee Candle)
- Boxed /Bagged Lunches
- Community Open House
- TagSales/White Elephant Sales/Flea Markets
- Holiday Gift Wrapping
- Donations for Soup Kitchen / Food Bank / Animal Shelter
- Bake Sales
- Gardening Workshop
- Coin Show or Gem Fair
- Roast Beef / Ham / Pork / Baked Chicken Dinners
- Craft Sale or Plant Sale
- Raise Money to sponsor an animal with Heifer.org
- Ice Cream Social. (Best Banana Split Contest)
- Awards Banquet / Program

- Bakeless Bake Sale / Non-event Event
- Fashion Show (Could even be scaled to be a doll or teddy bear fashion show)
- Holiday Favors for Shut-Ins
- Travelogue
- Card Party (Switch it up by playing Poker using cookies or pretzels for chips)
- Community Pizza Festival (Switch it up by turning it into a best pizza competiton)
- Pancake Breakfast
- Knitting/crocheting lap robes or baby blankets
- Present a program at a local nursing home
- Writing letters to soldiers overseas

Many of the ideas above are the "old standards" that you often see Granges doing. But why not take one the standards and turn it into something new. For example, instead of just having a spaghetti supper, combine it with entertainment of Italian music and perhaps have a best sauce, best garlic bread or best meatball tasting competition too.

By publicizing your upcoming Grange events, and promoting the projects your Grange is working on, your Grange will attract attention and interest - and it is those people who are interested that could turn out to be your new members. Plus, your Grange will raise some money too. Remember to plan your Grange functions far enough in advance to give adequate time for marketing and publicity.

Need help? Let us know - we can lend a hand. Email Terri at information@ctstategrange. org or Bob at publicrelations@ctstategrange.org today.



Members of Groton Community Grange work on State Session centerpieces.

Year in Review



Dave Roberts
State Lecturer
Riverton Grange No. 169
Lecturer@CTStateGrange.org

On October 21st, I presented my first report as your State Grange Lecturer to all assembled delegates and

patrons at our 138th Annual Connecticut State Grange Convention in Norwich. I wanted to share a few highlights from my report with all of you.

I began my report by sharing my surprise at being elected State Grange Lecturer to complete the final year for this term. My first step as State Lecturer was to get to know my fellow community and Pomona Grange Lecturers. I instituted a virtual opportunity for all lecturers to meet together in a safe way to share ideas and discuss new ways to serve as a program director.

Despite the pandemic, a priority for me was to get out and visit Granges around the state. My first Grange visit was to North Stonington Community Grange #138 for their Community Citizen of the Year award ceremony. Lecturer Susan Pianka did an excellent job on the entire program. My next visit was to Simsbury Grange #197 for their certified Agricultural Fair and belated 90th Anniversary Celebration. We enjoyed the delicious food, fair displays inside and the hay bailer outside, outdoor music, toasting the 90th Anniversary milestone and hearing about elected officials who attended earlier, and just chatting with attendees. Kudos to Susan Masino, Barbara Friedland, and others who made this such an enjoyable event. It was especially nice to see so many children outside playing around the Grange Hall. I then journeyed to Sterling to attend the Strawberry Supper at Ekonk Community Grange #89. The drive was long, but pleasant, and the trip was well worth it.

It is so important that we all support each other's events and I will try to get out and about as much as I can to visit Granges, support their initiatives, and help spotlight their great work.

Another highlight from 2021-2022 was when I was elected Treasurer for the Northeast Grange Lecturers Association. I also had an opportunity to attend the National Grange Eastern Regional Leadership Conference at our National Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The theme for this conference was "A Monumental Experience in the Nation's Capital" and I enjoyed meeting other Grangers, learning from them, and sharing our Connecticut success stories.

In February, National President Betsy Huber appointed me at the National Grange representative to the United Nations Council of Organizations (COO). The COO was started 75 years ago by former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to provide a forum for nongovernmental organizations to support the newly established United Nations. The National Grange

was one of 43 Charter Members of the COO. Our seat had sat vacant for a number of years, but I was serving on the Executive Committee of the COO as the Lions Clubs International representative and Chairing the yearlong 75th anniversary celebration of the COO, and highlighted this vacant seat to Grange member Phil Prelli. I appreciate the opportunity to again serve on the COO Executive Committee as the National Grange representative.

One decision made early in my tenure was to partner with Dawn Percoski, Chair of Family Activities, to cohost the Connecticut State Grange Family Festival on August 14th. Our Connecticut State Grange Lecturer's Department sponsored three contests at this year's Family Festival: Photography Contest (45 entries); Talent Contest (1 entry); and "A Number" Skit Contest (2 entries). Congratulations to all our winners and to all who participated. For the Photography Contest, the "Best in Show" GRAND PRIZE went to Dawn Percoski of Vernon Grange for her terrific award-winning photo in the Animal Category that I have affectionately titled "Dog kissing Girl!".

We ended the Grange Year with two more contests: "Complete Program" for community Granges offering a program in 2021/2022 with the theme of "The Grange of the Future"; and the State Grange Essay Contest with the 2021/2022 essay title being "My Grange Family". North Stonington Community Grange won 1st Prize in the "Complete Program" and Vernon Grange won 2nd Prize. For the State Grange Essay Contest, Emily Alexander of Cheshire Grange won 1st Prize and Karen Macdonald of Greenfield Hill Grange won 2nd Prize.

The purpose of all these contests is first and foremost to HAVE FUN and secondly to encourage our Grange members to get involved in a friendly spirited manner.

Recognition is a key part of my job to showcase the great work of our Lecturers. With this in mind, we chose to continue two award programs this year and announced our winners at the State Convention Celebration Banquet. The Lecturer's Appreciation Award was presented to: Cheshire (Emily Alexander; Glastonbury (Ann Gilnack); Hemlock (Nancy Swanson); Mountain Laurel Pomona (Debbie Vails); N. Ston. Comm. (Sue Pianka); Riverton (Raine Pedersens); Vernon (Cherie Robinson).

And the Honor Lecturer's Award was presented to the following Granges: Cheshire; Glastonbury; Hemlock, N. Ston. Comm.; Riverton; Vernon.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your Connecticut State Grange Lecturer this past year. At the State Convention in Norwich, the delegates elected me to serve a full two-year term as your State Grange Lecturer. Under the leadership of State President Rob Buck and his team, I am excited to continue serving our awesome organization! Watch this column and the State Grange website as we continue to promote programs for all our Granges. Until then, stay safe and healthy and remember that we were all #RaisedRightHere!



SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller
Nov. 30: Holiday Party
Dec. 8: Soup Supper

Dec. 10: Winter Festival in

Woodstock

It is rewarding to see the things that our Grange is doing to get the community involved. When fundraising dinners are served we are able to welcome the community and see new faces. We will be getting some new members from our promotions. Our awards ceremony in October to honor the long time members is much appreciated by those who have been in our Grange for many years. A pumpkin decorating contest held just before Halloween brings in more of the community. The local Lions club hold a toiletries collection on that day. The Windham County Farm Bureau annual meeting is held at our hall and we prepare a delicious beef and chicken dinner. Thank you to the local farmers who provide us with the ingredients we need.

A great deal of our time is spent on getting suggestions for recruiting members. include workshops for gardening, research opportunities for troop donations, restart a Junior Grange, card parties with refreshments, and movie nights with classics. Our group continues to meet on Thursday afternoons for work details as well as Saturdays. Our regular meetings are the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6PM. Thank you all who help us in any

Senexet's 85 year member



Minola Terwilleger was recently honored by Senexet Grange (Woodstock) for 85 years of continuous Grange membership. Congratulations Nola! Everyone had a wonderful time at the meeting that honored and celebrated the Grange's longtime members.

way. That is what the Grange is all about.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Irene Percoski

Nov. 4: Hunger Awareness, Grocery Bingo - Bring non-perishable food items.

Dec. 2: Stress relief & Comm. Service project.

Jan. 6: NO MEETING

Jan. 13: Seed Catalogs.

Our October meeting started by sitting in absolute silence while we all wrote down what we heard: traffic, a chair squeak, someone taking a deep breath? Some didn't hear anything, some heard a lot. This was the beginning of an excellent program on deaf awareness. One that had all members involved with facts and quizzes, history, types of sign language and even regional and cultural sign language, and a grand finale by Betty Jane Harrington

SIGNING as we all sang "America the Beautiful". Other guests were Roy Harrington and Ted Beebe, with Alma Graham on a zoom connection. For November we are all asked to bring 3 non-perishable food items. This will be the fee to play grocery bingo. All proceeds will go to the local food shelf. Come prepared to play and have fun.

December will be here before you know it and there is a list of items needed for our community service project. Candy canes (small), Lip balm, toothbrushes, toothpaste, small individually wrapped candy bars, beef sticks, small bottles of hand lotion, Aftershave, foot powder, deodorant, face masks, nail clippers and emery boards. Please email Nancy or Cherie with items you will be bringing. It is important to have enough of all items by the December meeting.

If that causes you stress, our

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program will help relieve that stress as we will learn coping methods to help us relax and enjoy life. As always, visitors are always welcome and zoom is always available. Just ask to be included on the email list, and if you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours. Happy Thanksgiving.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Frank Forrest

Hillstown Grange is holding a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, November 5, 2022. Doors open at 8:30 AM until 11:00 AM.

Breakfast consists of Pancakes including sausage, coffee, tea and juice, all for just \$5, \$3 for kids under 14. This month we are actually going to have 2 Specials, one will be a lemon pancake with blueberry topping and the second is reminisce of Thanksgiving, it will be a sweet potato casserole pancake...yum!! And as always plain and chocolate chip pancakes will be available!

Our upstairs hall now has a library which has opened with a special area for reading, playing games, puzzles, or just visiting with old friends. Books are available for a donation to our building fund. We accept gently used books, board games and puzzles. A Gramma's Attic will be open upstairs this month.

Come to browse, eat, or just visit the historic Hillstown Grange Hall. Free Admission. Hillstown Grange is located at 617 Hills Street, East Hartford, CT. Located in the Hillstown corner of East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester.

NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Diane Miller

Nov. 11: I Haven't Got "Life"

Nov. 25: No meeting - Happy Thanksgiving

Our September programs were based on the games Clue and Monopoly. On the 9th Sue presented "Clue meets Pictionary" and two teams drew interesting pictures on a large white board depicting (in some cases) the weapon, room and perpetrator involved in the "murder" of Mr. Body.

On the 23 we learned a great deal about various monopolies and took a quiz on the game itself.

The dictionaries are ordered and will soon be distributed to all the third graders in town. Teachers tell us how much the children enjoy this very educational gift.

Our one program in November will be organized and presented by Cheree Miner. And if those pesky hurricanes lurking out there in the Atlantic will just steer themselves out to sea, next time we will tell you all about outstanding October.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Nov. 11: November is a Wild Wind Time. Speaker: Maddie Dres-Farm Link

Nov. 25: Omitted for Thanksgiving

Dec. 9: December is Ringing the Bells

Dec. 23: Omitted for Christmas Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.



Elton John and a Sloth represented Ekonk Community Grange at the Sterling Rec. Dept. Halloween Party.

Family Activities Committee



Dawn Percoski Family Activities Dir. Vernon Grange No. 52 CWA@ctstategrange.org I was very happy when Bob Buck asked me to accept the position of Director for Family Activities for another term. I feel that I have been learning a great deal and know that I still have a long way to go. Many people have given me support and I

thank you all for that. Congratulations to all of our new state officers and I look forward to working with all of you.

I would also like to personally thank all of you who came up to the Big E to help mark and sort through all of the items that were donated for the craft sale. Some days were hot and sticky but you showed up ready to work. I can't tell you how much work done early made the set up so much easier. You were a great crew and a pleasure to work with.

I still have some winners to announce. It was a great competition at the Eastern States and what a way to end the year! The judges worked hard to pick out the prize winners out of so many beautiful entries. I would like to congratulate all who made it up there for the contest and those who earned prizes. With pleasure and pride, here are Connecticut's Winners for this year. On behalf of all the state directors, we can't wait to see what you will be doing for our next year's competition.

Eastern States Winners:

Plastic Canvas, 2nd Joanne Cipriano, Beacon Valley #103 Class F -Counted Cross Stitch, 2nd Mariellen Baxter, Vernon #52 Class G-Adult Garment, 2nd Irene Percoski, Vernon Grange #52 Class I-Quilted Wall Hanging, 1st Karen Macdonald, Greenfield Hill #133 Class J-Stuffed Toy, 2nd Jennifer Strong, Vernon Grange #52 Class K-baby Afghan, 2nd Cindy Hupper Cheshire Grange #23



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Dec. 3: Christmas Fun, Winchester Grange Hall, 2 P.M. (Remember to bring your hats, gloves/mittens for our tree.)

Mountain Laurel takes the month of November off so we wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Our next meeting will be on December 3 at Winchester Grange Hall beginning at 2 P.M. (Please note the new uniform time of all Pomona meetings going forward). Donations of hats, gloves and mittens will be appreciated for our tree.

We wish Sharon and George Russell all the best as George finishes his term as Master of the Connecticut State Grange. Four years went by incredibly fast. We know he's looking forward to his new role on the State Executive Committee.

It has to be extremely rare for one Pomona to be represented by two consecutive State Masters as Brother Bob Buck of Bethlehem Grange became the next State Master at the October State Session. Congratulations to Bob and all the best as you begin your term!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Nov. 8: This is My Country (Country Store), Ref. Pam Wright Nov. 22: Giving Thanks - Ref. Earl & Sandy Phillips

Dec. 13: Christmas (Gift

Grange "Pit Stop"



Taghhannuck pit stop during Bike Tour

Exchange), Ref. Debbie Vail **Dec. 20:** Meeting Omitted

We remind all of our members (and guests) that all of our meetings are held in a hybrid format. This means members may attend in-person or they can request Zoom credentials and attend online. Please email Secretary@ CTStateGrange.org to receive the information. All meetings begin at 7:00 P.M.

If you haven't done so already, please send in your dues for the 2022-2023 Grange year. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Our next meeting will be on Nov. 8 and will feature a country store-bring an item or two to add to it!

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Nov. 10: Transition Towns by Chris Hopkins; Ref. Janet Nickson **Dec.8:** Cookie Exchange by Cookies & Milk; Ref. All

Jan.12: Iran by John Brett; Ref. Debbie Hanlon

At our October meeting many of the members were in costume and we had a "mystery" monster attend. He/she sat in an EC seat during our refreshment/social hour before our meeting and no one could guess who it was. When the meeting was called to order the monster sat in the Steward's station. Thank you Mike Taylor for a hilarious and frightful beginning to our night. At our meeting we discussed the resolutions coming up at State Session at the end of October so our delegates would know how to vote. We had a senior from HVRHS attend our meeting to see if she would like to join. She took part in the discussion for the resolution "Connecticut Student Assistance" and both she and her mom took applications home to fill out.

We will miss our A.S. Bill Palmer who has already moved south for his new job with Amtrak and his wife Diane our Overseer and EC member who will join him soon. So we did not have Installation of Officers as was planned but had Election of Officers for the three positions. Elected were: Chris Hopkins A.S., Ruth Schnell Overseer and Mike Taylor Executive Committee for 1 year.

Earlier in October we hosted a "pit stop" and refreshment for the Lime Rock Park Epic Bike Tour. There were over 100 riders and we received many good comments along with questions about the Grange.

On Saturday, Nov. 5 we are having a Square/Contra/Country Dance at our Hall at 7 Dunbar Road, Sharon 06069 (hint, hint if you get this in time). It will be from 7pm-9pm with music by "Jim Prentice, Ren Nickson, Jane Prentice and Friends".

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

Nov. 13: Meeting

We are mourning the passing of 65 year member Ed Levenworth.

Our next meeting will be on Nov. 13 beginning at 2 P.M.

At our Oct. meeting we collected items for the Bethlehem Food Bank.

A \$250 scholarship was given to Ken Meady from the Memorial Scholarship Fund.

We had a speaker on Unkraine by Jeff Nicholas whose wife is Ukranian and has family there.



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Nutmeg Pomona was saddened hearing the news that Wallingford Grange surrendered their Charter. It must have been a hard decision especially for those who had been members for many years. We hope the members will relocate. It is hard to lose a Grange but even worst to lose good members. Our best to you all.

On a happier note — Nutmeg Pomona met at Beacon Valley Grange on October 2nd. A beautiful day for traveling, a well-run meeting, Installation of Officers by Roy and Betty Jane Harrington, a large Country Store and delicious refreshments. The only thing that could have made it better was a larger attendance.

The Pomona voted to donate \$500.00 to each Grange in Nutmeg Pomona to help with heating expenses.

Sunday December 4th is our next meeting and Christmas Party at Cheshire Grange at 2 o'clock. Lecturer Robert Charbonneau will present his first program. We will have a \$5.00 Grab bag for those who would like to participate and a Christmas Country Store. Refreshments are in charge of Cheshire and Hemlock Granges. With two Granges in charge, we should have double the enjoyment.

Why not plan to attend and represent your Grange. I will be there – will you?

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Nov. 2: Ritualism Harvest

Nov. 16: Talk Turkey

We installed our officers in September first preceded by a pot luck supper. Our 137th Cheshire Grange Community Fair was very successful in all areas. The attendees welcomed back the Sunday roast beef dinner which realized a decent profit for the fair. My thanks to everyone for their help. The September 24th fund raising roast beef dinner aided our treasury nicely. Several of our members will be attending the Ct. State Grange Annual session set for October 20-24 in Norwich. One of our members, Isabella Marino, will be a guest at the Friday banquet having been awarded a college scholarship from the Grange. She is a sophomore student at Fordham University.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

This past weekend was a busy one. Saturday we held our monthly tag sale. We don't get rich on these sales but it does help.

Friday was our October meeting. This Master went home with a smile on her face. It was the first meeting of another Grange year. The weather man co-operated and it was a beautiful night for traveling. Roll call found all officers present. It was the first program of our new theme "The flower of the Month". This month being Cosmos. Carol Brook, a Granger for some time presented her first program ever. Her game Pin the pedal on the flower was fun. Marie Sousa was in charge of refreshments and had pizza. The pizza was about a help an hour late but as good Grangers don't waste time we eat our dessert while we waited- chocolate cake. Both were delicious. Country store was bountiful and I even won.



There is always a hitch – ours is how do we pay for a new roof. We are in the process of getting quotes . The presently one has been in place for about 35 years. Any suggestions?

Our next meeting is November 11 – the program "Chrysanthemums" in charge of Pat Fischer – refreshment in charge of Joanne Cipriano.

We are putting together a raffle to be drawn at our December tag sale on the 17th – Prize donations would be appreciated. At our November sale on the 19th and in December we will also have a bake sale.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Jim & Lori Golias

Nov. 12: Dinner

Happy Thanksgiving to All. We have a lot to be thankful for. Welcome Fall!

On August 27th, we held our Agricultural Fair. The weather was great and the sun was shining. We always worry about that! It was a fun time and was well received by all that attended. We had many agricultural entries despite the summer heat and lack of rain. This year we also had many entries for baked goods. Thanks to our judges for taking the time to review all entries and pass out ribbons.

We had many great vendors, great food, great music, games, raffle, great bake and plant sale, old farm tools and even baby turkeys. Needless to say, the fair was GREAT and successful.

The success of any event depends on the help to prepare for it.

Thanks to our local Boy Scouts for help in setting up the day of the fair and coming back at the end of the fair to break it down. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this event a success.

At the end of the month, we held our Lobster Bake. It was a fun way to end the Summer. Everyone had a blast.

At our meeting on September 19,

2022, the Greenfield Hill Grange had the honor of having Rob and Maggie Buck install the new officers for the next two years. They also performed a welcoming ceremony for two new members, Greg Valente and Phyllis Furlong. The ceremony was very impressive, filled with beautiful language. Kudos to Rob and Maggie and a BIG big thank you. Congratulations to the officers and welcome to the new members!

September 24th, 2022 was our 3rd Pumpkin, Bulbs, Mums and Bake sale. The day was cold but a perfect day for picking a pumpkin, mums or getting bulbs to plant to welcome

spring 2023.

Thanks to all who baked and all the volunteers who made this event a success. Yet another fun day for the Grange.

The highlight of the event was at the end when our town's First Selectwoman, Brenda Kupchick came and placed plaque a designating our Grange building as a National Historical Place. Greenfield Hill Grange was placed on the National Register in 2008, but no plaque was ever obtained. Many thanks to Lori Golias for her work and effort in getting us the plaque for this special designation.





What to wear, what to wear. The perils of ending up in a new home... no clothes. Tomorrow I will go in search of some new clothes. Until then, I think I will burro right in here to stay warm for the night.

Hi Everyone. I have been checking out my new digs with Rob Buck, our new Connecticut State Grange President. I hear I will be making some more new friends and visiting with old friends as the year progresses. Now this guy wants to be friends, but I think he is a bit big. Time will tell.



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 uncover 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.





OCTOBER:

We heard from Sue Addison on the October photo -- "The woman in the October picture is Vivian Shaw from Granby Grange and Farmington Valley Pomona. Even though the picture is out of focus...that is definitely Vivian."

AUGUST:

We heard from Doris Dejordon from Ekonk Community Grange on the August photo -- "On the left, it is Bill and Mary Pearl. The man in the glasses looks familiar as it might be Al Beckwith."

SEPTEMBER:

Hello - The photo in September's Connecticut Granger had two local ladies from out here in Brooklyn and Killingly. Lady 1- Frances Lasch (I think) was one-time Master of Brooklyn Grange. The middle lady was Nancy Wood. She was either Secretary or Treas. of Killingly #112. The other two gals look like sisters but I don't know who they are. - Glenna Bruno, Killingly #112







Hank interviews Past State President Jody Cameron...

Hank: Thank you for giving me the honor of being your first interview. Which policy or program did you initiate that you felt had the best impact on the Grange?

Jody: I was 3 years into my term as President of the CT State Grange when you and I first met in Manchester, NH. It was my honor to welcome you into my home and into the ranks of the CT State Grange. You actually helped me promote the biggest initiatives we were focused on and that was leadership training and social interaction. I firmly believed that by developing stronger, more diverse leaders in each Pomona and Community Grange in turn it would prompt greater community involvement and bring a true legitimacy to our individual Grange's.

We held 2 Social Nights, one in the fall and one in the spring to bring all members together with food, fun and laughter. We instituted a Granger of the Year program in order to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of those recipients.

Hank: Were there any policies or programs you wish you had been able to enact that you were not able to?

Jody: One of the highest points of our term was reorganizing 2 Granges and organizing the first new Grange in over 50 years. This is also my biggest regret that we did not develop a true structure to ensure these new Granges and Grangers could be successful. One area we still need to focus on is understanding and developing a structure for going into communities that currently have no active Grange and how to rally the troops by introducing them to the Grange and how to insure their success.

Hank: What do you see as an empowering pathway to a stronger Grange in the future?

Jody: Hank, I feel the most empowering pathway to a stronger Grange of the future is having a common goal and focus for all Granges and Grangers. And identifying the true leaders and encouraging them to use their talents to advance our organization. Leadership is the most simple complex function that many businesses and organizations struggle with. We have the talents in many of our members to be able to obtain the skills we need to insure a successful future - we just need to use them. We need to continue to develop and strengthen our relationship with other like minded groups and draw on their knowledge and skills to strengthen and develop our own.

Thank you for this honor, Hank, I truly am humbled.

Balsamic Berry Vinaigrette Winter Salad



Time to add a healthy spin to your Thanksgiving or Christmas table. Eating Well has a nice recipe for a festive Balsamic Berry Vinaigrette Winter Salad which features colorful greens, fruit and cheese tossed with a light and zesty dressing.

Servings: 8

Ingredients:

¼ cup balsamic vinegar

2 tablespoons plain fat-free Greek yogurt

1 tablespoon sugar-free strawberry preserves

1½ teaspoons olive oil

1 teaspoon Dijon-style mustard

1 clove garlic, minced

¼ teaspoon kosher salt

1/8 teaspoon black pepper

3 cups fresh baby spinach

3 cups torn romaine lettuce

1 small cooking apple, such as

Braeburn or Gala, thinly sliced ½ cup crumbled blue, feta, or goat cheese (chèvre) (2 oz.)

½ cup pomegranate seeds

¼ cup chopped walnuts, toasted

Directions:

For vinaigrette, in a small bowl whisk together vinegar, yogurt, preserves, oil, mustard, garlic, salt



and pepper.

In an extra-large serving bowl, combine spinach, romaine, apple, cheese, pomegranate seeds and walnuts. Drizzle with half of the vinaigrette; toss to coat. Pass the remaining vinaigrette.

Link: https://www.eatingwell.com/recipe/260360/balsamic-berry-vinaigrette-winter-salad/



Burton Eller, National Grange Legislative Director

Elections Fast Approaching

Washington has been quiet in October with both the House and Senate out of town for the majority of the month campaigning for the midterm election on November 8th. Control of both the House and Senate are up for grabs with tight races across the nation. The results of the election will have major impacts on the contours of legislation for the next two years and also shape the last few months of 2022 as the current Congress finishes out the current session. To learn about how to register and vote in your state, information can be found at https://vote.gov/

If Republicans take control of either the House or the Senate, Democrats are likely to rush to pass as many priorities as they can during their final months of total control in 2022. Priorities are likely to include funding the government for another year, passing the National Defense Authorization Act, spending related to the ongoing war in Ukraine, codification of same sex marriage laws, elections reforms, a ban on congressional stock trading, executive branch and judicial confirmations, and more. Of interest to the National Grange, legislation on issues such as concentration in cattle markets, railroad shipping troubles, voluntary carbon credits in agriculture, expanded coverage for early cancer detection through Medicare, and more.

Inflation Hikes Price of Holiday Meals

Shoppers are adjusting their holiday food shopping to address rising food costs according to FMI-The Food Industry Association. Here are some ways the 71% of shoppers concerned about inflation are adjusting to cost concerns:

28% are looking for deals

21% are buying more store brands

17% are sharing menu responsibilities such as potluck dishes

17% are substituting more affordable options

Interestingly, 45% of shoppers are more concerned about the price of holiday meals than travel or gifts

USDA Intervenes in Farm Debt

USDA and Secretary Vilsack are unrolling plans for the \$3.1 billion provided by the Inflation Reduction Act to assist USDA farm loan borrowers whose direct or guaranteed loans are considered "distressed". A separate \$2.2 billion from the IRA will go to producers who have experienced discrimination through USDA's lending programs. USDA is seeking public comment on how to best implement these assistance mandates.

Study Looks at Foreign Land Ownership

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is planning to conduct a farmland ownership study to focus on several key questions raised by lawmakers, producers and national security experts. The study will address the following:

What is known about the extent of and trends in foreign investment of domestic ag land?

How does USDA's Farm Service Agency collect data on foreign investment in U.S. land and how does FSA ensure data reliability?

What procedures are in place to ensure disclosure of foreign acquired, sold and transferred land?

Are there standards to ensure land acquired through a U.S. company is accurately disclosed as a foreign investment?

What improvements could be made to strengthen reporting of foreign investment in agricultural land?

What government agencies should be partnering to ensure accurate disclosure?

Support Agriculture Research

The National Grange and 87 food, agriculture, academic and producer groups called on the appropriations committees in Congress to support increased investments in a broad suite of research, education and extension programs at USDA.

Food as a Medicine?

The recent White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health, the Rockefeller Foundation, American Heart Association and Kroger announced their food as medicine research initiative. The initiative is in line with the White House's national food strategy that calls for testing the use of medically tailored meals through Medicare and Medicaid. FDA meanwhile, has pledged to work toward reducing diet-related diseases by giving consumers more information about what they're eating and pressuring food companies to reformulate products, actions that are key elements of the White House's new national food strategy.

Guidance for New Pneumonia Vaccines

The National Grange joined several patient and medical groups to request guidance from the CDC on whether previously vaccinated patients age 65 and older are eligible for two new and improved pneumonia vaccine options as the winter flu and pneumonia season approaches.

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Do we really want what we deserve?



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

"He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities."

Psalm 103:10
"If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?"

Psalm 130:3

"Treat every man according to his just deserts, and who shall 'scape whipping?

Shakespeare (Hamlet)
"There's no connection man can
reason out Between his just deserts
and what he gets." Robert Frost "A
Masque of Rea-son"

How many times have you heard someone say "I don't get what I deserve" or words to that effect? Most of us think of ourselves as basically "good" people and therefore feel we should be rewarded for our "goodness". But if we sit down for a really long "think" and meditate on what we should have been doing and have not done, or what we should not have done and have been doing, and if we are really honest with ourselves, we must come to realize that we fall far short of perfection.

But there is one more error in some people's thinking, which is that people "get what they deserve", that goodness is rewarded with good things and bad behavior is rewarded with punishments. And yet in the Bible we find over a dozen instances where the writers wonder why this is often not the case. The prophet Jeremiah says "Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all of the faithless live at ease?" And in Job we read: "Why do the wicked live on, growing old and prospering?"

There are hard questions here, and few good answers, yet in the end we can look forward to the resurrection of all who have not rejected God, relying on His mercy to forgive sin-ners and grant them everlasting life. Reading the Book of Job we find a person who, although a good and righteous man according to the standards of his

day, underwent much suffering, so that at one point he sought death. But eventually he developed through the eyes of faith a hope for better and brighter days, a realization that an all-merciful God would not let him suffer forever. Let us all nurture that hope, and with Job we can say: "I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth, and although worms destroy this body. vet in my flesh will I see God."



