



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

February 2023

From the Master's desk



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

Membership gains are being made in the newly reorganized Granges mentioned in the last Connecticut Granger which goes to prove that there are people out there waiting to be asked to join. The Membership Committee under Shelley Cameron is considering as many as two more Granges to work with on developing their strength in their communities. This is to occur in the near future and hopefully more Granges will follow.

A reminder is in order that with the increase in quarterly dues paid to the State Grange going from \$6.25 to \$7.50, I admonish all Granges to re-evaluate the dues they charge their members to avoid paying more out than they are bringing in. In addition, even though Pomona Granges no longer need to pay dues to the State Grange, they can still charge their members a dues assessment to provide themselves with some income. I think that a lot of Granges are seriously behind the times in what they are charging. I am aware of fraternal organizations where dues are over \$100 per year. My Masonic Lodge in New Milford has dues of \$185.00 plus another \$65.00 for Ancient Accepted Scottish

Rite dues. There are fellow Masons who belong to yet other Masonic appendant bodies paying yet more dues to each.

As operating costs continue to rise, I would advise Grange leaders to shop around for better prices for property insurance. A diligent search by member Rich Fraziano and calls to some local insurance agents netted Oxford Grange a new

Influential Connecticut Grangers:

Alta Fuller Peck

by Douglas Peck (Alta & Don's Son)

Alta Fuller Peck was born September 3, 1907, to Morris & Augusta Fuller, in Torrington, CT, where she was raised. She joined the Grange, soon met Donald K Peck at a Grange "Neighbor's Night" function, and they subsequently were married on September 7, 1929. From that point on, both were very active members of Litchfield Grange #107 throughout their entire lives. Alta served as Lecturer for both Litchfield Grange and Mountain County Pomona Grange, and was a member of Don's Installation Team for many years.

Don moved up through the ranks of the Connecticut State Grange, and in 1953, he was elected State Master, a position he held for the next 4 years. In that same year, Alta was appointed Chairman of the Home Economics Committee (later to become Director of Women's

insurer and a savings of \$400 per year. Watch your premiums as they can rise each year if you stay with the same agent and company. The same could be said for heating oil providers; shop around for the best price available and the savings will mount.

Also remember that a Grange can apply to the Connecticut State Grange Foundation every two years for a \$1,000 capital improvement grant. Low interest loans are

...Continued on page 2



1962 - Alta Peck with Dr. Jonas Salk, developer of the first Polio vaccine. Dr. Salk points out progress on construction of the Salk Institute in San Diego where a room in the Institute was named the Grange Seminar Room. Grange women raised over \$14,000 for the Institute.

Activities) for the National Grange by National Master, Herschel D. Newsom, at the 1953 National Convention in Burlington, VT.

In the early years she emphasized locally based activities

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Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange



NEXT ISSUE . . . Articles Due Feb. 15

From the Master's Desk

Bunovsky of Harmony Grange No. 92 has used this analogy for Granges for some years and it is true.

Continued from page one...

available from the Connecticut State Grange with a quarterly repayment schedule.

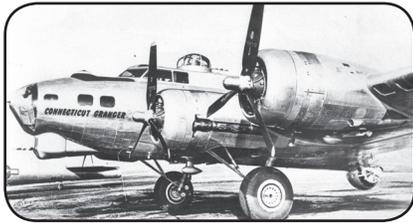
As the issue of Pomona Granges continues to vex us, National Grange President Betsy Huber has undertaken to establish a committee on the future of Pomona Granges. I have been asked to serve on this committee because of the steps we took in Connecticut to reorganize

that level of the Grange. It is apparent that things didn't turn out as we wished here. However, I would hate to see Pomona Grange deleted from our hierarchy as I feel there needs to be a link between Subordinate and State Grange. With less Grange visitations being made, I personally like Pomona as a time to get together with my Brothers and Sisters in my region and socialize and share ideas. Other Granges and Grangers can give us ideas to bring home to our own Granges about new types of fundraisers and events to attract prospective members into our halls. It goes without saying that we need to keep busy to support our halls and keep them and the organization viable as they are really business ventures of a sort. Ron

Now that the Blue Book (two year State Grange Program Book) is out, I encourage all to look over the programming of the various State Committees and start thinking of what contests to enter and programs to put on in your Granges. Use the Heirloom Program to refresh members on the ritual of the Order. Can your Grange be an Honor Grange?

Lastly I would remind you of the lasting colors in the agate, symbol of the Fourth Degree, and hope that you all have FAITH in the longevity (maybe even permanence) of your Granges that will be achieved through your efforts and hard work. Remember who is responsible for your Grange.

the Connecticut Granger Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

STAFF

President/Editor Todd A. Gelineau
Vice President Terri Fassio
Treasurer Jody Cameron
Secretary Noel Miller

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the
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100 Newfield Road
P.O. Box 3

Winchester Center, CT 06094
or Todd Gelineau, Editor
P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069
Granger@CTStateGrange.org

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Family Activities Committee



Dawn Percoski
Family Activities Dir.
Vernon Grange No. 52
CWA@ctstategrange.org

Happy Valentine's Day.

Now that the major holidays are behind us for a little while, we begin to get back to our normal routines. Have you gotten all your booster shots? If so and weather permitting, it's nice to go to our Grange meetings in person. If not, maybe you can plan a special craft night. Consider having on hand the materials to make one of the sock creatures. You can print most directions off the internet. They can choose any one of a number of patterns, snowman, bunny and gnomes are popular. When you are done, each member will have an entry into the Special contest! Another idea is to have everyone bring a teacup and saucer. You can glue them together and decorate them

for the special Big E Craft contest. I actually went to Good Will and Allied Attic to get an assortment of flowers and leaves at little cost. It doesn't take much and again; each person has an entry into this new contest at our State Needlework Contest.

If it's something you can do ahead of time, send out a list of items that will be needed for the craft you chose and you can do a class virtually. Start with something simple like making an ornament. Any items that are made can be sent up to the big E and counts towards your Family Activities and Community Service hours.

What other ideas can you come up with? How about a knitting or quilt circle? How about just an afternoon where everyone brings their unfinished projects. Sitting with others while having a nice social hour does wonders for our well-being as well as getting some good ideas for other crafts we might want to do.



A SWOT Analysis for your Grange

By Terri Fassio, Co-Director of Public Relations

Do you know the strengths and weaknesses of your Grange, both internally and externally? A SWOT analysis can help you find the answers.

What is a SWOT Analysis? Businesses and organizations regularly analyze their processes to ensure they are operating as efficiently as possible. One of the most effective methods to achieve this is to conduct a SWOT analysis. SWOT is an acronym for “Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.”

This method was created in the 1960s by Albert Humphrey of the Stanford Research Institute, during a study conducted to identify why corporate planning consistently failed. Since its creation, SWOT has become one of the most useful tools that helps businesses and organizations identify where they’re doing well and where they can improve, both from an internal and an external perspective.

SWOT works because it helps you evaluate your business/organization by considering multiple factors:

- Strengths and weaknesses are internal factors (things you can control), like members, assets, qualities and even geographic location.

- Opportunities and threats represent external factors (things you can’t control), such as competitors, regulations, and economic trends.

The analysis can show you the key areas where

your organization is performing optimally, as well as which operations need adjustment.

It’s beneficial to perform a SWOT analysis on your Grange to check on the current landscape of your operations, so your Grange can improve as needed. This is an activity that should be conducted at a meeting where your members can participate. The Grange leaders should provide a broad view of your Grange and offer insights accordingly, but the members should be encouraged to participate when developing the specifics as their viewpoints are valuable. The more diverse the group, the better insights you’ll generate. This can even be done anonymously by having four jars - one for each of the sections, and have members write out their viewpoints and place them in the appropriate jar. Then the contents

are read and evaluated as a group. (See the accompanying chart as an example.)

The analysis is complete. Now what?

Congratulations! Hopefully, you understand your Grange a little better after completing your SWOT analysis; now it’s time to put those insights to good use. Your ideas on how to use your strengths and overcome your weaknesses define objectives for your Grange to move forward, thus creating priorities, initiatives and projects to help make them a reality, and identifying measures to make sure these goals are unfolding the way they should.

Taking the time to look at your Grange from different perspectives and honestly assess your future prospects is a worthwhile activity; the insights you glean as a result should then be used constructively as part of the Grange’s future planning.

Need some assistance? Drop us a line. We’re here to help! E-mail: publicrelations@ctstategrange.org or information@ctstategrange.org.

S	W	O	T
Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Things your Grange does well (such as specific activities and projects, etc). • Qualities that separate your Grange from other organizations. • Resources that your Grange can draw upon that other organizations can't. • Tangible assets such as intellectual property, capital, licenses, and proprietary rights (such as trademarks, copyrights, patents, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Things your Grange lacks, such as not owning a Grange Hall, etc. • Too few members, or inactive members. • Aging membership. • The public not knowing who or what the Grange is and does. • Limitations on resources. • Other organizations serving the community better than your Grange. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few competitors in your community. • Emerging need for your Grange to make an impact in the community. • Opportunities for collaboration. • Hosting/supporting activities and projects that align with the Mission/Vision of the Grange. • Press/Media coverage for your Grange. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of active competing organizations. • Changing attitudes towards the Grange - both internal and external. • Financial issues and lack of money flow. • Grange Hall/Property/ Building issues including disrepair. • Negative press/media coverage.



Alta Fuller Peck

Continued from page one...

for Grange women, including the 1955 campaign to raise funds to furnish a Library in the National Headquarters Building. In 1958, the Committee initiated the National Grange \$50,000 Sewing Contest, sponsored by Coats and Clark, Singer Sewing Machines, and McCall's Patterns. But Alta's focus soon expanded to promoting programs in health and education. Thousands of dollars were raised nationally for distribution to various health agencies associated with polio, heart disease, cancer, tuberculosis, multiple sclerosis, cystic fibrosis, arthritis, and rheumatism. Thousands of cancer pads ("johnny coats") were made by Grange women and distributed nationally. In addition, visitations were promoted to support the mentally ill, crippled children, the aged and infirm, and disabled veterans. Local community projects were also encouraged and supported dealing with well water testing, diabetes testing, polio immunizations, and TB X-rays, to name just a few. In 1959-1960, under Alta's leadership, women of the Grange raised over \$14,000 to help fund the construction of the Jonas Salk Institute for Biological Research in La Jolla, CA, where a room was dedicated and named the "Grange Seminar Room".

The Committee continued to sponsor such internal activities as the National Grange Needlework Contest, and National Grange Baking Contest, all of which served to be significant membership builders for local Granges.

Later in the '60s, the Grange became a significant fundraiser for the March of Dimes, CARE, and "New Eyes for the Needy". Internationally, Women's Activities funded sending supplies, equipment, and medical staff to Cambodia. At home, in 1964, Women's Activities undertook a campaign to raise \$25,000 toward

debt retirement on the National Headquarters in DC.

In 1970, the National Convention in Boise, ID, adopted Alta's recommendation to initiate programs for the deaf and hard-of-hearing, the first such nation-wide program in the country.

In 1964, Alta chaired the 75th Anniversary Celebration of Litchfield Grange #107, held on a sunny day outside the new Grange Hall, "built board by board, and nail by nail" about eight years earlier by Grange members, including her husband and sons.

Alta maintained an active personal life as well. An avid rug-hooker, she taught Adult-Ed rug hooking for many years in Torrington, CT. She was a Certified Rug Hooking Instructor by Pearl K. McGown, one of America's most-noted designers of hooked rug patterns in the 20th century. Additionally, Alta started to collect bells from all over the world during her travels, frequently gave talks on the history of bells, and was interviewed many times on different radio broadcasts in Connecticut. She was a member of the American Bell Collectors Assn.



Alta Peck greets Amanda Rich, the 1964 March of Dimes Poster Child in New York City.

In 1960, Alta was diagnosed with melanoma, and began a 14-year series of treatments in Boston. However, she continued in her position as Director of Women's Activities throughout all of those years, "an unprecedented tenure in that office", and passed on Feb 17, 1974, at age 66. Appropriately, all memorial donations were directed to the Anne Sullivan Memorial Fund for the Deaf.

"It seems to me, if I am pledged to serve,
I ought to give myself without reserve.
To do my utmost for my fellow man,
To do it daily, not just now and then.
It seems to me that I ought not to shirk,
Something which might involve a lot of work.
I quite agree I have my life to live,
But life is so much better when I give.
My next assignment may be pretty tough,
But that's no reason why I have to bluff.
I am quite sure that when I do my best,
My fellow members trust me for the rest.
The things we aimed at doing and have done
Went better when we tried to act as one."

By: Alta Peck



Join us on March 12...



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

First, I want to wish everyone a very happy New Year! As we ushered in the New Year, I was reminded of a fact that my Grandmother told me that the Times Square New Year's Eve ball drop has been a tradition since 1907, one year before Riverton Grange was founded, when my Grandmother was just 7 years old. The first ball drop was held at the One Times Square building in New York City. The ball drop is now a worldwide tradition, with cities across the world hosting their own ball drops on New Year's Eve.

Our Grange is off to an outstanding start as we begin 2023. One of the projects I have been helping support is recruiting new members to our organization. I am so proud to report that on Sunday, January 15, twenty-seven new members joined Granby Grange #15. Granby Grange is the former home Grange of our first State Grange Master and many of us just could not bear to see this historic Grange fold. So thanks to many people, including Ron Cowdrey, Carol Innes, Judy Doyle, George Russell and Peter Keefe, Granby Grange has been reinvigorated with new members and for the first time in years elected their full slate of officers. I am serving on Granby Grange Executive Committee for a term of three years.

In addition, my home Grange, Riverton Grange #169 has recruited eight new members since last November. We now have two family units; our very first within our Grange!

On December 11th, we held our FOURTH Connecticut State Grange Lecturers' Roundup. We

were so honored to have newly elected State Grange President Rob Buck join us. During this virtual meeting, we discussed the 2023-2024 Blue Book and Lecturer content; the Grange in Action/Golden Grange in Action initiative; heard updates from Community and Pomona Grange Lecturers; and had an open forum to discuss topics of interest. These virtual Roundups have proven to be very popular, so we will be continuing them into the next Grange Year.

At the end of December 2022, I wanted to see how many Grange members read social media postings, so my Lecturers Department hosted a contest to see who could tell us the joint Family Activities/Lecturers Departments' theme for 2023. The answer was "Let's Make a Snowman!" and we had more than one person submit the correct answer, which made Dawn Percoski and me happy. So, I put the Grangers' names who submitted the correct answer into a virtual wheel and drew one winner from those folks. And the contest winner was Susan Masino from Simsbury Grange who received a gift card to a local coffee shop. Thanks to all who participated and let's hope for a little snow so we can make a snowman!

Our first Connecticut State Grange Lecturer's Roundup of 2023 is scheduled for Sunday, March 12, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. You don't have to be a Lecturer, or from a Connecticut Grange, to join in. Discussion will include the latest news and contest information. For more information or for the Zoom credentials, contact CT State Grange Lecturer Dave Roberts at lecturer@ctstategrange.org or GranbyDavidRoberts@gmail.com, or call [860-469-5067](tel:860-469-5067).

In February 2022, National President Betsy Huber appointed me as the National Grange

representative to the United Nations Council of Organizations (COO). The COO was started 76 years ago by former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to provide a forum for non-governmental organizations to support the newly established United Nations. The National Grange was one of 43 Charter Members of the COO. I appreciate the opportunity to again serve on the COO Executive Committee as the National Grange representative. As the National Grange-appointed representative to the United Nations COO, I have two upcoming trips to the United Nations scheduled in February and March. The first is the Global Engagement Summit hosted by the United Nations Association of the United States on Friday, February 17th. The second is the Lions Day with the United Nations hosted by Lions International on Friday, March 3rd. Both events are open to the public, so if you would like to learn more about the United Nations and attend one of these events, please let me know and we can arrange it for you.

I look forward to hearing from each Grange Lecturer about how their Grange is doing. Keep your reports coming to me. And if you need help or would like me to come visit your Grange, PLEASE just ask! Happy New Year!

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

★ ★ zoom ★ ★

LECTURERS' ROUND-UP

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023
• 7:00 PM •

Let's gather VIRTUALLY on ZOOM to discuss the latest information from the CT State Grange Lecturer's Department.

For More Information and ZOOM Credentials:
CT State Grange Lecturer/Program Director Dave Roberts
lecturer@ctstategrange.org / granbydavidroberts@gmail.com
Please Note New Phone Number: (860) 469-5067

Chocolate Raspberry Crescent Ring



Prep: 25 min Total: 40 min

Ingredients: 6 Servings: 6

- 18 oz Pillsbury Crescent roll or Original Crescent Dough Sheet.
- 1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 1 package (10 to 12 oz) frozen raspberries
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch

Heat oven to 350°F.

Spray large un-rimmed cookie sheet with baking spray with flour. Or use parchment paper, Unroll dough on work surface. (If using crescent rolls, unroll dough on work surface and separate into 2 large rectangles. Overlap long sides to form 13x7-inch rectangle; firmly press edges and perforations to seal.)

In small microwavable bowl, microwave chocolate chips and oil uncovered on High 2 minutes, stirring once, until mixture can be stirred smooth. Spread evenly on dough. Starting with 1 long side of rectangle, roll up; pinch edge to seal.

With serrated knife, cut into 12 slices, wiping knife between cuts. Arrange slices on cookie sheet, seam side down, in a 7-inch diameter circle, leaning each slice against the previous one. Tuck last one under the first to complete the ring.

Bake 14 to 18 minutes or until golden brown. Using a large, flat spatula or fish turner, tip pan and slide the ring onto serving platter.

Meanwhile, in 4-quart saucepan, mix sugar, raspberries and



1/4 cup water; bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Break up berries with spatula or wooden spoon if frozen together. Continue to cook 5 minutes, stirring frequently, until berries burst and mixture begins to boil vigorously. Combine cornstarch and 1/4 cup water in a small bowl. Stir into boiling mixture and continue to cook 2 minutes, or until mixture is very thick. Strain sauce through fine mesh strainer. Spoon 1/4 cup sauce over warm crescent

ring. Serve with remaining sauce.

OPTIONAL: you can make the sauce a day ahead, just store in a microwavable container, and microwave uncovered on High 60 to 90 seconds or until warm before pouring over the crescent ring. Don't feel like straining? Just spoon the sauce straight from the pan over the finished ring. You won't get the same smooth sauce, but you'll get a big fiber boost!

Eggs, Eggs, Eggs

by Maggie Buck for the Agriculture Committee

Eggs, eggs, eggs-Boy are they expensive. So here are some tips to make the most of those eggs you do buy. First- understand the egg itself. We often think of them as a shell, a yolk and a white. Let's focus on that shell a bit. It is actually many layers fused together that allows an egg to absorb air and yes, contaminates from the air around them.

When eggs are first laid, they have a clear coating on them that slows down the ability of the egg to become contaminated. Washing eggs removes this barrier. This protective coating is why you can find unrefrigerated eggs at farm stands and feed stores.

Commercially packaged eggs have been washed and should be kept in their containers and in the fridge. Even those unwashed eggs will last longer if they too are kept in the fridge.

So you bought those eggs awhile ago and now you want to know if they are still useable. One way to check is to use the water test. Fill a clear glass with cold water. Gently drop the egg into water. If it sinks to bottom, it is pretty fresh. Eggs that bobble and become vertical are still useable but are not as fresh. Eggs that float shouldn't be used. Still not sure: open that egg into a separate dish and check it for a bad odor or discoloration of the yolk or white.

Besides keeping your eggs in the fridge, you can also store them without their shells in the freezer. Thaw before using.



EASTERN CT POMONA #14

Corr: Noel Miller

Mar. 4: "Pass the Buck" - Glastonbury Grange, Masonic Hall, South Glastonbury.

We have heard through the grapevine that Pachaug Grange #96 has closed. We hope they find a Grange to go to and are welcome to Pomona meetings.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kay Ruff

Feb. 2: Presidents & Valentines on Zoom

Mar. 2: March Winds on Zoom - stay tuned - maybe at the Masonic Hall.

Back in November when we made the decision to meet on Zoom for the winter months we did not expect such an open winter. We will see what the weather looks like near our March meeting. Perhaps we will be able to meet at the hall if the roads are clear.

Our CWA Chairman did attend the CWA regional meeting on Zoom. She did give us a brief idea about the 2023 program. The Baking Contest Coconut Snowballs really sound good and very easy. I am on the refreshment committee for our April meeting. We will be back meeting in the Masonic Hall for sure, so I will have to make them for the CWA Auction table and some for the refreshment table.

Our Master, Dan Posuniak is scheduled for shoulder surgery January 24th. We all wish him a successful surgery and a steady

recovery.

Wishing you all a very "happy and healthy spring".

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Feb. 22: Program -Bird Feeding- February is National bird feeding month

We have planned out our winter events and meetings. Our program in Dec. was Mentoring. We were grateful to have Noel Miller, CT Grange Executive committee join us. He brought us up to date on programs, and officers of the State Grange. In the fall we had many fundraisers including Calendar sales, Soup suppers, pork pie sales, Woodstock Winter Festival, Christmas pie sales and other contributions including rental of the hall. We will be having meals of American Chop Suey in Jan., then Feb.23. Chicken pot pie and a Shepherd's pie Mar. 23 These are being held on Thursday evenings and are popular for the community. Other plans are for card parties on a monthly schedule of the 3rd Thursday at 2PM. We also plan to have a Sunday afternoon dinner out at local restaurants. This should

be a great time together. The local recreation committee is offering line dancing at our hall. We are grateful to have the local home school group and the Yoga group to use our hall. Our recycled shopping bags and calendars are still for sale. We offer the use of our hall to encourage the community to be aware of our mission. Hope to see our members and friends join us.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Irene Percoski

Feb. 2: Exchange Program- Vernon at Coventry

Feb. 3: Exchange Program- Coventry at Vernon

Mar. 3: Pass the Buck

Apr. 7: CWA Presents Program

Welcome to a winter that isn't. One of these days we will be moaning about the frigid temps and piles of snow, but for now we enjoy the 50's and are glad we don't have to shovel rain. Master Nancy Strong sent out a survey to members to see how many wanted an in person meeting or zoom meeting. Zoom won. There were 10 members present, good to see Gordon in S. Carolina and Cherie in Seattle. No visitors were present. Nancy



I've been getting to know the newest critter on our farm, Bella the orange tabby cat that mom and Mark brought home to live with us on December 12. She's kind of neat, but sure does talk a lot. She's getting used to the place and I think she feels quite at home by now. I have been very busy trying to tame this lioness. No matter how nicely I ask her, she refuses to sit in the chair.

Cheshire Grange No. 23

read the letter from State Master Bob Buck regarding the changes with the Grange Inspection. The Executive report was discussed and the need for raising funds became apparent. A few different ideas were presented. Also the treasurer will look into some investments and report next month. Irene presented the program stumping many with the Giraffe test. The evening concluded with the Heritage reading and Nancy recalling her memories of working on the farm. We look forward to joining Coventry Grange for next month's programs and hope this nice weather prevails.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

Feb. 2: Vernon Grange Program Exchange

Mar. 2: Mardi Gras

We lost a 74 year member, Sister Gladyce Pescetello. We lost touch with her for many years.

We are looking for warmer weather and plans for tag sales and repairs to the hall.

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

Feb. 10: I Haven't Got "Candy Land"

Feb. 24: Snow date for Feb. 10

Our Christmas party was lots of fun! The hall was decked out in glittering splendor. Our new Christmas tree, donated by Cheree and Robert Miner took center stage up front by Santa's chair. Lecturer Sue Pianka read "The Little Drummer Boy" to a group of excited children then gave each child a copy of the book. We sang Christmas songs before Santa arrived with his bag of gifts. As well as gifts from Santa everyone received an apple, a candy cane and a tiny stocking ornament. Refreshments were outstanding and everyone left full and happy.

Our usual caroling around town fell on the night of a nasty storm, so we surprised some people when we arrived a few nights later.



Cheshire Grange members Diane Calabro and Jane Miller are shown sorting lap robes that were given to their shut-in members and others during the Christmas season.



Our last meeting was held in our dining room to save on heating costs for this winter. We had an interesting Literary program put on by our member, Charles Dimmick (above) on Poultry - which included music, educational information and fun facts. We will have a Corned Beef Dinner on Saturday, March 11th. It was announced, the Cheshire Grange Community Fair will be held on August 26th and 27th. More information to follow on these events.

Along with the carols, we delivered delicious fruit baskets, candy and an ornament. We also donated many gift certificates to our local food cupboard to brighten the day for families in need.

Just a gentle reminder (and to save a stamp), if you haven't paid

your dues yet, please do.

Our next program will be hosted by Nancy Weissmuller. Should be fun! And if those pounds that sneaked on during the holidays will just sneak themselves off again, next time I'll tell you all about jolly January.



WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Feb. 14: Hearts & Flowers (Country Store), Ref. Mary Lou & Peter Keefe

Feb. 28: President Who? (Potluck 6 P.M.), Ref. ALL

Mar. 14: When Irish Eyes Are Smiling, Ref. Craig Leifert

Mar. 28: CWA Program, Ref. Last Names M-Y

Winchester Grange wishes our Treasurer Bill Ahrens a speedy recovery. He recently had a surgical procedure which will be followed by a good amount of convalescence. We hope you're back on your feet and able to come to meetings again soon Bill!

Winchester continues to meet twice a month at the Grange hall and on Zoom. If you would like to attend via Zoom, please email Secretary@CTStateGrange.org to received the Zoom credentials. Guests are always welcome at our meetings!

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Feb. 9: Winter by Barbara Prindle Ref. by Howard Randall

March 9: Blocks by Debra Tyler Ref. by Sharon Kroeger

Our January meeting was well attended even though the fog made it difficult to find the turn off Rt#4 onto Dunbar Road. Thankfully it

was gone by the end of the meeting.

We would like the thank Geoff Haydock of Whetstone Builders once again for spotting the broken front window on the 2nd story which was caused by the wind storm. He replaced the sash while using some of the old glass from one of the stored windows. He also put a piece of plywood behind the window to keep it from happening again.

All of the dictionaries to the 3rd graders in Sharon, Warren, Cornwall and Kent have now been given out. Many cards and letters were received with "Thank You" some of which are hysterical. The flyers/posters for our Krauting Bee were handed out to post in nearby towns. The response to this activity has been very positive and created a lot of interest on social media.

We received the Annual Word for this year and took a poll of all the members present to see if they felt safe taking the word again at our meetings. It was almost unanimous to not yet have the AS and LAS take up the word when it needs to be whispered a few inches from one's face. We have not taken the word since COVID began and will wait a while longer before we do it again. If members need the word for visiting other Grange Halls they were asked to call President Barbara Prindle to get it from her at that point.

The highlight of the evening was John Brett's half hour PowerPoint presentation of "Iran". He started off with the correct pronunciation of the name of the country. It is not eye-RAN but sounds like ur-aan or ee-RON. John had been there a few years ago and his photography of the mosaics and art work were beautiful. We learned about the country and people. Many questions were answered along the way and gave us all a better insight into the people of Iran as opposed to

the government.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: David Roberts

Feb. 12 (Sun): Monthly business meeting by Zoom, 2 PM; please contact Dave Roberts for Zoom info. at either GranbyDavidRoberts@gmail.com or 860-469-5067.

Feb. 26 (Sun): Monthly membership meeting by Zoom; please contact Dave Roberts for Zoom info. Lecturer Judy Doyle program on "End of Winter."

Mar. 12 (Sun.): Business meeting, 2 P.M. by Zoom. Please contact Dave Roberts for Zoom info.

Mar. 26 (Sun.): Monthly membership meeting (in-person); Lecturer Judy Doyle program on "Caterpillars & Butterflies," refreshments will be served following the meeting.

On Sunday, January 15, Granby Grange was honored to welcome Connecticut State Grange President Rob Buck for his first visit ever to historic Granby Grange hall. Granby Grange #5 is the home of the first President of the first CT State Grange, Harvey Goddard, from 1875-1878.

On January 15, 2023, Connecticut State Grange General Deputy Peter Keefe obligated 29 new Granby Grange members, 6 new members of Riverton Grange, and 1 new member of Winchester Grange. State Grange President Rob Buck says that Granby Grange now holds the record for the most new members added in one day (TWENTY NINE), exceeding the record set recently by Wallingford. New Granby Grange members included Connecticut State Rep. Mark Anderson, Salmon Brook Historical Society (SBHS) President Todd Vibert, SBHS Curator Martha Miller, SBHS Board Member Philip Marshall, and Granby Conservation Commissioners David Desiderato and Kara Marshall. The large number of new members was the result of a collaboration with Riverton Grange #169 to help reinvigorate membership in their neighbor, Granby Grange. Newly

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installed Granby Grange. President Ron Cowdrey personally thanked Riverton Grange, their members, and in particular President Dave Roberts for all their tireless work to help bring new members to Granby Grange.

General Deputy Peter Keefe

and his installation team installed the newly elected Granby Grange officers.

Following this historic event of having all offices filled, refreshments were provided by both Granby Grange and Riverton Grange to the large audience. Granby Grange will

next work on appointing Committee Chairs and members to all its local Grange committees. Granby Grange would like to invite other Grangers to come and visit to see our historic Granby Grange Hall and experience the new enthusiasm we have at Granby Grange!

Legislatively Speaking



Noel Miller
Legislative Director
Coventry Grange #75
millernoel434@gmail.com

The 118th Congress has elected a Speaker of the House, after 15 ballots. What deals were made we will not know. The first items on their agenda are to hold hearings against the Department of Justice over the Trump investigations, and the weaponization of the FBI. The majority has bills to overturn IRS hiring and ban abortions on the Federal level. We have seen this show before and it didn't go well for the people running the show.

The National Debt Ceiling will be discussed and the Republican's plan is to delay or cut programs. The crystal ball is saying to watch for proposed Social Security, Medicare, Food Stamp reductions or cuts. These programs have been branded as entitlements when they are really benefits most citizens have paid for through their many years of paychecks. The Debt Ceiling refers to the raising of the government debt limit to cover the bills that have passed. Failure to do so will shut down the government. This is not the time to play chicken with the economy with inflation at a frail juncture and any instability could make times worse for everyone.

The Connecticut General Assembly has opened and one item being considered is state aid for funding of the school lunch program. Many students go to school without breakfast or lunch, and with the hard times that we are in many students cannot afford school lunches. We should assist these programs to ensure future leaders of this country can obtain the food to help growing minds and encourage healthy bodies. We have supported the return of whole milk in our schools and we have allowed schools to use locally grown produce to make better meal choices. We need to support this program if only for the short-term until food prices return to somewhat normal.

The 2023 Farm Bill is due this year and the talk is to aid our Farmers but to cut the Food

Stamp program. This program has benefited many people in low income families, military families and others. While we hear of states transferring welfare funds to programs building sports facilities backed by celebrity athletes, and other cases where prisoners were counted in families to receive added benefits. Shame on them. This country is of the "haves" and "have nots." We need to go back to civics class that taught good citizenship ... looking out for the other guy. Bring back movies like "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" and "Mr. Deeds", the black and white version of the 1940s. Today kids need to see these old movies for the lessons they have to offer. Graft and grift seems to have returned to the politics we have today, what a shame.

Please think about resolutions for this year and if you need help, please call me.





NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Nutmeg Pomona's next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 26 at 2:00 at Cheshire Grange. We will be conferring the Fifth Degree and having our annual inspection. It's time to check your Grange for possible candidates. In the last Granger I asked you to mark your calendar- I hope you did.

Refreshments will be supplied by the officers.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Feb. 1: Presidents Day

Feb. 15: Box Supper-Let Me Be Your Valentine

We hosted the local Alkathon for Christmas and New Years after their three year hiatus due to COVID. They are very generous to us financially.

Our open Christmas meeting was well attended with wonderful refreshments provided by Lori and Don Lanoue. We omitted the January 4th meeting. Our January 18th meeting was our agricultural program in charge of Charles Dimmick. Plans for our annual fair will be getting under way soon.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our raffle, tag sale and open mic held in December was a huge success. We raised over \$1,000. Thank you to all who donated raffle gifts, sold and purchased tickets. We are planning another raffle to

be drawn at our Anniversary in June. We could use gift donations.

We have been holding our tag sales for about one and a half years and have always had plenty of items. Our stock is getting low so when you are doing our spring cleaning, think of Beacon Valley. Items we have a lot of calls for are tools and yarn. Our next sale is Feb. 18th.

Our next meeting is Saturday, Feb. 18. We will be meeting at 2 P.M. hoping to save money on fuel. The program will be on "Violets" in the charge of Joanne Cipriano. Pat and Ron Fischer will supply the refreshments. March meeting will be on March 10th with a program on "Daffodils" in the charge of Marie Sousa and for refreshments we will be enjoying grilled cheese sandwiches. Our listing is for two months of activities as the mail service usually doesn't deliver the Granger until after our meeting date. This is not the fault of the Granger.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Jim & Lori Golias

Happy New Year, 2023!

The Greenfield Hill Grange will be celebrating 130 years this year!

Here are two upcoming events:

On Saturday, March 11 we will hold our annual Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Reservations are a must — please reserve by March 3.

On Good Friday, April 7, we will hold our Fish Fry. A choice of fish or breaded shrimp, fries, cole slaw. Please reserve by April 2.

For reservations, please call Jim at 2:03. 259. 8023.

SAVE THE DATE Our annual Agricultural Fair will be held in August 26, 2023.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

Mar. 2: Meeting

Apr. 6: Meeting

May 4: Meeting

Greetings from Lyme Grange #147. We're a bit late but as they say "better late than never." Hope everyone had a nice Christmas and the New Year will bring health and happiness to all.

Our water has been drained and heat is off- only put on for meetings.

Our Hamburg Fair Committee continues to meet once a month. It takes a lot of planning to put on a fair.

Sadly, we must drape our charter in memory of Douglas Evans, who passed in December. He was a 45 year member.

We lacked a quorum for our January meeting. We need to have some serious discussions about our dwindling attendance.

Hope everyone is staying well and away from the flu and COVID-19.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Feb. 10: February might be short, but it's mighty.

Feb. 24: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Mar. 10: Welcome, welcome spring.

Mar. 24: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Community Service

I'd like to thank you for electing me as your V.P. of the CT State Grange. As your Community Service Director... the contest will remain the same with two new divisions for Junior and Jr. Plus Ones. Look for forms arriving in your Granges. Just a reminder, WiFi grants are available (\$250) for Granges that apply to the Community Service Committee.

Ted Powell
104 E. Lake Rd.
Oakdale, CT 06370
860-908-4906

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.

This Month



January



We heard from Pat Palmer of Ekonk Grange about the January photo -- "I believe that the woman on the left is Evelyn Howard (Hamden Grange), the man in the middle is John Warner (Hamden Grange), Frank Warner's brother. I'm not sure about the lady on the right."



View from the Hill

Burton Eller
National Grange
Legislative Dir.

New Congress Settles In

With the new year has come a new Congress with divided control for the first time since President Biden was elected. The House of Representatives is now controlled by a narrow Republican majority while the Senate remains controlled by Democrats. The Senate was able to quickly return to the rhythm of legislating and for the most part looks the same as it did last Congress with the same committee chairs and similar committee compositions. In contrast, the House under new Republican control has changed significantly. Following a lengthy process to elect a new Speaker of the House, Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) was chosen. As part of this process, McCarthy had to make significant changes at the request of more conservative members of the House Republican Conference. In general, these changes decreased the power of Republican leadership and increased the power of individual members to block or slow down legislation. For more details on these changes, see our Advocacy Playbook from this month.

With a Speaker elected, the House proceeded to select a new set of Republican Committee chairs and new committee rosters. Of note to the Grange, the new Agriculture Committee Chair is Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA), a long-time friend of the Pennsylvania State Grange and the new Energy & Commerce Committee Chair is Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) a friend and member of the Washington State Grange.

House Republicans Assert Priorities

As the House of Representatives moves from the business of organizing itself to the business of legislating, the new House Republican majority is beginning to assert its priorities. To start, House Republicans have held votes on priorities including abortion, border security/immigration, competition with China, oversight of the federal government and Biden administration, and more. It is important to note that these are just signaling bills, as for any legislation to pass it would have to also be approved

by the Democratic Senate and signed by President Biden.

Some House Republicans have also indicated their interest in negotiating serious spending cuts before agreeing to raise the debt ceiling this summer and before voting on a government funding program in the Fall. These Republicans have made clear that they would be willing to let the government default on its debt or shut the government down for prolonged periods if they are unable to get Democrats in the Senate to agree to their spending demands. Either a default on government debt or a government shutdown would do serious damage to the economy, so Republican House leadership has already begun negotiations behind closed doors with a goal of avoiding either outcome.

New Protection for Honeybees

The USDA has approved a conditional license for a vaccine to protect honeybees from the deadly American foulbrood disease. The vaccine, developed by Dolan Animal Health, could serve as a breakthrough to protect bee colonies. American foulbrood disease is highly contagious and has no cure. The vaccine contains an inactive version of the bacteria that causes foulbrood and is incorporated into a royal jelly feed given to the queen bee by worker bees. This gives her offspring, the young bee larvae, immunity to the disease as they hatch.

Smuggled Eggs in Your Pan

U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel are reporting a rise in attempted egg smuggling at the Mexican border. They attribute the increase in smuggling to a 59.9% spike in U.S. egg prices over the past year. U.S. egg production is down sharply as the result of the massive outbreak of deadly avian flu among American flocks. Eggs must be inspected and originate from disease free flocks to enter the U.S.

Farm Bill Process Begins

The new chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, G.T. Thompson (R-PA), and several bipartisan members of his committee held a farm bill listening session at the recent Pennsylvania Farm Show. Afterwards Chairman Thompson said that, in addition to the commodity title, his committee would focus on crop insurance, cost inflation, nutritional assistance, rural broadband, and agriculture research.

New WOTUS Rule Issued

The Biden administration decided not to wait on a Supreme Court ruling and has issued a “new waters of the U.S.” rule. Farmer, rancher, landowner, construction, real estate, energy and infrastructure groups and numerous members of Congress describe

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View from the Hill

Continued from page 13...

the rule as a “thinly veiled land-grab” and “another bureaucratic attack on rural America.” The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture called the rule a “statement of federal overreach.” The Supreme Court is reviewing EPA’s jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act and their ruling on the definition of WOTUS will take precedence.

FDA Proposes Annual COVID Boosters

The Food and Drug Administration has proposed updating COVID boosters every fall like the flu shot. As they do with flu shots, the FDA would assess COVID strains annually and each summer would recommend the strain to be targeted by the fall booster.

Telehealth and Hospital-at-Home Waivers Extended

The Medicare telehealth flexibilities enacted during the pandemic and the Acute Hospital at Home program have been extended through 2024 by the omnibus year-end spending package passed by Congress in late December. This will allow people with high deductible health plans to receive telehealth coverage without meeting their annual deductible first. It also allows continued treatment for common acute conditions in home settings under the Acute Hospital Care at Home Program. The National Grange supported both extensions.

FCC Guidance Needed for Rural Broadband

Barriers such as rights-of-way, poll attachment fees, slow permitting and other barriers are slowing rural broadband deployment projects. The National Grange wrote Federal Communications Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel in late January to urge the Commission to issue its long-awaited guidance document addressing these barriers. Until these barriers are mitigated, rural broadband is at risk of falling behind for the funding provided in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

New Broadband Coverage Maps Challenged

The Federal Communications Commission spent most of the past year creating its own country-wide maps of locations deemed to have access to high speed broadband. Once the new maps were released, the FCC asked for challenges to the accuracy of the new data by January 13. Almost 350,000 challenges were received. So, if you or your neighbors do not currently have high-speed internet, contact your state broadband agency to be sure you are listed correctly on the new map of your area. For example, in Vermont the FCC says about 59,000 people are unserved or underserved. But the Vermont Community Broadband Board says it’s well over 10,000 addresses that are unserved or underserved.

Several lawmakers have called for a 60 day extension to the challenge process to give states more time to verify and submit accurate data. Similar feedback is coming from Georgia, Kansas, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, West Virginia and others.

Post Office Improves Ballot Delivery

The 2022 midterm elections saw 98.6 percent of the 54.4 million ballots delivered within three days according to U.S.P.S. Postmaster General DeJoy. Extra collections and deliveries were made, special pick-ups were established, processing facilities expanded their hours, and expedited deliveries were made to boards of elections.

John Deere Takes a Step

The John Deere Company and the American Farm Bureau have signed a memorandum of understanding that could enable farmers and ranchers to repair their own equipment. Though the MOU has no legal standing, it agrees to provide access to parts, tools, software and documentation to perform repair and maintenance by equipment owners and their independent mechanics. Time will tell if additional equipment manufacturers will follow suit to support owner repair and maintenance.

The Electric Vehicle Debate

Farmers, ranchers and rural Americans in general seem to be skeptical about electric vehicles. Americans, and rural residents more specifically, are leery of EV milage range. Despite rapid improvements in battery capacity, internal combustion engines are the only practical choice for country people at this time. Recharging stations for EVs are scarce and will be built last in rural locations. Electrification is not practical yet for large equipment like farm equipment. The price of EVs is tempering sales, especially in a down economy. It may be a decade or several before EVs outnumber internal combustion engine vehicles on the road.

Perspective...

“When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around.” ~ Willie Nelson

“Thank you is the best prayer anyone could say.” ~ Alice Walker

“We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives.” ~ John F. Kennedy

“There is no better way to thank God for your sight than by giving a helping hand to someone in the dark.” ~ Helen Keller



WOODSTOCK RECREATION
&
SENEXET GRANGE

PRESENT

LINE DANCING CLASS

Ages 16+. All skill levels welcome!

Reserve your spot now:
erinlucas@woodstockct.gov



WHEN:
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19
2PM - 3:30PM

COST:
\$8/PERSON

WHERE:
SENEXET GRANGE
528 ROUTE 169
WOODSTOCK, CT

Dance your boots off at this one-time class! If there is enough interest, we will consider offering a spring session for 4 or 6 weeks!



REMINDER



**Submissions for the
CT State Grange History Book Project
“Perseverance: Connecticut Granges
Make Their Mark On History”
will be due prior to March 1, 2023.**

We ask those who are working on bios, photos, scans, historical pieces and research to please send your information prior to the above date as we will soon be starting on the next phase of the project.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at the information below.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION & SUPPORT

For more information:

Terri Fassio - information@ctstategrange.org
Roy Harrington - RHarrington@ctstategrange.org

FEBRUARY NATIONAL GRANGE EVENTS

TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

FEBRUARY 2023

ALL TIMES EASTERN

14: MEMBERSHIP MATTERS (ZOOM) 8:30 P.M.

Open to all!

Contact abrozana@nationalgrange.org for more information.

17-18: NATIONAL GRANGE PRESIDENTS' CONFERENCE

State Grange leaders are gathering on Zoom to discuss Grange issues and department updates.

19: YOUTH YAMMERINGS (ZOOM) 9:00 P.M.

Join National Junior Grange and Youth Development Director Samantha Wilkins for updates about the National Grange Youth department. Contact youth@nationalgrange.org for more information.

28: LECTURER'S FORUM (ZOOM) 8:30 P.M.

National Grange Lecturer Ann Bercher will lead a discussion on contests, programming, and more in the Lecturer's Department. Contact lecturer@nationalgrange.org for more information.

JUNIOR GRANGE FOCUS AREA:

ADVOCACY

YOUTH PILLAR FOCUS AREA:

GROWTH



BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153



SUPER BOWL CHILI DINNER TAKEOUT

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023

3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church,
5 Main St., Bridgewater, CT

CHOOSE FROM:

- SPICY BEEF
- CHICKEN
- OR VEGETARIAN

(12 OZ.) INCLUDING
HOMEMADE
CORNBREAD

\$10
PER
DINNER



PRE-ORDERS RECOMMENDED - Contact Pam
at 203-470-8013 or email
bridgewater@ctstategrange.org

Made with PosterMyWall.com

100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3
Winchester Center, CT 06094

Address Service Requested

Count Your Blessings



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

Bless the LORD O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. Psalm 103:2

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father. James 1:17

“And if you try to reckon up Allah’s favours, you will not be able to count them. Truly man is very unjust, very ungrateful” (Sūrah Ibrāhīm, 14:34).

At certain times almost all of us have had moments when we think about things that have gone wrong in our lives and wonder why life isn’t better. But it is seldom we stop and think about how many things



have gone right for us. We notice when we need to stop for a red light but don’t notice when the light stays green, or when we cannot find a parking spot, but not when we do find one. If we honestly reflect on our lives we should realize that far more often things go right than go wrong.

Unless we live north of the Arctic Circle, we can count on the sun coming up every morning. And

even when we cannot see the rising sun because it is raining, that too is usually a blessing, because more often than not the land needs the rain. Many other examples of God’s favor towards us will come to you if you really think and ponder.

And yet, how often DO we stop and think of all our blessings? With few exceptions, not often. It’s not too late to make another New Year’s resolution to think of all the blessings which God gives us continually and thank him for them. While we should be thankful to God “at all times and in all places”, it might be especially helpful to set aside a specific time each day to meditate on the long list of gifts that God has blessed us with, such as at bedtime.

*“When I’m worried, and I can’t sleep,
I count my blessings instead of sheep.
And then fall asleep, counting my
blessings”.*

In Memoriam

Gladyce Pescetello, G.S.
Coventry Grange #75

Robert Lord
Edward Durrenberger
Hillstown Grange #87

Douglas Evans
Lyme Grange #147

Mary Newton, G.S.
Ruth Freeburg
Hemlock Grange #182

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”

Welcome to Hawaii’s first Grange



Hawaii is now home to its first Grange, Big Island No. 1. It was officially organized on January 15, 2023 by National Grange Membership Director Amanda Brozana-Rios. Fifteen charter members were on hand for their first meeting with five more applications in waiting and more to come. Three new members were responsible for gathering members for this Grange, new President Ralph Sherman, Elizabeth Hiner, Secretary and Peggy Johnson, Steward.