



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

September 2026

From the President's Desk



Robert Buck
State President

Bethlehem Grange No. 121
president@ctstategrange.org

One of our Granges in Connecticut recently got caught in a kerfuffle with the town tax assessor who was new to that job. Wanting to look good no doubt by raising the grand list, said assessor sent said Grange a multi-thousand dollar tax bill. Due to attrition and changes in officers in that Grange, the Quadrennial Filing for Tax Exempt Entities went heaven knows where. I capitalize the name of that report because all Grange secretaries should be intimately familiar with it as completing it every four years is what keeps your Grange from paying property taxes to your town. Good news is the Grange afore mentioned resolved their issue by filing this report. If you don't complete it or have never seen one, maybe your town tax assessor knows your tax-exempt status and either completes it for your Grange or overlooks it. Either way, if you ever receive a property tax bill, this is what you need to go complete and file with the assessor.

There have been ongoing questions in various Granges about procedural matters as they relate to the National Grange Digest of Laws and the State Grange By-Laws. All Granges should have copies of

these handy, and especially the Digest as that has been distributed to all Granges in recent years by the State Secretary Todd Gelineau. *[Secretary's Note: All Granges will be receiving a copy of the National Digest and the State By-Laws at State Session in October].* In the meantime, failing to find one when needed, you can go to the National Grange website and download a copy for yourself. As it is dry reading, if anyone has questions about procedures, please call either me, the President or Todd, the Secretary and we will be glad to help answer questions. Grange Law is Grange Law and not optional as to whether you follow it as you are not allowed to make up your own rules.



**Jody & Jodi Ann
Cameron**
Membership Co-Dir.

Ekonk Comm. Grange No. 89
membership@ctstategrange.org

"You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." – Martin Luther King, Jr.

We are going to give you some statistics and then reiterate some of our previous thoughts from earlier articles. As of the close of the 2026 2nd quarter, the CT State Grange had 1,192 members. 5 Granges showed a net gain, 10 Granges were unchanged and 14 Granges showed a net loss in membership. Overall,

Good Day! editor Phil Vonada shared some good ideas in an article in the most recent issue. You may have heard of the ill of modern society called the Plague of Loneliness. With so many people around plus all the groups of which to choose to be a part as well as all the technological methods of social media to create connections between people, many folks are still alone and lonely. This is where the Grange fits in. Instead of the superficiality of social media, the Grange is a space where you can bring people in and create a sense of belonging by allowing them to undertake projects (of their choosing) they can then call their own. The Grange and its work provide for some shared goals which members can work on together for the betterment of the community.

...Continued next page

Just take the first step

for the quarter the CT State Grange had a loss of 30 members. Of the 14 Granges that posted a net loss the average loss was 3.6 members per Grange.

Let's assume these same Granges continue to see these losses at a rate of 3.6 members per quarter. Hypothetically, in 3 years we will have 11 less Granges in CT.

This is not all doom and gloom; those 5 Granges that saw growth posted a total net gain of 20 members. 20 new members!

We have 29 Granges in CT, 5 of those brought in new members, thus 24 did not. Why? This is not a

...Continued next page



Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange



NEXT ISSUE:
Articles Due Sept. 15

From the President's Desk

Continued from page one...

This in turn creates that sense of accomplishment and belonging. A simple and powerful idea.

Another idea from *Good Day!* shared by National Lecturer Richard Stonebraker is for the Grange to have value to people so that they will join us in our work. It must make sense to them. Instead of inviting in new members and forcing them to bend to our way, we must meet them where they are by providing an organization that is relevant to their lives. This is part of the FISH philosophy originated in the Seattle,

Washington, Pike Place Fish Market in 1998. It was begun to add high energy and excitement to the work place, but its ideas are a part of any organization where you deal with people. Some of the longer-term Grange members will remember this from a previous Grange program meant to boost membership.

With State Grange Session fast approaching, I have been preparing by memorizing the Sixth Degree

and have got it down again. Resolutions are coming in and there are over 20 so far. Todd was working on the Session program booklet last we talked. As the Call to Session has gone out, send in your registrations and get your hotel rooms booked. Try to get two delegates to which each Grange is entitled. I look forward to seeing you all and having a good session this year. Remember, it is an election year so there will also be an installation of officers. Plan to stay for that as it is truly one of the most beautiful Grange rituals.

Just take the first step

Continued from page one...

lecture, nor a scolding, it is a legitimate question. What prevented the 24 Granges from attracting new members? What prevented the communities in which we serve from attracting the attention of a new member? Are you meeting the needs of your members and communities, are you doing ANYTHING? Are we stagnant? Is it just the same old same old? Is your time together engaging, educational and fun?

Membership growth and retention can be a daunting task, especially if you are not in the habit of it. So, how does this become a habit? How does it become second nature? Do you even know how or why?

We've laid out the reasons why above, consistent losses year after year, loss of Granges year after year. If that isn't a big enough reason why for anyone.....

I guess that leaves the how. We want to go back to three questions we have asked during our visitations as we have in other articles:

What do you do?

Who do you do it for?

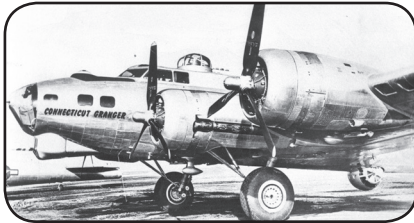
And do they know you do it?

These questions are not always easy to answer but are vital to developing a plan of sustainability and growth. I really guess if 80% of our Granges are seeing losses or no growth a fourth question should be added. Are you doing anything? Or are you just going through the motions, the bare minimum to be a Grange. Just holding your meeting, hoping the faithful are there so you can meet. Have you had the same officers for a long, long time? If you can say with pride, you've held the same office for an exceptionally long period of time, you very well may not be an asset, you're an obstacle. An obstacle to growth of the Grange both internally and externally. Our current and future members time is extremely valuable. So, Why should I give my time to your Grange? Are you going to help me grow? Are you going to added value to my life personally and professionally. Are you going to respect my differences from you? I want to be of value to the Grange, the community and to myself. Are you, as a Grange and a Granger willing to let me explore growth opportunities, share my ideas and embrace my differences? My differences may be subtle and they may not be. Are you able to, will you embrace those that differ from you? I sure do hope so because we are living in a world that is changing every minute, there are new trends, new fads, new everything every day. Can you compete as a Grange?

Let's see next quarter if you can.....

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
15th Day of each month
and should be sent to:
Connecticut State Grange
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
(USPS 563-220)

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142nd Annual Convention Registration

Thursday, October 15 - Saturday, October 17, 2026

HOTEL RESERVATIONS DUE: SEPT. 11

SESSION REGISTRATIONS DUE: SEPT. 30

Name _____ Delegate? Yes _____ No _____

Grange _____ # _____

Email _____

Sessions:

Full Registration [3 Days] (\$50) \$ _____

Thurs./Fri. Only Registration (\$25) \$ _____

Friday Breakfast? _____ (FREE) Friday Lunch? _____ (FREE)

Friday Night Banquet _____ Baked Stuffed Sole (\$35). \$ _____

_____ Eggplant Parmesan (\$35). \$ _____

_____ Chicken Piccata (\$35). \$ _____

_____ Prime Rib of Beef (\$45). \$ _____

Saturday Only Registration (\$25) \$ _____

Sat. Breakfast? _____ (FREE) Sat. Lunch? _____ (FREE)

REGISTRATION 1

Name _____ Delegate? Yes _____ No _____

Grange _____ # _____

Email _____

Sessions:

Full Registration [3 Days] (\$50) \$ _____

Thurs./Fri. Only Registration (\$25) \$ _____

Friday Breakfast? _____ (FREE) Friday Lunch? _____ (FREE)

Friday Night Banquet _____ Baked Stuffed Sole (\$35). \$ _____

_____ Eggplant Parmesan (\$35). \$ _____

_____ Chicken Piccata (\$35). \$ _____

_____ Prime Rib of Beef (\$45). \$ _____

Saturday Only Registration (\$25) \$ _____

Sat. Breakfast? _____ (FREE) Sat. Lunch? _____ (FREE)

REGISTRATION 2

Name _____ Delegate? Yes _____ No _____

Grange _____ # _____

Email _____

Sessions:

Full Registration [3 Days] (\$50) \$ _____

Thurs./Fri. Only Registration (\$25) \$ _____

Friday Breakfast? _____ (FREE) Friday Lunch? _____ (FREE)

Friday Night Banquet _____ Baked Stuffed Sole (\$35). \$ _____

_____ Eggplant Parmesan (\$35). \$ _____

_____ Chicken Piccata (\$35). \$ _____

_____ Prime Rib of Beef (\$45). \$ _____

Saturday Only Registration (\$25) \$ _____

Sat. Breakfast? _____ (FREE) Sat. Lunch? _____ (FREE)

REGISTRATION 3

PLEASE FILL OUT FORM COMPLETELY

TOTAL ALL FEES \$

Please make checks payable to the Connecticut State Grange

Mail to: Connecticut State Grange, 100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3, Winchester Center, CT 06094

Questions: Please call the State Secretary at (860) 307-1522 or email: Secretary@CTStateGrange.org

HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS DUE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

To reserve hotel rooms, call the Holiday Inn at 860-889-5201 and ask for the CT State Grange block.

142nd Annual Session Resolutions

Resolutions 1-13 were published in the August issue of the Connecticut Granger. Resolutions 14-21 were submitted in August. Below is a comprehensive list of all resolutions and the committees to which they have been assigned.

Credentials, Constitution & By-Laws

Chair: Ruel Miller; Vice Chair: Patrick O'Brien

Committee Members: Granby #5; Lyme #147; Senexet #40; Taghannuck #100; Vernon #52; Winchester #74; Wolcott #173

- 1) Alternate Delegates
- 9) Elimination of Use of Passwords within the National Grange
- 13) Credentials for a Candidate Seeking the Office of President of the U.S.
- 17) Calling for Nominations from the Floor for President/Master
- 20) Delegates to State Session

Good of the Order/Membership/Master's Address

Chair: David Roberts; Vice Chair: Charles Dimmick

Committee Members: Bethlehem #121; Ekonk Community #89; Harmony #192; Hemlock #182; Killingly #112; Riverton #169; Stonington #168; Ekonk Jr. Grange #101

- 4) Moving of the National Grange Office
- 5) Misuse of High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes
- 8) School Buses on Interstate Highways
- 15) Reducing Light Pollution and Light Trespass
- 19) Youth & Junior Members at National Session

Legislative/Insurance

Chair: Donald Lanoue; Vice Chair: Ted Powell

Committee Members: Cannon #152; Cheshire #23; Greenfield Hill #133; Hillstown #87; Norfield #146; Redding #15; Stafford #1; Wallingford #33; Hillstown Jr. Grange #87

- 2) Overturning of Citizen Election Ruling
- 6) Post Office Letter Stamping Policy
- 10) Support for CT Dairy Farmers and the Establishment of a Dairy Sustainability Tax Credit
- 11) Support of CT Public Act 490
- 16) Common Sense Definitions for "Affordable Housing"
- 18) Data Centers

Agriculture/Conservation/Environment

Chair: Jaimie Cameron; Vice Chair: Noel Miller

Committee Members: Beacon Valley #103; Bridgewater #153; Coventry #75; North Stonington #138; Oxford #194; Simsbury #197; Whigville #48

- 3) Misuse of Federal Lands
- 7) National Park Staffing
- 12) Support for Establishment of Dedicated Agricultural Committee in the Connecticut General Assembly
- 14) Protecting Farmland & Natural and Cultural Resources
- 21) Bald Eagles

14) RE: PROTECTING FARMLAND & NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

WHEREAS there is pressure in every town for development and resource and energy extraction (i.e. housing, sports complexes, AI data centers, water bottling plants, energy infrastructure), and numerous other community wants and needs, and

WHEREAS cultural and natural history and farmland are easily and sometimes accidentally degraded, developed, or destroyed, even when owned by the public, and

WHEREAS there are few or no rules

protecting historic buildings, farmland, critical habitats, scenic vistas, or similar public assets.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange support statewide policies that protect valuable land and natural and cultural history held in the public trust, particularly historic buildings, working farms and prime farmland, critical habitats, clean water, and scenic vistas, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the Connecticut State Grange also supports common sense legislation to protect priceless public assets from development and

degradation.

SOURCE: Simsbury Grange #197; Mountain Laurel Pomona #15

REFERRED: Agriculture, Conservation & Environment

15) RE: REDUCING LIGHT POLLUTION AND LIGHT TRESPASS

WHEREAS light pollution and light trespass wastes energy and harms human health and wildlife, and

WHEREAS light pollution has been escalating worldwide, and

WHEREAS light pollution and trespass can be prevented, and can often be reversed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Connecticut State Grange urge the State and individual towns to adopt model regulations recommended by Dark Sky International to support wildlife and public health and safety by reducing light pollution, glare, and light trespass, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Grange supports public education on these issues.

SOURCE: Simsbury Grange #197; Mountain Laurel Pomona #15

REFERRED: **REFERRED:** Good of the Order/Membership/Master's Address

16) RE: COMMON SENSE DEFINITIONS FOR "AFFORDABLE" HOUSING

WHEREAS "affordable" housing is a statewide priority, and

WHEREAS housing that is included as part of employment is inherently affordable, and

WHEREAS "affordability" is determined generally by the amount of money paid by the occupant, relative to their income, and

WHEREAS the state definition of "affordable housing" is typically no more than 30% of an income that is either 60% or 80% of the median area income.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that housing provided as a work-related benefit to farmworkers, educators, healthcare professionals, childcare workers, and similar (i.e. on-site caretakers, superintendents, etc.) be reclassified and quantified as "affordable" housing units per state statute, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any housing units that meet the financial criteria of "affordable" in a town (housing cost of no more than 30% of what is calculated as 60% or 80% of median area income) shall be counted in the pool of housing that is considered "affordable" by the State, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that these and other financially-qualifying affordable housing options be counted as "housing units" as part of each town's qualifying affordable housing portfolio, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the Connecticut General Assembly adopt and apply these definitions of affordable housing.

SOURCE: Simsbury Grange #197;

Continued Next Page

Mountain Laurel Pomona #15

REFERRED: Legislative/Insurance

17) RE: CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR FOR PRESIDENT/MASTER

WHEREAS maintaining a democratically correct process is essential to ensuring fairness, openness, and full participation by all members in the election of State officers, and

WHEREAS transparency in the nomination process strengthens trust and encourages broader involvement from the membership, and

WHEREAS allowing nominations from the floor ensures that all qualified members have the opportunity to be considered for leadership positions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Connecticut State Grange amend its by-laws to require a call for nominations from the floor prior to voting for the office of State President/Master.

SOURCE: Taghhannuck Grange #100; Mountain Laurel Pomona #15

REFERRED: Credentials, Constitution & By-Laws

18) RE: DATA CENTERS

WHEREAS with the tremendous growth of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) in recent years, there has been a proportional growth in the need for data centers to power this level of computing, and

WHEREAS these data centers tend to be built in rural areas where large swaths of land are available, and

WHEREAS data centers have some serious downsides for local communities:

1. Noise- Data centers rely on backup mobile generators which can create 85 to 100 decibels of noise, enough to damage hearing.

2. Pollution- Those generators are among the dirtiest in terms of pollution.

3. Power- Data centers rely on a large amount of electricity that is difficult for utilities to estimate when calculating compensation from the companies (if there is compensation at all). They also cause power-quality issues. If there is some sort of issue on the grid, they will disconnect causing a massive load to drop off the grid. This in turn can cause brownouts as the system has difficulty to stabilize. Consumers on these grids can also face tremendous increases in their rates if the companies are not required to shoulder the cost.

4. Water- There are communities where data centers use more water daily than the entire community used prior. This volume of water usage can be disastrous in areas that are drought-sensitive. Medium to large data centers can use anywhere from 300,000 to 5 million gallons of water in a day.

5. Health- Pollution from data centers in Northern Virginia (Data Center Alley) is already spreading up the Eastern seaboard into Southern New England. The communities

outside of Virginia had no voice in the original decision-making but must now deal with the aftermath, and

WHEREAS the impacted communities (and beyond) are forced to deal with all of the above issues if they haven't been addressed during the planning process, and

WHEREAS Connecticut is already home to 22 facilities operated by 14 providers, though the state does not yet have a hyperscale center, and

WHEREAS many developers enter into non-disclosure agreements (NDA's) with local officials, limiting public access to information about the size of a project, its resource needs and potential impacts, and

WHEREAS new Federal permitting policies have accelerated approvals for large data centers, bypassing environmental review processes and reducing potential local input.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Connecticut State Grange encourage the State of Connecticut to enact strict regulations regarding the construction of data centers, ensuring the State and its residents are protected from all of the negative issues that include (but are not limited to) pollution, noise, stress of the power grid, water and health issues and restrict towns from signing non-disclosure agreements with developers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this resolution be forwarded to the National Grange to encourage Congress and/or the appropriate Federal agencies to enact regulations that will protect local communities from the negative impacts of data centers that include (but are not limited to) pollution, noise, stress on the power grid, water and health issues and require full transparency throughout the approval process by not allowing non-disclosure agreements.

SOURCE: Winchester Grange #74; Mountain Laurel Pomona #15

REFERRED: Legislative/Insurance

19) RE: YOUTH & JUNIOR MEMBERS AT NATIONAL SESSION

WHEREAS the National Grange sponsors contests and programs that encourage Youth & Junior members to attend National Grange conventions and conferences, and

WHEREAS some Youth & Junior members attend National Session without a parent or guardian and end up under the supervision of a National Grange staff member or agent of the National Grange, and

WHEREAS the dangers faced by youth in public settings like a convention are many, and

WHEREAS the Child Crime Prevention & Safety Center reports over 840,000 child abductions annually with 27% of those being non-family related, and

WHEREAS the National Grange places itself, the entire organization and the Youth & Junior members in great danger should the unthinkable happen while Youth and Junior members are in their care, and

WHEREAS we cannot continue to do what we have done for decades simply because

nothing bad has happened to date.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the National Grange require all Youth and Junior members (under the age of 18) attending National Grange conventions and conferences to be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian for the duration of their attendance.

SOURCE: Winchester Grange #74; Mountain Laurel Pomona #15

REFERRED: Good of the Order/ Membership/Master's Address

20) RE: DELEGATES TO STATE SESSION

WHEREAS the Connecticut State Grange By-Laws provides in Article IV, Section 2 that Junior Grange alternate Delegates "may be chosen, provided the alternate has attended at least four meetings of said Junior Grange in the previous year," and

WHEREAS the By-Laws do not have the same requirement for Subordinate and Pomona Delegates, and

WHEREAS the State Grange By-Laws have a dated reference in Article IV, Section 1 that reads: "No Subordinate or Pomona Grange unless the delegates are man and wife, except in the case of an unmarried Master, alternate, or a Master whose spouse is unable to attend, whereby the second voting privileges may be given to another member selected by a vote of said Grange."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Article IV, Section 1 of the Connecticut State Grange By-Laws be revised to read as follows:

Section 1. State Granges are delegate bodies. **Masters Presidents** of Subordinate and Pomona Granges, and their spouses, shall by virtue of their office, be delegates to the State Grange. No Subordinate or Pomona Grange shall be entitled to two votes in the State Grange unless the delegates are ~~man~~ **and-wife spouses**, except in the case of an unmarried **Master President**, alternate, or a **Master President** whose spouse is unable to attend, whereby the second voting privileges may be given to another member selected by a vote of said Grange **provided the delegates have attended at least four meetings of said Grange in the previous year.**

and, **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the By-Laws of the Connecticut State Grange be revised to change all references to Master to the preferred title of President, effective with the adoption of this resolution.

SOURCE: Connecticut State Grange Board of Directors

REFERRED: Credentials, Constitution & By-Laws

21) RE: BALD EAGLES

WHEREAS the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), our nation's symbol and an iconic species of Connecticut's natural heritage, disappeared from the State of Connecticut by the 1950s but has now made a remarkable return, and

WHEREAS through dedicated

Continued Next Page

conservation efforts, including the federal ban on DDT, habitat restoration, and reintroduction programs in neighboring states, Bald Eagles successfully returned to nest in Connecticut in 1992 for the first time in over 40 years, marking a significant milestone in wildlife conservation, and

WHEREAS Connecticut now supports a recovering population of Bald Eagles, with approximately 80 nesting pairs documented across all of the state's eight counties, and up to 200 eagles wintering in the state annually along the State's major rivers including the Connecticut River, Housatonic River, and Farmington River, as well as at large reservoirs and along Long Island Sound, and

WHEREAS despite this remarkable recovery, the Bald Eagle remains classified as a "threatened species" under Connecticut's Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species List, requiring continued vigilance and protection to ensure the species' long-term viability in our state, and

WHEREAS Bald Eagles serve as an important indicator species, reflecting the overall health of Connecticut's aquatic ecosystems and the quality of our rivers, lakes, and coastal waters, which are vital to agriculture, recreation, and the economic well-being of our communities, and

WHEREAS the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has identified significant ongoing threats to Bald Eagle populations, including shoreline development that eliminates suitable nesting and roosting habitat, recreational disturbance during critical nesting and wintering periods, habitat fragmentation from residential and commercial expansion, and human encroachment on traditional feeding areas; and

WHEREAS, Bald Eagles require large territories with mature trees near open water for nesting, undisturbed shoreline areas for feeding, and protection from human disturbance particularly during the breeding season from January through July, and these habitat requirements often conflict with increasing development along Connecticut's waterways, and

WHEREAS Bald Eagles are protected under federal law by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, which prohibit the taking, possession, sale, or disturbance of eagles, their nests, and eggs without proper permits, and violations of these laws carry significant penalties, and

WHEREAS effective protection of Bald Eagle habitat requires coordinated efforts among state and federal agencies, municipal planning and zoning commissions, conservation organizations, private landowners, and the agricultural community to balance wildlife conservation with responsible economic development and land use, and

WHEREAS public education and awareness are essential to fostering community support for Bald Eagle conservation, promoting

responsible wildlife viewing practices, and encouraging voluntary protection measures by private landowners; and

WHEREAS continued monitoring and research are necessary to track population trends, identify critical habitats, assess emerging threats, and evaluate the effectiveness of conservation measures, and

WHEREAS the Connecticut State Grange has a long and proud tradition of promoting responsible land stewardship, conservation of natural resources, protection of agricultural lands and open spaces, and the preservation of Connecticut's rural character and ecological heritage for future generations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange hereby express its strong support for robust protection of Bald Eagle habitats throughout Connecticut; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange support public education and outreach programs promoting Bald Eagle conservation and responsible wildlife viewing practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange call upon

the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to enhance coordination with municipalities, land trusts, and private landowners to identify, protect, and manage critical Bald Eagle habitats, to provide technical assistance and incentives for voluntary conservation measures, and to continue monitoring and research efforts to track population trends and breeding success, recognizing that the Bald Eagle's recovery demonstrates that dedicated conservation efforts can succeed and should inspire continued commitment to protecting all of Connecticut's threatened and endangered species; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Connecticut, the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Connecticut General Assembly's Environment Committee, and to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

SOURCE: Winchester Grange #74; Mountain Laurel Pomona #15

REFERRED: Agriculture/Conservation /Environment

2026 Family Festival



Images from the 2026 State Grange Family Festival held at Hillstown Grange Hall (E. Hartford), Aug. 1-2.

Family Festival Brings Grangers Together



Dave Roberts
State Lecturer

Riverton Grange No. 169
Lecturer@CTStateGrange.org

On Sunday, August 2, Grangers from across Connecticut gathered at Hillstown Grange for another successful Connecticut State Grange Family Festival.

For many years, State Family Activities Committee Chair Dawn Percoski and I have enjoyed partnering to provide this annual event, offering Grange members of all ages an opportunity to come together for fellowship, fun, and friendly competition.

One of the highlights of the day was the Connecticut State Grange Lecturer's 2026 Photography Contest. This year's contest attracted more than 40 entries from both adults and youth, showcasing the remarkable creativity and artistic talents of our Grange members.

The Photography Contest remains one of the most popular Family Festival activities, encouraging members to explore the beauty of Connecticut, agriculture, flowers, patriotic themes, and everyday life through the lens of a camera. While only a few entries receive ribbons and prize money, every participant contributes to the contest's success, and I sincerely thank everyone who entered.

First-place winners received \$6, second-place winners \$4, and third-place winners \$2. Youth photographs will be displayed in the New England Grange Building during The Big E, and all winning photographs will be exhibited in the Break Room during the Connecticut State Grange Annual Conference in Norwich.

Please join me in congratulating our 2026 winners:

Adult Division

America the Beautiful

- 1- Ted Powell (Coventry)
- 2- Judy Doyle (Riverton)
- 3- Diane Calabro (Cheshire)

Agriculture/Farming

- 1- Michelle DeDominicis (Hillstown)
- 2- Angela DeDominicis (Hillstown)
- 3- Deb Hanlon (Taghannuck)

Say It with Flowers

- 1- Judy Doyle (Riverton)
- 2- Violet Donihee (Coventry)
- 3- Michelle DeDominicis (Hillstown)

Bridges

- 1- Judy Doyle (Riverton)
- 2- David Calabro (Cheshire)
- 3- Michelle DeDominicis (Hillstown)

Jr., Youth, and 1+ Division

America the Beautiful

- 1- Richard Donihee (Coventry)
- 2- Maureen Donihee (Coventry)

Flowers

- 1- Maureen Donihee (Coventry)
- 2- Richard Donihee (Coventry)

Bridges

- 1- Richard Donihee (Coventry)
- 2- Maureen Donihee (Coventry)

Congratulations to all of our winners, and thank you to everyone who participated. Your photographs not only captured beautiful images but also reflected the creativity, appreciation of nature, and community spirit that make the Grange such a special organization.

Special thanks are extended to Dawn Percoski for her continued partnership in making the Family Festival a success year after year, to Hillstown Grange for hosting this year's event, and to the many volunteers whose efforts made the day possible.

I look forward to seeing everyone's creativity on display again next year. Until then, keep your cameras close—you never know when the perfect Grange photograph will present itself!

Make your reservations now



Now is the time to reserve your room(s) for the 142nd Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange. We will be returning again to the Holiday Inn, 10 Laura Boulevard, Norwich, CT 06360. Room rates remain the same as last year:

Thursday, October 15 \$109 +tax and fees

Friday, October 16 & 17 \$129 +tax and fees

Please don't wait until the last minute to make your reservations as rooms are always in high demand due to the hotel's proximity to the casinos. When making your reservation, **please call 860-889-5201** and let them know you are reserving your room under the Connecticut State Grange room block.

If you have any difficulty making your reservation, please contact the State Secretary at 860-307-1522 or Secretary@CTStateGrange.org.



SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Sept.26: Fall Cleanup, Suicide Prevention, Honey and Preparedness Month

We keep busy with our monthly community breakfast held on the second Saturday of the month and fair exhibits. On August 1 we held our Grange fair with many exhibits. Lots of nonmembers brought in their exhibits. Great to see all this in our hall. We also hosted a great exhibit put on by the Woodstock Historical Society of historic barns. In July we had an information table at the Roseland Park 76 Celebration event and shared our 140th anniversary.

We will have an exhibit at the Woodstock Fair. This shows the public what the Grange is and info of what we do. These exhibits are getting the community to know who we are. Our Grange has had an exhibit at that fair for many years.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Cherie Robinson

Sept. 11: School Daze

Oct. 1: Vernon Grange presents program at Coventry Grange

Oct. 2: Smokey Bear

At our August picnic, we enjoyed great Grange food: lots of cold salads, hotdogs, fancy baked beans, egg salad rolls, deviled eggs. Yes, Grangers do make great food! Put it on your calendar to join us next August!

Our guest speaker, Brian Gay,



Above left: Richard Donihee receives the Welcome Ceremony at a recent meeting of Coventry Grange. Also pictured is Richard's grandfather Ted Powell, serving as A.S. and Marilee Manning, L.A.S. Bottom: The newly-elected officers of Stafford Grange gathered for a group photo at their recent meeting.



Vernon CERT Team Commander, told us of the important work CERT does. Thank you for an interesting and informative presentation.

We have lots of interesting programming for the upcoming year. Be sure to visit us, we always welcome visitors.

NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Sept.12: Installation of Officers

Sept. 25: America Celebrates: Labor Day

July is always a busy month for us with many of our members very involved with our annual Agricultural Fair. Due to this we hold only one meeting in the month. In days gone by we can remember this meeting being swelteringly hot in our upstairs hall and meeting downstairs where it was at least a few degrees cooler. Now we have our wonderful air conditioning system and many of us make sure we have our sweaters with us even on the

most torrid evening. Why not come to a meeting and cool off?

Speaking of the Fair, we were blessed with four days of wonderful (though a bit warm) days, resulting in a very successful Fair. Our new covered pull ring was a big success, with more people sitting in the shade watching the pulls than many of us can remember. Our parking lots were full to overflowing and "a good time was had by all".

Sue's September '26 Grangers program on the 17th educated us on the many meanings of the word "fair", with many members participating. We also welcomed a new member to our family. Dick and Camilla Tarryk manned a "Grange Table" at the Fair and were successful in increasing our membership. Thank you so much, Dick and Camilla. What a wonderful addition you have proved to be to our Grange. And if those little bunnies will just stop eating our little Rose of Sharon plants, next time we will tell you all about awesome August.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Early planning is the secret

by Terri, Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

There's something fitting about planning our most generous community traditions during the sunniest months of the year. As Grangers, we know that good harvests come from good planning, and the same is true for our November and December events. Starting to think about holiday activities in June, July, and August sets us up for a season that's joyful instead of hectic.

Community Granges across Connecticut host a wide variety of fall and winter activities, such as holiday bazaars and craft fairs, Thanksgiving food drives, Christmas gift exchanges, cookie walks and tree lightings. Whatever your Grange chooses to host, the goal is the same: bringing people together and lifting up our communities.

Why are the summer months the perfect starting point? Choosing a date and beginning Grange event planning in June or July means your Grange gets a strong start on planning and promotions, such as choice of date and securing donations and vendors. It also gives time to check the town calendar and avoiding conflicts.

Summer is also the best time to recruit volunteers, since members have more flexibility before school schedules and holiday obligations kick in. A relaxed conversation in July about who wants to help often leads to a stronger, more enthusiastic team than a last-minute scramble in October. Early planning also means the having a realistic working budget, securing supplies and community partnerships, and working out other considerations — such as

parking to weather backup plans. Everything can come together thoughtfully rather than urgently.

But one of the biggest gifts that summer planning gives us is time to spread the word properly. Many local newspapers, media, and town event calendars have submission deadlines weeks or even months before an event. If we wait until October to begin our publicity, we may have already missed our chance to be included.

The most effective publicity uses a mix of sources working together: local newspapers and media, town and community calendars, social media, email newsletters, and flyers posted at libraries, schools, churches, and local businesses. Repetition builds familiarity and excitement as the event approaches. Plus, never underestimate the power of personal contact, such as a

simple "I hope you'll come" note or phone call from a member. This is still one of the most effective ways and appreciated ways to spread the word.

A simple event team of three or four dedicated members can cover everything easily. One person might coordinate the overall event, another might handle publicity and social media, someone else might take charge of volunteers and supplies, and another might manage partnerships and the budget. When responsibilities are clear and assigned early, everyone feels confident and supported.

As you enjoy these long summer days, take a moment to think ahead to November and December. Choose just one event and start the conversation. Pick a date, gather a few enthusiastic helpers, and jot down a rough plan. That's all it takes to start.

By planting the seeds of the holiday season in the summer, we'll be ready to bring warmth, generosity, and community spirit to our neighbors all through November and December.

Lyme Grange CT #147 Needs Your Donations!

We're collecting kids
toys, bikes, scooters,
games & play sets



Drop Off at the Grange
2 Sterling City Road
Lyme, CT 06371



Drop-Off Dates

Saturday Sept 5 • 10-1
Monday Sept 7 • 10-1
Tuesday Sept 8 • 5-8
Wednesday Sept 9 • 10-1



Collecting for the Toy Tag
Sale on Sept. 12





MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Sept. 26: Fifth Degree Conferral, 2:00 PM, Granby Grange Hall

The next meeting of Mountain Laurel Pomona will be held on Saturday, September 26 at Granby Grange Hall for the conferral of the Fifth Degree. Candidates may check in for the degree after 1:30 with the meeting beginning promptly at 2:00 P.M.

The Pomona met on Saturday, Aug. 22 at Riverton Grange Hall for our regular meeting which featured review of many resolutions submitted by Granges around the Pomona. After careful deliberation, six resolutions will be forwarded to State Grange for consideration in October.

George Russell was elected to a new three year term on the Executive Committee.

WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

Corr: Patti Fippinger

Whigville Grange #48 has had a productive summer season with good monthly meeting attendance and an ensemble of volunteers who diligently work to plan and staff our fundraising events. We are fortunate to have a cohesive volunteer group working towards our building goals.

Unfortunately, Mother Nature did not cooperate for our July 18 Whigville Music Festival fundraiser.

Whigville Grange Fair



A bounty of prizes await their new owners during the Whigville Grange Fair (above) and some of the many floral entries after judging.



All outside activities had to be cancelled due to the weather but the music played on – albeit inside stage only. There was a music genre for everyone. Thank you to everyone who helped with the last-minute changes proving that we are a very flexible group of Grangers.

Our Grange Fair, held on August 22, will be in the rear-view mirror by publication time. We are looking forward to an outstanding day with our friends, relatives, and community members. We hope to report out great success in the next issue.

It is important for us to continue to attract community interest in the agricultural history of our town and to keep the Grange traditions and values alive in this fast-paced society.

To that end, The Whigville Grange will take part in Burlington Taven Day on September 20, 2026. Tavern Day is a town tradition celebrating Burlington history. We plan to have

a booth with Grange information, membership forms, and staff to answer questions that may arise. In addition, we will have delicious baked goods for sale.

The September Whigville Grange #48 meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8 at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Sept. 8: School in Session (Country Store), Ref. Pam Wright

Sept. 23: Installation of Officers, Ref. Ramona Fassio

Oct. 13: TBD, Ref. Potluck Supper at 6PM

Oct. 27: All Hallows Eve (Country Store), Ref. Betty & Bill Ahrens

The Annual Winchester Grange Fair was held in August with an exceptional number of exhibits, vendors and fairgoers in attendance. Fair day is always a great time for the community to come together and

Continued next page...

reconnect.

Our new slate of officers will be installed on Sept. 23 and we're looking forward to the new year of "good Grange work", as Marion Beecher would say!

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Sept. 10: Autumn by Debra Tyler
Ref: Debra Tyler

Oct. 8: Halloween Costume Party by Debbie Hanlon
Ref: Debbie Hanlon

Nov. 12: November Nonsense & the Roots of Samhain by Debra Tyler
Ref: Debra Tyler

Dec. 10: Cookie Exchange- bring 5 dozen of 1 kind of cookie Ref: Cookies & Milk

Jan. 14: Meditation by Jill Drew
Ref: Jill Drew

NOTE: Refreshments & Social Hour time at 7PM with Meeting at 7:30PM Unless otherwise noted.

First and foremost, I want to thank Todd Gelineau for Obligating our three new members. He was humorous so it made it fun. He explained everything as he went along and what the language meant. He also explained what they will need to remember compared to what is not used that often. All of this made it more understandable for the candidates. It was also great to have him there as we went over the resolutions so when we had questions he could help. Thank you Todd.

We received a wonderful Thank You card from Camp Eureka for the use of our Grange Hall where the campers learned to card, spin and felt wool. They were very interested in "what is the Grange" and we hope they attend one of our meetings to learn more about Grange and become members.

We will be at the Cornwall Agricultural Fair again this year. Held on Saturday September 12th. from 10am to 4pm the fair is free to attend, and we would like to visit our booth. Just look for the

giant bubbles. It is a traditional country fair held on the Cornwall Village Green in the rural Litchfield Hills. Now in its fourth decade, it celebrates the town's farming heritage with agricultural exhibits, livestock, crafts, food and family activities.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Dave Roberts

Sept. 13: 52nd Veteran of the Month Ceremony, 6PM, Grange Hall
Sept. 18: Regular Meeting, 6:30 PM, Refreshments at 6PM hosted by Jackie Martin, with the membership meeting beginning at 7:00 PM. Vice President Dawn Anstett will offer the Lecturer's Program, Degree Education, and Grange Hall set-up.

On Aug. 7th, eighteen members, including one guest and one potential new member, gathered at Riverton Grange Hall for the regular monthly meeting. All were given a tour of the kitchen renovation project area.

During the business meeting, members voted to accept Kristina Williams as a regular member of Riverton Grange. Kristina is an intern at the Barkhamsted Forks Senior Center and has gotten to know the Grange and its members through her work there. She expressed an interest in joining, completed the membership application, and attended the meeting with her stepmother/conservator. Kristina's membership is part of our Grange's growing outreach effort to support individuals on the autism spectrum and to provide opportunities for greater community involvement.

Chair Judy Doyle announced that Riverton Grange had been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Northwestern CT Community Foundation Doug and Janet Roberts Fund to complete our kitchen renovation project.

President Dave Roberts was asked to provide a quote for the newspaper about this latest grant and shared the following:

"Barkhamsted Seniors, serving

as the fiscal sponsor for Riverton Grange No. 169, was honored to receive a generous \$50,000 gift to help transform the Grange's kitchen into a welcoming space for generations to come. Doug's connection to Riverton Grange spanned a lifetime. His grandparents were charter members, and his mother faithfully served the Grange for more than 60 years. Doug and Janet, uncle and aunt to current President Dave Roberts, treasured the countless meals, celebrations, and friendships they shared within its walls. They understood that the kitchen has always been the heart of the Grange—a place where neighbors become friends and community is strengthened. Through this remarkable gift, Doug and Janet's legacy will live on, ensuring that future generations can gather around the table, create lasting memories, and experience the warmth, fellowship, and community spirit that have defined Riverton Grange for more than a century."

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Marguerite Smith

Schools are back in session and another Grange year is coming to a close. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the CT State Grange annual convention in October!

September 7th - Music Monday - Eric Paradine, a talented guitarist/singer, is a newcomer to our Grange Hall stage. He will be entertaining us with jazz and blues. This is a fun, casual, bring-your-own dinner kind of evening. Come relax with us at the Grange! Doors 6:30, Music 7:00-8:30pm. These programs are donation-based.

September 10th - Thursday - Monthly Grange meeting - 7:00 pm - Grange Hall - All are welcome.

September 13th - Sunday House Concert - Outside! (sponsored by Jeff Verney) - Bring your chairs and refreshments! Liviu Pop and

Friends will perform- Social hour at 1:00pm, Music 2:00-3:30. Rain? The concert will move indoors. Liviu Pop is an acclaimed, Connecticut-based master drummer originally from Romania who was inducted into the Connecticut Blues Hall of Fame in 2018. He blends blues, jazz, soul and funk.

Oct 5th, Music Monday - Kira Sorensen – Our youngest Singer/Songwriter performs - doors at 6:30,

Music from 7:00-8:30. Donations welcome.

Save the dates: This fall, Simsbury Public Library will host the Fall Old Forest Film Series in celebration of America's 250th anniversary. The series explores the beauty and importance of New England's old-growth forests and is presented in partnership with New England Forests, Real Art Ways, Simsbury Grange, Avon, Canton,

Granby, Simsbury and Traprock Ridge Land Trusts, and additional community partners.

Films will be shown one Thursday each month: September 17, October 22, November 19, and December 17. Each evening begins with a reception at 6:00 p.m., followed by a one-hour film at 6:30 p.m. and a brief Q&A with filmmaker Ray Asselin.

Legislatively Speaking



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

Is the Grange the original diverse and inclusive organization, or just past its prime? If we look into the history of the Patrons of Husbandry, or Grange, our founders believed that we are a diverse and inclusive organization. The Installation of Officers tells us so. "The Order of Patrons of Husbandry is the only association whose teachings accompany its members in their daily pursuits." Further it reads, "Nor does our Order interfere with his religious, or political views, by the morality it seeks the highest standard." Further it reads, "We ask none to join us who cannot see good in their fellow beings, but to all interested in agriculture, who have generous hearts and open hands to help the needy, raise the fallen, and aid in making the labors of this life cheerful, we say, "Welcome to the Grange." This to me is what Grange values are, and this has inspired many people to join the Grange, that we all love.

In the beginning only men joined the Patrons of Husbandry. After five years and a donation from niece Caroline Hall, women were added to

officers with four officers that can only be women. Thus, we are the oldest fraternal organization with both men and women as one group. The founders wrote, "Discarding the principles which excludes woman from a knowledge of the mysteries, we open wide the door and bid her welcome. In so doing we claim a high precedent, for God said, 'It is not good for man to be alone.'"

Through the years, the Grange has voiced and fought for many struggles in fair prices for grains, tariffs placed against farm products, conservation efforts to tame rivers, soils, and wildfires, though legislation, rallies, educational programs, and local gatherings. Our women also rallied to get the 19th Amendment, the right for women to vote passed. We also got Rural Free Delivery of mail, Rural Electrification, and many other programs to rural America.

It's said that the Grange met its goals in the 1950's and that new goals were never raised to meet the needs of the nation. Television came into homes and the decline of members started because Grange events and social activities were not able to bring out new and regular members, only the Fairs and Grange Dinners still held the ties to the Grange until every group had dinners and squeezed out the Grange diners. With the loss of insurance for members, many left

the Grange and joined the Farm Bureau for insurance. Many years the Grange and Farm Bureau never worked together on legislative issues in which both groups were in agreement. We just stayed in our own lanes. Today even the Farm Bureau is struggling for members, their Advisory has now turned into an insurance sales group.

The Farm Bill is delayed again. The Great New Bill has made deep cuts into SNAP (food stamps). The Federal Government has said it's not the problem of the Federal government to feed the unemployed, disabled and children... it's the state's problem. States do not raise enough taxes to cover this expense but if the Federal minimum wage was raised to \$15 per hour, many low income earners would not need SNAP aid. We are not here to be cruel to our neighbors and fellow citizens. Just remember urban legislators vote for the Farm Bill because of SNAP and rural legislators vote for the Farm Bill because of the farm products bought from local farms for SNAP. Both sides win. We need to work together or we will all suffer.

A lot of resolutions will be considered at State Session in October. Please remember the charge of the State Master, "Rely upon your calmness in deliberation, your forbearance toward those who may differ from you, and your charity toward their motives." Let's have a great session and see you in October.



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

They say that change is good. If that is true, things should be good at Nutmeg Pomona when we meet on Sunday, Sept. 27th at Wallingford Grange at 2:00. A potluck dinner will be held at the close of the meeting-Wallingford Grange in charge.

Lecturer Robert Charbonneau will present his final program "Autumn Leaves." What a beautiful time of year to go for a ride, so let's fill the hall.

Changes - new Lecturer Karen Macdonald (Greenfield Hill), Treasurer Diane Calabro (Cheshire), Secretary MaryAlyce Lee (Cheshire) and Executive Comm. Jim Ritter (Harmony). We thank retiring Lecturer Robert Charbonneau of Cheshire Grange and Secretary Joanne Cipriano of Beacon Valley Grange for their years in these offices.

As with all meetings, we appreciate donations to the Country Store and cans of soup for our community service project.

Family Activities Chair Jane Miller will present the state prizes to the winners in the Family Activities contests.

The new Pomona Handbooks will be distributed at this meeting. Please arrange to have someone from your Grange pick them up.

On a personal note: I would like to thank the Secretaries in each of the Granges in Nutmeg Pomona for all their help. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Secretary since the redistricting. It was not an easy decision to give up what you have enjoyed doing, but, sometimes it is

Greenfield Hill Grange #133



A gathering of the Greenfield Hill Grange hall clean-up crew in July.



Greenfield Hill members promoting their fair at Stop&Shop.
just necessary.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

Sept. 2: Installation of Officers

Sept. 16: National When Pigs Fly Day

As I write this, all eyes here are on our 141st Cheshire Grange Community Fair Aug. 22-23. As the saying goes "many hands make light work" such has been the case over the years. There is a lot of work involved but it always seems to get done in fine fashion. Our big draw is our Sunday Roast Beef Dinner. Reservations are starting to come in many thanks to Diane and Dave for renovating our ante room with a fresh new look. We are looking forward to the new Grange year having our meetings and programs in place for a busy fall.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Stephen Fengler

Our 89th annual Grange Fair is occurring on Saturday, September 12th from 12pm-5pm. Lunch will

be served throughout the day. We will have Backyard Shenanigans for the Kids, Live Music, Crocheting Demonstration, Exhibits, Bake/Craft Sale, Educational Interactions, and More!

Fair books are now available at the Wallingford Grange hall and at various local Wallingford businesses and public places. An electronic copy of the fair book can also be found on our website by clicking on the Calander/events tab and then clicking on the agricultural fair section. Please use the fair book for inspiration on different baked goods, vegetables, flowers, photos, and more one can submit at the fair! The deadline to submit entries into the fair is September 10, 2026.

To stay informed about these different happenings and upcoming events at Wallingford Grange, please follow our "Wallingford Grange" Facebook page. Hope to see you at these events!

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Aili McKeen

Sept. 11: Regular meeting 7:00 PM

Sept 19: Tag Sale 9 am – 2 pm; Open Mic 2-5 pm

Oct. 9: Regular meeting 7:00 PM

Oct 17: Tag Sale 9 am – 2 pm; Open Mic 2-5 pm

August's meeting was a picnic held at Pres. Joann Cipriano's home. The Hall can be uncomfortably warm this time of year, and Joann's shady yard and newly cleaned out and cool garage was a pleasant venue for the event. Food shared, games played, and fun all around. Planning for next year's Anniversary & Citizen Award event has started.

September's meeting will be back at the Hall and by then the evenings should be getting cooler. It's already noticeable that sunset is earlier. The Lecturer's program will be on the Letter D. October begins a new annual theme, and our programs in 2026-2027 will all feature different holidays.

As always, our Tag Sales are held on 3rd Saturdays from 9 to 2, and the popular Open Mic is held on the same day (3rd Saturdays) from 2 to 5, are open to the public. Performers of all music genres and even poetry and comedy acts come and fill the hall with joyful noise. It can be loud, though, discrete hearing protection is advised.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Jim & Lori Golias

The last few months have been all about prepping for our 133rd Agricultural Fair. The Boy Scouts Troop 90 Fairfield, helped clean up the grounds, we held a clean up party, and Melissa, Nancy, Lori & Jim even promoted the fair outside the Fairfield Stop & Shop. Now all we have to do is hope for good weather!

Upcoming events:

Lobster Fest on September 12, 2026. Lobster, Shrimp, Coleslaw, Potatoes Corn and more. (Choice of BBQ Chicken for the land-lovers). Reservations only. Please call Jim. 203.259.8023.

Our Holiday Boutique will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2026. 10am-3pm. All things holiday - Thanksgiving to Christmas to

New Year's -Vendors, Crafts, Food. Interested in being a vendor? Call Steve 203.367.4373.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Sept. 11: Installation of Officers

Sept. 15: Omitted unless regular meeting is canceled

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Kimberly Sheehy

Oxford Grange #194 will hold a special Stage Dedication Ceremony honoring the memory of Richard Franzino on Saturday, September 19, 2026, at the Oxford Grange, 482 Oxford Road, Oxford, Connecticut.

The evening will begin with a Potluck Dinner at 5:00 p.m., followed by the Stage Dedication Ceremony at 6:00 p.m.

The ceremony will recognize Richard Franzino for his many years of service, leadership, generosity,

and devotion to the Grange and the community. His contributions left a lasting impact on those who had the privilege of knowing and working alongside him.

The stage will continue to serve as a gathering place for performances, programs, ceremonies, community events, and special occasions for years to come. "May this stage be a platform for creativity, inspiration, and joy for generations to come."

The dedication ceremony will include welcoming remarks, a prayer and blessing of the stage, reflections on Richard's life and service, and the formal dedication.

Members of the Grange, Richard's family and friends, and members of the community are invited to join Oxford Grange #194 for this meaningful occasion as we celebrate his life and ensure that his legacy of service continues to be remembered.

2026 Needlework Winners



Dawn Percoski
Family Activities Dir.

Vernon Grange No. 52
familyactivities@ctstategrange.org

Class A – Afghan

1- Diane Calabro, (Cheshire)

Class B – Doilies

1- Diane Calabro, (Cheshire)

2- Maryalyce Lee, (Cheshire)

Class C – Embroidary

1- Diane Calabro, (Cheshire)

Class D – 3 Piece Baby Set

1- Betty Blackwell, (Harmony)

Class E – Plastic Canvas

1- Joanne Cipriano, (Beacon Valley)

Class G – Adult Garment

1- Betty Blackwell, (Harmony)

Class I – Quilted Wall Hanging

1- Alma Graham, (Coventry)

2- Ted Powell, (Coventry)

3- Diane Calabro, (Cheshire)

Class J – Stuffed Toy

1- Kristina Donihee, (Coventry)

2- Violet Dohihee, (Coventry)

3- Stephanie Cooperman, (Coventry)

Class K - Baby Afghan

1- Betty Blackwell, (Harmony)

Class M: Miscellaneous

1- Diane Calabro, (Cheshire)

2- Kristina Donihee, (Coventry)

3- Doreen Ward, (Vernon)

Baking Contest

1- Irene Percoski, Vernon #52

2- Diane Calabro, Cheshire #23

3- Barbara Fosket, Cheshire #23

Gnome Theme,

Needlework contest:

1- Karen MacDonald, (Greenhill)

2- Irene Percoski, (Vernon)

3- Kristina Donihee, (Coventry)

Gnome Theme, Other Medium

contest:

1- Jeff Watson, (Coventry)

2- Diane Calabro, (Cheshire)

3- Denise Barberi, (Beacon Valley)

Picture craft contest:

1- Dale & Mary Wagner, (Hillstown)

2- Irene Percoski, (Vernon)

3- Barbara Fosket, (Cheshire)

Youth J: Stuffed toy

1- Maureen Donihee, (Coventry)

2- Richard Donihee, (Coventry)

Youth M: Miscellaneous

1- Maureen Donihee, (Coventry)

Youth Gnome Theme:

1- Maureen Donihee, (Coventry)

2- Richard Donihee, (Coventry)

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



We heard from Jeanette Benson -- "The the five ladies: 1 to r, the first I do not know, the short one in the middle is Marie Kachele, next to her is Louise Malatesta. The lady in front's name is Elizabeth Kachele - my mother. My father was Andrew Kachele (He was pictured several months ago). They belonged to Trumbull Grange and were 50 plus year members. My name is Jeanette Benson, a 50 year plus Grange member. Now I belong to Harmony Grange."

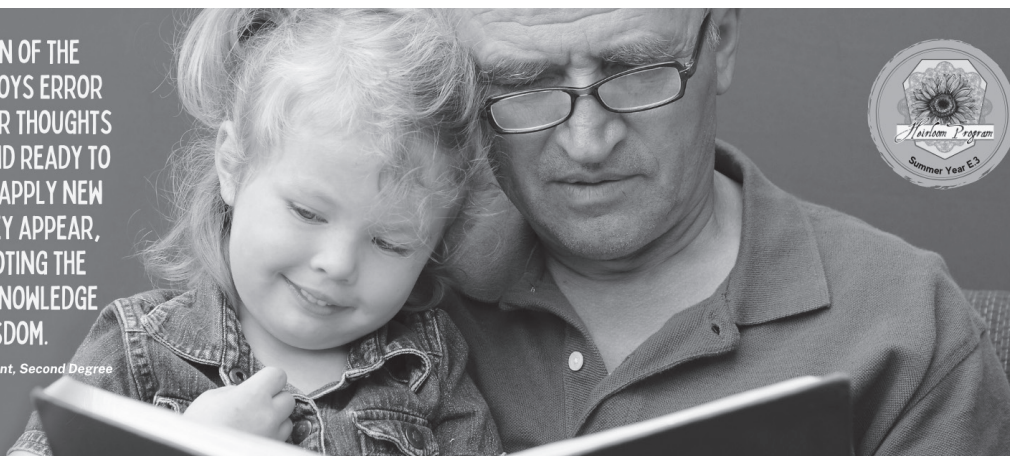
We also heard from Karen Kachele -- "I think that the picture for this month might have been taken in 1983 for Trumbull Grange when they had a celebration for the 50th anniversary of my late mother-in-law's membership in the Grange. Trumbull Grange lost their hall due to adverse possession by the State of CT for a highway. The reception was held in the community room of the Trumbull Congregational Church. I think that the people in the photo are seated Evelyn Northrup, Elizabeth J.R. Kachele and standing are (?), Marie Kachele and Louise Malatesta. The Kachele's and the Kachele's spell their last name differently. Long story. I think I took the pictures of the event and gave them to my in-laws."

Last Month



CULTIVATION OF THE
MIND... DESTROYS ERROR
AND KEEPS OUR THOUGHTS
QUICKENED AND READY TO
RECEIVE AND APPLY NEW
FACTS AS THEY APPEAR,
THUS PROMOTING THE
GROWTH OF KNOWLEDGE
AND WISDOM.

President, Second Degree



Grange

The word
Grange is a
proper noun
and should
always be
capitalized.

Grange



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

Am I My Brother's Keeper?

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he [lied and] said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper? *Genesis 4:9*

Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister. *1 John 4:20-21*

When Cain was asked about the whereabouts of his brother he tried to deny knowledge and asked the now-famous rhetorical question "Am I my brother's keeper". Much of the rest of Holy Scripture answers this question with the unequivocal answer: "Yes, you are your brother's keeper", and also lays out the fact that each and every one of us is responsible for all of the rest of humanity. We are all, by

God's plan and will, a mutual help society. Remember that we were given two great commandments, and the second one is "You shall love your neighbor as yourself". Anyone with whom you have contact is in a sense your "neighbor". The Bible teaches us that every human being is made in the image of God and shares a common ancestry. Thus all men and women are brothers and sisters, as children of God.

If you are uncomfortable with the phrasing "universal brotherhood of man" perhaps the phrase "universal neighborhood of humanity" might be easier to understand and to accept. Our neighbors in this sense include all people regardless of how we classify them, whatever categories we create, for indeed categories of race, ethnicity, nationality, religion,

and so forth are only man-made categories. God does not make, nor does he recognize these divisions.

As members of the Patrons of Husbandry, we are instructed in our Grange ritual to look out for the welfare of our grange brothers and sisters. We are told to promote the welfare of our country and of mankind, to feed the hungry, and help the fatherless and the widows. In the third degree we are instructed that we should all be helpers of one another, for we are all brethren. And the final charge in the third degree is "dispense Charity, the flowers of brotherly love, as freely as Nature spreads her flowers carpet over all the earth. And let your Charity extend to all humanity."

SPEAK LIKE A "CHAMP"

Speak like a "CHAMP" is a monthly message designed to get everyone speaking the same language to encourage positive teamwork as we Grange.



STRATEGIC MOMENTUM

Strategic Momentum refers to the sustained forward movement created when people, plans, and actions are aligned toward a common goal. It is progress that builds on itself – where small steps accumulate into significant results. Maintaining **strategic momentum** requires focus, consistency, and disciplined execution. When momentum grows, the organization advances rapidly and confidently.