



Happy Valentine's Day

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Connecticut Granger



Vol. 53, No. 5

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

FEBRUARY 2013

What's your niche?



Jody A. Cameron
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

When you think of Burger King, what is the first thing that comes to mind? Whopper, right? How about McDonalds, Nashville, TN or Hollywood? If you answered Big Mac, Country Music and Movie Stars, the same things came to my mind. Why do you suppose we automatically think of these items or industries whenever the company name or location is mentioned? Branding!!!!

Burger King and McDonalds offers a wider menu than just the Whopper or Big Mac. Hollywood is much more than the Movie industry and Nashville is more than just having

Country Music, but they developed a niche through branding so whenever you hear their name or see their advertising you know who they are and what they do.

Can you or your community say that about your Grange? Many Grangers cannot, in fact many members really do not know what their Granges purpose is. I have had some calls recently raising concern of Granges "putting all of their eggs in one basket" regarding their community service and public image. I am not concerned at all; actually I applauded those Granges that have a main focus for their community service efforts, as long as they balance their community service program with a diverse outreach of support. I am fortunate to belong to a Community Grange that has focused its effort on the children in our community through our support of the local school. Ekonk Community Grange is a household name in most of our community. The key is we do not stop there, our members participate in many other activities and our Grange picks a new major project annually. The hard work of Ekonk Community Grange #

89 was acknowledged by the National Grange this past November when they award Ekonk Community Grange with first place in the National Grange Community Service Program. Congratulations to all of the Members and to the community.

Ekonk's niche is the community school, I would say that Lyme Granges niche is their Nationally recognized Agricultural Fair, the same with North Stonington Grange, Wolcott Granges is their work with the animal shelters, Winchester Grange is their annual Strawberry Festival, Cheshire Grange is their work with and for veterans, and Norfield Grange is their Winters Farmers Markets, just to name a few. Just like Burger King and McDonalds, when anyone says North Stonington Grange people will usually say, "That is where they hold the Fair in July," like it or not, that is a niche. Where we need to be is when someone talks about the town of Winchester, the response is "you know, the town with the incredible Strawberry Festival at the Grange." Then we are a house hold name. Your niche is your identifier. Your niche needs to make an impact/impression on and for many.

For a Grange, your niche is not entirely who you are, it is part of how you are. It is part of your story, if you recall last month's article. Your niche enables your Grange to develop your story and leads to intrigue, excitement and discussions with the person you are telling your story too. After all, who doesn't like a good story?



Some of the many guests enjoying the Mad Hatter's Tea Party in celebration of National Tea Month at the Jan. 12 Norfield Grange Winter Farmers' Market. The market has quickly become Norfield's "niche" in their community. More photos of the Market inside.

Session faces tough decisions



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

At the opening day of the 2013 Legislative session Governor Malloy introduced some of his agenda items he would like to see proposed this session. This is a long session and the budget will be one of the top items that the legislature will address. Governor Malloy has already informed the

state agencies that they will see budget cuts. The state universities are already talking of increasing tuition as much as 12 percent to help compensate for these cuts.

The tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School is also playing a big role in bills that are being proposed. There are three issues that seem to have moved to the forefront. One is violent video games and entertainment. There has been talk for some time about the possible influence of violent video games on children's behavior. Some people are also finger pointing at the movie and television industry blaming violence in television shows and movies as having a negative influence on children and young adults. Do these need to be regulated more?

The second and more serious issue is the lack of adequate treatment and monitoring of mental health issues. These are illnesses that many feel have not been treated with the same care and concern as physical illnesses. Are we supplying the proper care for those in need? Are we just pushing medication on them and setting them back into the mainstream. Is this something that the state is not doing enough for? Is this the state's responsibility to monitor? Is this something that the medical community needs to address further? What influence do the insurance companies have with this issue? Do we need to set up a mandated reporting system like we have for suspected child abuse requiring teachers, doctors or other individuals to identify and report persons that they feel could be of harm to themselves or others? What would be the guidelines? Would a child be stigmatized for the rest

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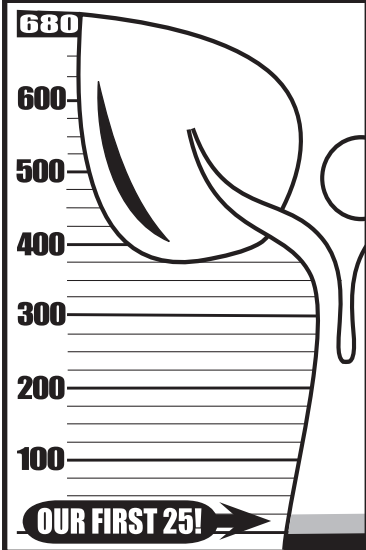
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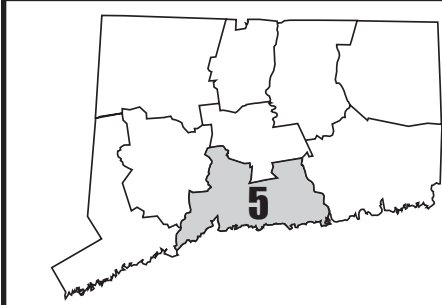
Deadline for the MARCH 2013 issue of the Connecticut Granger: FEBRUARY 5.



OUR MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 680



New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- ✓ Cheshire No. 23
- ✓ Wallingford No. 33
- ✓ North Haven No. 35
- ✓ Old Lyme No. 162

MISSION STATEMENT

New Haven County Pomona through the strength of its Community Granges offers collective wisdom and experience to enhance the individual leadership skills, pride in Grange ritual and camaraderie to all citizens in the communities in which we serve!

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Feb. 6: Valentine Box Supper, 6 P.M.

Feb. 20: Old Time Cheshire - Program by the Town Historian

As the new year is upon us, we are looking forward to upcoming activities at Cheshire Grange.

Our Monday craft nights have started up along with plans for our 2013 Cheshire Grange Community Fair in late August. Our fundraising committee is planning a St. Patrick's Day full course corned beef and cabbage dinner for March 16 and a Mother's Day roast beef dinner event in May.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Dan Lauttehbach

Feb. 14: "Valentine's Day"

Feb. 28: "President's Day"

On Dec. 13 we held our annual Christmas meeting. Joan still has rosemary, lavender and mint still going! Vern

talked about efforts that Governor Malloy was trying to help kick start efforts of getting farmland that has gone fallow back into production. Janet talked about the upcoming CWA craft contest with this year's theme "Over, Under and Around the Sea." She took over donated food items for "Holiday Giving." She also asked for all of us in the coming year to bring in items for the Master Mana's Food Pantry.

The lower hall was decorated with Christmas lights, wreaths, electric candles and a fully decorated and lighted Christmas tree. Christmas cards and gifts were exchanged while background Christmas music and carols played.

Happy new year!

NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35

Corr: A. Tolette

Feb. 5: Short & Sweet

Mar. 5: March Winds

We had fun for sure at our November meeting

with the potato shooter. I didn't know that Marge had taken that photo. I would have tried harder. We found that stuffing a turkey took a long time with a potato shooter. We needed two.

Hope all had happy holidays and look forward to a healthy new year.

The "Youth" have the January program. Hopefully the weather will be kind and we can have our meetings on time.

Hang in there. Before you know it we will be looking for the ground hog and his shadow.

OLD LYME GRANGE #162

Corr: Barbara C. Kulisch

Feb. 8: National Canned Food Month - "Bag It"

Feb. 22: Snow Date for Feb. 8

Mar. 8: Complete program "Three Cheers for the USA"

Our community service projects are a "Work in Progress" as we continue on with "Our Adopted Family" acknowledging their birthdays and upcoming holidays.

Our "Bag It" project helps the local Food Pantry and our members have always been very generous in the past!

How did our January meeting go as we discussed ways of getting new members?

Legislative session

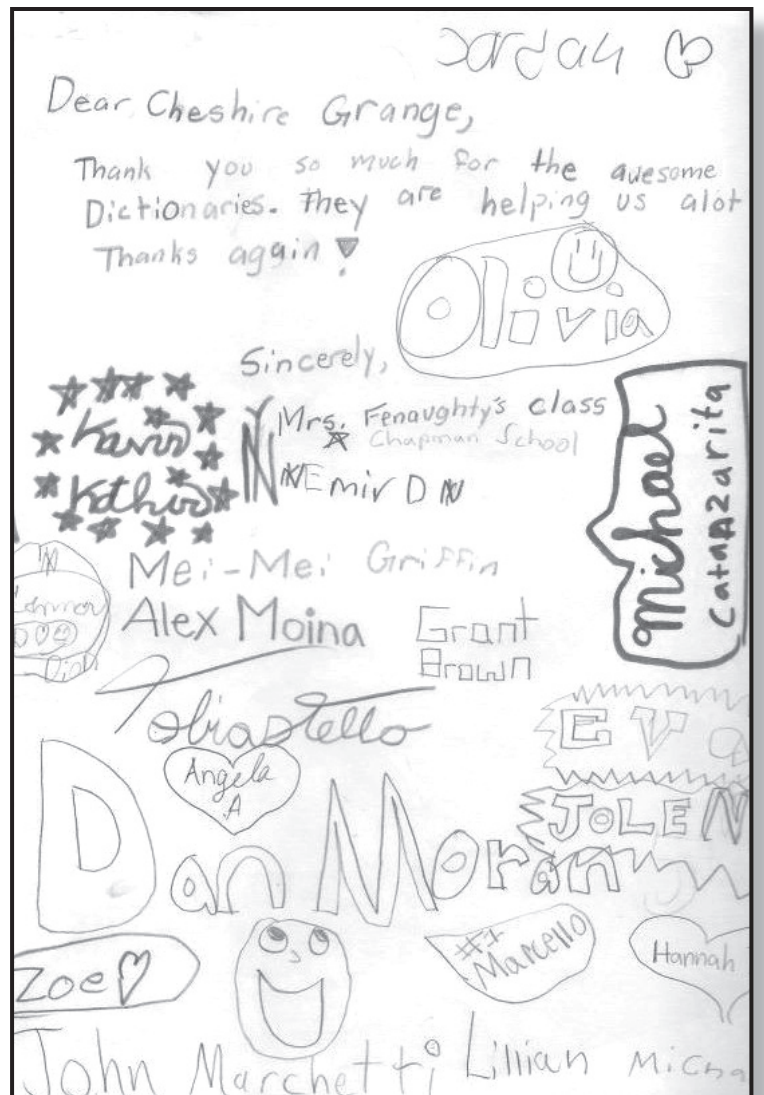
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of their lives by a false identification of a mental issue?

The third is the most serious and most controversial of all the issues; gun control. There will be many bills and a lot of discussion over this issue. The Second Amendment of the Constitution gives us the right to bear arms. There are some who feel that this should be repealed. Many totally disagree with that viewpoint. The gun that was used in Sandy Hook is reported to be an assault style weapon. This incident has opened up the gun control discussion at every level of government. The President has appointed a commission to recommend what is needed to deter this type of tragedy from occurring again which includes looking at possible changes to gun control regulations. Governor Malloy has also set up his own commission to study this issue at the state level. How can we prevent guns from being obtained by those who plan to do harm to others with them? How do we determine who they are and do they already have access to guns? Over the years the state legislature has enacted laws to help control and monitor certain types of weapons. Do we need stronger enforcement of these laws? Do we need to set up a special registration system when guns that are classified as assault weapons are purchased? Do we need more control and recording of purchases of high capacity ammunition magazines? Should there be a recommendation of a total ban on these types of weapons? How will this affect ownership of other types of guns? The sportsman community is very large and has a strong economic impact. Look at the growth of sporting goods stores in recent years. How will this affect those who are part of the sportsman community? Is any sort of gun control needed at all?

The real question is how can we make sure that something like Sandy Hook never happens again? Legislators and special interest groups need to work together and look at the problem as a whole. They need to stop trying to blame others and work together for a reasonable solution.

(far left) Cheshire's Santas delivered boxes of gifts to shut-ins in Cheshire and several surrounding towns. (center photo) Cheshire Grange's Monday Night Craft Group created favors for Marbridge Assisted Living in January. Each snowman box is filled with hard candies. (Below) One of hundreds of thank yous received for Cheshire's Dictionary project.

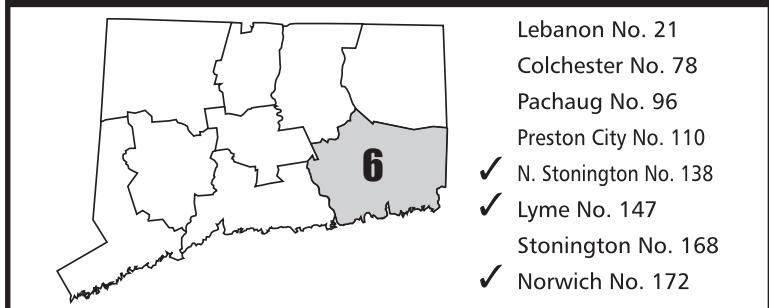


PLEASE! Do not send correspondence or any other mail to the Newfield Rd. address listed below. This is the address for Winchester Grange #74 and is only listed to satisfy USPS requirements. Please mail to the Editor's address listed below, right. Thank You!

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New London County Pomona No. 6



MISSION STATEMENT

To cultivate and nurture the flock while encouraging their advancement to the degree of Pomona.

NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Feb. 9: Potluck and Movie Night

Our Dec. 10 program was titled, "Santa Claus is Coming, but although Santa couldn't make it (something about the reindeer), everyone had fun playing Bingo. With M&M's for markers, no one had to worry about collecting them after the game. Everyone received Christmas stockings stuffed with candy, too. Our Assistant Steward, Gene Bromley, was much missed and fondly remembered.

Feb. 9 is movie night, to be held at North Stonington Community Grange. Members of the fundraising committee are asked to arrive at 4:00. The potluck dinner will begin at 5:00, followed by the movie.

There will be a special meeting in April for the purpose of holding a School of Instruction. Watch this column for more details.

Get ready for movie night, hope it won't snow!

And get out the cookbook! It's potluck, you know.

Don't know 'bout the movie, but it should be great!

And I'll bet there'll be

popcorn! Oh, gosh, I can't wait!

NORTH STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Feb. 8: Assortment

Feb. 22: "Mishmash" Ag & Conservation Committee

Our December meeting was a mixture of deep sadness, when we draped our charter for Gene Bromley, and joy, when we celebrated the holiday season with our brothers and sisters. Santa (the real one, according to the youngsters present) arrived with gifts for young and (a few) old. Gene had made sure the swags were on the door and the apples and candy canes were there for the party, just as he always had. Sue's "right, left" game provided each contestant with a lovely gift to take home; and each person received a glittery ornament along with their apple and candy cane.

On the 21st we gathered at the hall and car-pooled to several homes around town, singing carols and delivering poinsettias and fruit baskets to older members whom we do not see often enough. A visit to a local pizza restaurant rounded out our very chilly

evening.

Our first February program is a surprise. The second one is in charge of the Ag. Committee we always have lots of fund when Robert and Cheree plan the program. We hope to see more of you out to meetings in 2013. Sue's programs are really worth the trip. And if Old Man Winter will just take it easy on us this year, next time we'll tell you about jubilant January.

LYME GRANGE #147

Feb. 7: Show & Tell, Bring Your Treasures

Mar. 7: CWA Struts their Stuff

Apr. 4: Is it too early to think about planting? Agriculture

On a very cold January evening in an old building with no insulation we were visited by Noel Miller and his lovely wife, Marsha. It was C-O-L-D!

It was voted to send a donation to the State Grange Foundation for the children in Newtown. Nancy Beebe, a new member, acted as Secretary as our secretary headed to Texas for the month of January.

Doris Rand will celebrate her 80th birthday on Jan. 7. A cake was fired up with candles and, of course, a

rousing song of "Happy Birthday" was sung by all.

Flu is everywhere - wash, wash, wash your hands!

Hope everyone will enjoy a wonderful, healthy, happy 2013.

NORWICH GRANGE #172

Corr: Susan Kenney

The February meeting will be held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. instead of the normally scheduled 2nd Wednesday of the month. Everyone will be welcome in February to a Valentine Party. Come one, come all!! Be a fellow Granger's Valentine!

NE Lecturer's Conference to returns to Connecticut



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer
lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Connecticut will host The 98th Annual North East Grange Lecturers' Conference August 5, 6 & 7, 2013 at Albertus Magnus College, in New Haven. This is the first time in some years that the conference has been in Connecticut and I am hoping for a big turnout of our members. The conference will begin with registration from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Monday, August 5th. The first workshop will begin at 3:30 p.m. with the Formal Opening at 7:00 p.m. Our theme this year is Community Spirit and Spirit Night will replace North East Night with a new agenda giving each state a chance to show off their spirit and talent. Spirit night will begin Tuesday, August 6th at 7:00 P.M.

A lot of help is going to be needed before and during the conference. Connecticut's Program will be entitled Health Care. If you have a skit, a joke, or any other number that relates to Health Care, I would appreciate it if you would share it with us. These do not have to be serious numbers. While health care is a serious business, residents of convalescent and rest homes need good entertainment.

Other State programs are on Our Heritage, Public Safety, Events, Public Buildings, Organizations and Places of Worship. There should be a lot of ideas in these programs that can be used in our local Granges. The workshops are also aimed at keeping our members informed and entertained.

It is hoped that Granges around the State will support their Lecturer by paying for them to attend the conference. The cost of the complete conference is \$205 for a single room or \$195 for a double room. Information and registration forms will be in the mail to all Lecturers and regular attendees by May 1st. If you do not normally attend, but want to go this year just drop me a line or see me as I travel around the State.



Albertus Magnus College in New Haven

Spring Social Activities



Joanne Cipriano
Social Connection Director
social@ctstategrange.org

Now that spring cleaning is right around the corner we hope that you will be putting aside some items to donate to the state-wide tag sale to be held on Saturday - April 27th. Will let you know where they are being held when it gets a little closer to the time. We will be donating the profits to the Connecticut Food Bank.

Your antique Social Connection Committee is going antique. Our Spring activity will be an antique night with a dealer to appraise your item. Each attendee will be able to have one item appraised. We will be serving a light supper. Watch the Connecticut Granger for date, time and all other important information.

Granger Shout Out



- All messages should be NO MORE than 140 characters (roughly 20 words)... the max. length of a Twitter Tweet.
- The editor reserves the right to edit all messages
- The editor also reserves the right not to publish any message deemed to be inappropriate.

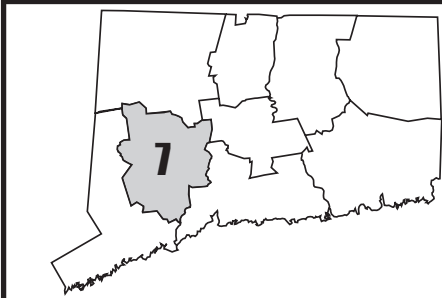
HOW TO SUBMIT:

Email your "Shout Out" to Granger@CTStateGrange.org (use "Granger Shout Out" in the subject line). They can also be mailed to 170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790.

Congratulations to Ekonk's Christopher Sebastian for capturing 3rd prize in the Plainfield VFW's annual "Voice of Democracy" contest. Theme: "Is the Constitution still relevant?"

Submit your Shout-Outs today!

Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 121
- ✓ Watertown No. 122
- ✓ Prospect No. 144
- ✓ Bridgewater No. 153
- ✓ Wolcott No. 173
- ✓ Oxford No. 194

MISSION STATEMENT

Excelsior Pomona's collective voice is used as an effective tool to further the Grange's good works locally and throughout the state.

EXCELSIOR POMONA #7

Corr: Jean Meehan

Everyone enjoyed doing nutty things at our January meeting in Oxford Grange. Our next meeting will be March 20 where the State Master and General Deputy will hold a School of Instruction along with the A Number contest at Bethlehem Grange. Each Grange in our Pomona is asked to put on a number for the program to earn the credit for their Lecturer. We were hoping to have some talent this year as well.

Start thinking about things you can do during National Grange Month in April 2013. Let's make our Grange shine.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our Christmas activities turned out to be a lot of fun with good food and entertainment. Thanks to everyone who helped with the arrangements.

I want to thank the members for the surprise gift. It was appreciated but not necessary as I am only doing the job that I was elected to do.

We welcome new member Scott Raymond and his mother as an affiliate member. Both have been most helpful in all our activities.

Our Feb. 8 program is entitled "Hearts a Fire" with Pat and Ron Fischer providing the refreshments.

We will be hosting the Excelsior Pomona School of Instruction on Saturday, Feb. 16 at 2 P.M. Save the date.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Skip Maddox

Feb. 24: Sunday- 2:00 P.M., White Elephant Country Store; Cindy & Ernie Finch Refreshments

Our Flea Market will be held on Sat., April 6 from 9

A.M. to 1 P.M. Set-up will be Friday, April 5 at 4:30 P.M.

For table space, call Linda at 203-264-8151.

WATERTOWN GRANGE #122

Corr: Diane Barbieri

Feb. 1: Cupid's Arrow

Feb. 15: Legislative

Happy Valentine's Day everyone. Happy Groundhog Day. Hope we have early spring instead of six more weeks of winter. First meeting of Feb. is cupid's arrow. Just in time for Valentine's Day. Our second meeting is on Feb. 15 and is Legislative by Fred Fairchild. Come visit us as we always welcome visitors. We are located at Masonic Temple, 175 Main St., Watertown.

PROSPECT GRANGE #144

Corr: Jean Meehan

Prospect Grange enjoyed a visit from our State Gatekeeper, Robert Buck at our January meeting where we had a lively discussion on gun control. Many of our members attended a quiet candlelight vigil on the green led by Mayor Bob Chatfield. Some 300 community members attended with our prayers for the victims and their families from the Newtown tragedy.

We are happy to welcome Dolly F.H. Stevens as a member of Prospect Grange and saddened at the loss of Marjorie Sanford whom passed away in December.

Plans for our Citizen of the Year program to be held in April along with Prospect Grange's Public Service Award.

Our Operation Cold Weather continues through the early spring.

You're in the spotlight will be the program at our February meeting with the CWA baking contest taking the center stage at our March meeting. We hope all our members will bring in entries.

We want to wish all our friends a Happy Easter.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Dean Perry

We had out last regular meeting in our Bridgewater Grange Hall on Wednesday December 5th 2012. We had a pot luck dinner and a Christmas grab bag in addition to our meeting. On Friday December 7th we participated in the Bridgewater Christmas Tree lighting ceremony. Afterwards the Grange members and the public met in the grange Hall for some cookies and hot chocolate. The Bridgewater Grange Hall will be closed until April next year. Our meetings will be held at the nearby Episcopal Church

on the second Sunday at 2pm during the winter months.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Phil Rowland

Feb. 1: Chocolate Night

Feb. 15: Alternate date for Feb. meeting in event of inclement weather on Feb. 1.

Let us hope for fine weather so we can enjoy our very first "Chocolate Night." Should be a delicious learning experience- do not forget to bring your appetite. Also bring your ideas for discussion about future Grange activities.

Looking back, a recent meeting program had us decorating cookies, which proved to be another delicious learning experience. And speaking

of food, our Christmas party/potluck supper was a delight. A good crowd came out, Santa left gifts, and the meal was great. Thanks go to all who provided the victuals.

Though regular Grange ritual and business procedures are pleasing and appreciated, we find special pleasure in camaraderie of the social hours following our meetings. Conversations cover a surprising number of topics. For example, at a recent event someone asked whether rats caused problems on farms. That topic unleashed an amazing number of amazing and amusing responses. Try it yourself sometime. Sure beats constant TV fare!

Wolcott Grange Dog Ball



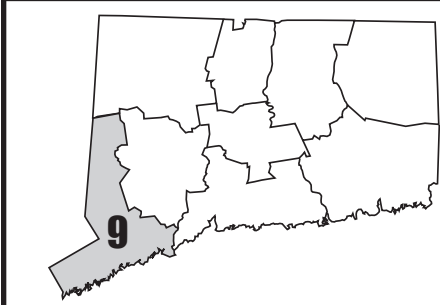
Above- Members and guests gather for Wolcott Grange's first annual Dog Ball on Jan. 12. Over 70 people attended the event which featured the talents of Wolcott area "Crowns" (pageant winners) and canine friends. Also part of the event, was the dedication of the lower hall in memory of long time Wolcott Grange members Lou & Pearl Godin. Left (l to r) Danielle Trush, Wolcott Master Joe Ouimet, and State Master Cameron promoting the ball at Waterbury radio station WATR.

Godin's Hall

Dedicated To Lou & Pearl Godin

Wolcott 173
GRANGE

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



- Redding No. 15
- Harmony No. 92
- ✓ Greenfield Hill No. 133
- ✓ Norfield No. 146
- ✓ Cannon No. 152

MISSION STATEMENT

Fairfield County Pomona is made up of Community Granges with a special interest in leadership development, who come together to share information and fellowship and through legislative action addresses the needs of all its members and communities.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich
Feb. 18: "Greatest Love Affairs", 7 P.M. Meeting

In December a number of us met to update our membership records and gather data for the quarterly report to the CT State Grange. We had a moment of silence in honor and memory of the Newtown/Sandy Hook School tragedy. The State Master/President's related letter was then posted. Everyone has been touched to some degree; many are reaching out to help.

Our February meeting will have an interesting program brought by our Lecturer. The month is a good time to remember the accomplishments of U.S. presidents, many of whom had an impact on agriculture and conservation.

As a final note, the CT Chapter of the Northeast Organic Farmers Association (NOFA) will be having their Winter Conference in Wilton this year on March 2 at Wilton High School on Rte. 7, from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Participants will include Ambler Farm and Nick Mancini (& the CT State Grange). Information is available at www.ctnofa.org.

All of our Grange friends are welcome to our meetings and activities.

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox
Feb. 12: Valentine's Day Celebration

March 12: St. Patrick's Day Celebration

April 9: Celebrate the Grange Month - Open House at 6:30

At the time of this writing, it is a cold Jan. 2. And so our report will be on what Norfield can boast

to have been the busiest December ever.

At our meeting on the 11th we had a Pizza Party and then decorated the hall. Our indoor Winter Farmers' Market began the following Saturday, featuring such delights as farm-fresh seasonal produce and herbs, jams, jellies, honey, maple syrup, cheese and yogurt, eggs, beef and pork, poultry, seafood, baked goods, live plants, soap and body products, and more. Come see for yourselves, any Saturday from 10 to 2 through May 4!

On that first day of our Farmers' Market, we raffled off a fresh Christmas tree that was won by Laura MacDonald - a kindergarten teacher in Newtown. All vendor fees, plus many donations, raised over \$500 for the Newtown Parent, Teacher, Student Association. The Market will continue to raise funds each week. Before she left, Ms. McDonald said, "This means that the healing has begun."

Thirteen hardy Grangers decorated our tree on December 18, after a quick meeting and then dinner. But December ended on a decidedly heathenish twist. Fifty to 60 people packed the hall for - are you ready? - a Mayan End of the World Party! It was a multigenerational blast. Fifteen teenagers played cards all night, while their elders were pursuing all things Mayan. So much for 2012!

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger
Feb. 7: Business Meeting and program: Book Reports - What have you read lately?

Feb. 21: Business Meeting and program: Planning your garden

Norfield tree winner



From left: Debbie Bilbertie Gianelli, owner of Weston Gardens, Laura McDonald of Weston; Paul McDonald; and Lyn Kimberly, Norfield Grange Winter Farmer's Market master, stand with a balsam tree, donated by Weston Gardens and won by McDonald during the market's recent Christmas tree raffle.

Mar. 7: Business Meeting and program: Let's Make the CWA State Craft Project

Mar. 16: Silent Movie Night at 7:30 PM: Double Feature with live piano music, refreshments

Mar. 21: Business Meeting and program - Agriculture

We have some interesting and exciting programs listed above for our members in February and March. We look forward to hearing what books people have been reading, and even trading and sharing them with one another. Come give your book report on Feb 7th! We have two agricultural programs planned, and from them some very useful hints and tips and ideas for your 2013 garden will be shared. Feel free to bring your favorite seed catalogue! It wouldn't be a surprise to know that some of us have already received our 2013 seed orders, are you one of them??

Please red circle March 16th, at 7:30 pm to come enjoy a double feature of silent movies with live piano music at the Cannon Grange Theater. Our own member, John Mucci will once again be presenting the evening's entertainment. This is a perfect winter evening for children and adults. We have a huge 10' x 12' screen, so the picture is large and every seat provides a great view. The first movie short rolls at 7:30 PM, so come early to grab your favorite seat!

We begin the planning process for our 81st annual agricultural fair very soon. The date for the fair will be August 18th. There's a second date to red circle on the calendar.

Two of our recent Tweets on Twitter were picked up and recreated by the National Grange into two of their Tweets: "Give the Gift of Grange Membership to Someone...They'll love it!" and "Don't wait until

January 1 to make your resolution to join the Grange. Do It Now!". We are ardent supporters and users of Social Media such as Twitter, FaceBook and our website. We encourage and hope other Granges do, too. It really works.

Our meeting and event schedule is presented above. Please visit us on FaceBook and on Twitter. Visiting patrons are always welcome--won't you join us?

Planning an event?

As I write I would like to think we will have an early spring. However, I doubt that Mother Nature will let us off so easy.



Edith Schoell
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

Is your Grange planning a dinner, or hosting an event? There are placemats with the Grange emblem that can be purchased from the Central Office. Cost: \$2.00 per 100.

You probably have seen the bags that were presented to those bringing in new members. We have a supply

of the bags that display this year's theme- Leadership through service. Growth through action. They may be purchased for \$5.00 each. It is a nice sturdy bag - great for toting Grange materials or groceries, even prizes or gifts.

It is that time to think about filing with IRS. Let me know if you need help.

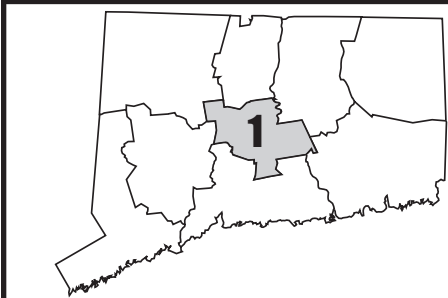
Camp Berger

Linda Coad, Camp Trustee

I was saddened to hear of the death of Eugene Bromley. As a Trustee of Camp Berger, he took the position seriously. Gene, with the exception of his own Grange nights or Town Meeting, attended all our meetings. His input helped get the Camp to where it is today. A committee is only as good as its active members and he will be missed.

As the new year starts, work on the 5 year plan will be revised. We still have areas to improve and hope that all the Granges will back the efforts with enthusiasm.

Central Pomona No. 1



- ✓ Southington No. 25
- Meriden No. 29
- ✓ Higganum No. 124
- ✓ Hemlock No. 182

MISSION STATEMENT

Central Pomona No. 1 will support its Subordinate/Community Granges through programs and activities by actively contributing its talents and resources. Central Pomona supports local, State and National charities; educational and youth programs.

CENTRAL POMONA #1

P.M.

Corr: *Dianne Clark*

Central Pomona #1, Feb.

Feb. 14: Higganum, 7:30

14th, Thursday, 7:30 P.M.

Program in Higganum, "Sweethearts". It is co-hosted by Southington.

CWA table- bring three items on Sweets for Valentine. Be prepared to explain your "sweetheart" and love story never forgotten.

SOUTHINGTON GRANGE #25

Corr: *Patty Boissy*

Southington Grange #25 will hold its all you can eat Pancake Breakfast on Feb. 3 from 8:00 to 11:30 A.M. Breakfast includes fresh, hot pancakes, sausage,

juice, coffee and tea. There is a charge to attend. For tickets, call 860-357-2639. The Grange is located at the corner of Summit St. and Knowles Ave. in the Planstville section of Southington.

HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: *Barbara R. Smith*

Higganum Grange #124 wishes everyone a happy, healthy new year in 2013.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: *Maureen Sanborn*

Feb. 8: Craft Night. Crock

Pot Supper, 6:30. Meeting at 7:30.

Bring enough craft supplies for 5 people. You may walk to each table and make a craft.

Feb. 22: Omit (unless first meeting of the month is canceled)

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.



2013 Contests Finalized

BREAKING NEWS - JUST IN - BABY AFGHANS ARE BACK!!!!

By a vote taken at the Northeastern Leaders Conference there will be a new category added to the New England Needlework Contests. It will be CLASS K - Baby Afghans - knitted or crocheted. They must be a minimum of 24" by 36" and a maximum of 26" by 38". This contest will start with the 2013 contests so get busy.

Just a couple of reminders for the other categories:

CLASS D - 3-Piece Baby Set - mittens or booties are considered 1 item of the set (not 2)

CLASS F - Embroidery - the back of the work must be able to be seen for judging.

CLASS G - Adult Garment - no hats, gloves, mittens (aka accessories)

CLASS H - Latch Hook - Must be a finished product with binding or made into a pillow

CLASS I - minimum and maximum sizes must be adhered to or they will be disqualified



Pat Palmer
Family Activities/CWA Director
CWA@ctstategrange.org

Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Don't put the cart before the horse!

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

Don't Put the Cart Before the Horse. This is an age-old proverb handed down through generations. But how does this phrase relate to Grange Public Relations?

Granges are seeking out positive press on a daily basis. Every Grange yearns to have that newspaper article, radio interview or television coverage in the hopes of gaining new interest, and thus new members. What is your Grange doing to make this positive press a reality?

Granges can not expect to be the center of attention when they are not sponsoring activities and projects of interest to the public which would warrant the attention of the press.

Hosting events and undertaking community service projects help to raise awareness of your Grange as well as promote

its mission. Is your Grange hosting events and pursuing projects that affect your local community? If not, why not plan something today.

We've all heard the excuses -- not enough help, members too old, no proper venue, no funds, no one attends -- the list goes on and on. The fact is - they are just that, excuses. Each Grange is as integral to their community as their members make it. We are proud to say that across Connecticut, our Granges are as diverse as the state in which we reside. We have Granges that are rural, suburban and urban - each with distinctively different communities in which they serve. Every Grange needs to take a look at their activities and projects and assess their individual situations. How does MY Grange affect MY community?

Once your Grange has begun planning projects

and activities outside of regular meetings, the next step is to alert the press. You cannot get the word out too much or too soon. Press Releases, flyers, posters, social media, post cards and mailers to your members - these are all sources that should be included when promoting your Grange. Don't want to tackle publicity? Contact the Public Relations Committee. We are here to help, and have a proven track record with the Connecticut press.

"Putting the cart before the horse" means working out of order. It can be counter-productive, ineffective for both the Grange and the press, and shows the organization as disorganized. It frankly doesn't work. Take the steps to move forward with your Grange and make a splash in your community, and the positive press will follow.

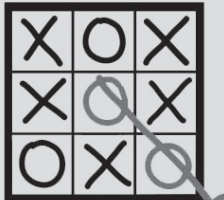
Be Creative - Be Brave - Be Bold

Events, Activities and Project Ideas to put your Grange on the Map

New and Fresh Ideas:

- Sponsored Walks / Hikes / Runs
- Monopoly/Scrabble/Clue/Uno Tournament
- Chocolate Social
- Cemetery Clean-Up / Park Clean-Up
- Hot Dog Social
- Oscars Viewing Party (Red Carpet Event)
- Cupcake Decorating Workshop
- Baked Potato Social
- Gingerbread House Building Workshop
- Sunday Brunch
- Pajama Party
- Apple Picking / Berry Picking Trip
- Treasure Hunt / Scavenger Hunt
- Artist Expo
- Coffeehouse Cafe - Music, coffee and pastries
- Halloween Vampire Ball
- Movie Night
- Children's Book Reading
- Themed Dinners (Pirates, Princess, Dinosaurs, Circus, French, Italian, etc.)
- Lego Building Workshop
- Dinner / Dance
- Floral Arranging Lecture
- Tip a Waiter Dinners
- "Soupstock" - Soup Supper with Music
- Trivia Bowl
- March Madness Celebration

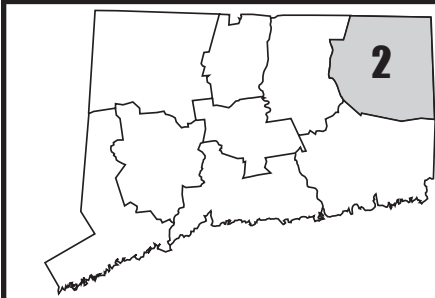
THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX



The Proven Standards:

- Crock-Pot Chili Cook-off
- Lasagna/ Pasta Supper
- The Dictionary Project
- Pie Sale
- Mystery Rides
- Host a Farmer's Market
- Cookie Walk / Cake Walk / Cupcake Walk
- Group Trips / Cruises
- Boxed Lunches
- Open House
- Tag Sales / White Elephant Sales / Flea Markets
- Holiday Gift Wrapping
- Donations for Soup Kitchen / Food Bank
- Bake Sales
- Gardening Workshop
- Roast Beef / Ham / Baked Chicken Dinners
- Craft Sale
- Ice Cream Social
- Awards Banquet / Program
- Bakeless Bake Sale / Non-event Event
- Fashion Show
- Holiday Favors for Shut-Ins
- Travelogue
- Card Party / Game Night
- Community Pizza Party
- Pancake Breakfast
- Knitting/crocheting lap robes for nursing homes
- Plant Sale
- Writing letters to soldiers overseas

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- Senexet No. 40
- ✓ Wolf Den No. 61
- ✓ Ekonk No. 89
- Ashford No. 90
- Putnam No. 97
- Killingly No. 112
- ✓ Echo No. 180

MISSION STATEMENT

Quinebaug Pomona supports and assists the communities within its jurisdiction through a financial and physical presence. We offer the Community Granges assistance and support for their programs and activities.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Elsie Johnson

Feb. 13: Hearts Contest-Ref. Valentine's Cookies

Winter is here. Wood stoves are being used to help not only for warmth but to help the fuel bill. Yes and wood is high too - it's a no win situation.

Christmas was a busy time with no snow but made traveling easier.

Tabs are still coming in and labels too.

Dictionaries were taken to the third graders at Pomfret Community School and the children sent us thank you notes.

Christmas Cards were sent out to the shut-ins.

Be careful when driving the roads as a lot of deer are being hit. Stay well.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Feb. 15: Chowder n' clam cakes 5pm- Adults \$8.00

Mar. 4: Mtg/prog "Walgreen's Founder"-7:30pm

Mar. 16: Corned beef & cabbage 5pm, Adults \$12.00

State Overseer and State Pomona, Jeff and Debbie Barnes, paid a delightful visit to Ekonk in January and presented President, Katie Molodich, with a check for \$400.00; the 1st prize from National Grange for our work in 2012. Sadly, many officers were home sick, or incapacitated, so attendance was down.

Clifford Gervais still had a good program and everyone learned about Brooklyn, CT and American hero, Israel Putnam. Shelley St. Jean won the Superbowl Football challenge by an overwhelming margin (part of Cliffs' program).

By the time you read this, the 2013 Youth Drill Team will be rehearsing. Chris Sebastian updated everyone on his Grange Pavilion project-as good

weather approaches-the pavilion will be tackled. We voted to sponsor a Dr. Seuss Week contest at Sterling Community School with a prize of \$100.00 worth of books to the winning class! We took an active part in the Town of Sterling Vigil honoring the memory of those 20 boys and girls and 6 adults who lost their lives in the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Our President made the Memorial Wreath and 180 Memorial ribbons for those attending and our Grange served the donated food, desserts and hot chocolate following the services: a sad, yet meaningful service indeed. We also sent \$50.00 towards the fund the State Grange Foundation established to help the families.

Feb. 15th will be our Chowder n' clam cake supper, beginning at 5pm and March 16th Corned beef & cabbage-again 5pm starting time.

On April Fools Day, Richmond Grange will pay us a visit and bring us a program! Mark your calendars and join us for a fun night!

ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

Feb. 12: Youth

Feb. 26: Omit

Sara Tormey, our devoted member, passed away on Dec. 12. She was Secretary for 49 years. We always had our summer picnics at her home. We will surely miss her.

We sent about 34 hats, mittens, scarves, and socks to the "From the Heart" that is a group in Tolland. Thanks to all that donated them.

We made Valentine cards for our Echo Grange shut-ins at our last meeting.

Our winter has been good to us so far. Hope it keeps up that way.

DEPUTY TEAM

INSPECTIONS RITUAL CODE READING SUPPORT INSTRUCTION

Be their guest!

Todd A. Gelineau, General Deputy

An anonymous letter was recently sent to me by a member or members of a Grange asking for their voice to be heard. It is not our policy (of both the Connecticut Granger and this State Grange) to respond to anonymous letters as we have no way to verify the facts and information given. However, the State Master and I discussed this letter and felt there are some relevant points worth reviewing in this column.

The author(s) of the anonymous letter suggest some "Ground Rules" for visitors to Grange meetings (their Ground Rules are the enumerated bold lines-- our comments are in italics):

(1) Don't interrupt. Don't change the subject.

Remember that you are a visitor and do not have a vote in the proceedings of this Grange. Ask the Master for permission to speak if you feel you have information that might contribute positively to the discussion, but please do so sparingly. Please also avoid moving the discussion to a different subject or trying to sway opinion towards your own.

(2) Don't tell us what we have to do.

Try to put yourself in their shoes and understand how you would feel if a guest came into your Grange telling you what to do.

(3) Do not insist we do what your Grange does- different communities, different members, different programs.

Every Grange is different. Every Grange should be relevant to their own particular community. The unique qualities of each

Grange are what makes them interesting. It's completely different if you are asked to tell them how your particular Grange does something.

(4) We appreciate your help cleaning up after the meeting, don't get up before the meeting is over and start moving things!

Their rule says it all.

(5) If you feel that our Grange isn't doing our work properly, by all means let us know or take it to State Officers! Don't do it for us!

How many times have you heard members from the sidelines trying to tell the Assistants that they have done something incorrectly as they are doing it? This should be avoided by ALL members regardless of whether or not you are a guest or a member of the Grange. If you feel something needs to be said, please wait until after the meeting and speak with the Master of the Grange or the Deputy for that Pomona who will know how to address your suggestion properly.

While you may think you are being helpful, you may be doing more harm than good, especially if you don't know the members you are commenting about. The last thing you want to do is embarrass and/or anger someone.

We understand the reasons why this Grange felt it was necessary to be anonymous but we strongly encourage Granges and members to contact us whenever they have a problem providing proper contact information. Being able to understand both sides of the problem is very important when trying to address the situation. Every effort will be made to be discreet.

Kingpins vs. Crowns

By Andrew Larsen, Waterbury Republican-American (1/21/13)

Four mayors and four pageant winners will compete in a fundraiser for needy animals.

The event, called "Bowling is for the Dogs: Kingpins vs. Crowns," starts at 6 p.m. Feb. 9 at Wolcott Lanes, 955 Wolcott Road.

In the headlining match, Wolcott Mayor Thomas G. Dunn, Waterbury Mayor Neil M. O'Leary, Bristol Mayor Art Ward and Prospect Mayor Robert J. Chatfield will form a team of "kingpins."

They will challenge Miss Bristol 2012 Cheyenne O'Donnell, Miss Greater Waterbury 2012 Colleen Ward, Miss Mountain Laurel 2012 Alexa Farrell and Miss North Haven 2011 Danielle Trusch.

To make the competition more entertaining, there will be bumpers on the gutters of their lane.

Also, a team of state representatives

is being formed by Rep. Rob Sampson, R-Wolcott. His team will take on a secondary team of pageant winners.

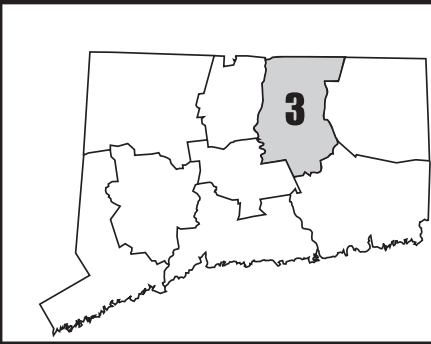
Spectators are encouraged to attend. Anyone who wants to bowl alongside the mayors and crowns should reserve a lane in advance. Foursomes are preferred. To register, call Wolcott Lanes at 203-879-1469.

Game proceeds will go toward buying Kongs and Nylabone chew toys for dogs living in municipal pounds in the Waterbury and Bristol areas.

"These dogs sit there bored all the time," said Joe Ouimet, Master of the Wolcott Grange. "Give them a Kong or Nylabone and it helps pass the time and ultimately makes them more adoptable because they're not as stressed out."

The event is sponsored by Crowns Helping Pounds, a subcommittee of the Wolcott Grange, No. 173.

East Central Pomona No. 3



- Stafford No. 1
- Granby No. 5
- Tunxis No. 13
- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Tolland No. 51
- Vernon No. 52
- Coventry No. 75
- ✓ Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Enfield No. 151

MISSION STATEMENT

East Central Pomona supports the Community Granges by helping one another; through legislative advocacy and by supporting community service efforts.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Jean Accornero

Feb. 7: Meeting, 7:30 P.M. "Be My Valentine" - program. Ref. Bob and Doris Nordstrom, Jeannine Carini.

The Holiday Season will be over when you read this, but I'm happy to report that our Grange collected 90 books and gave them to the Social Service Department for their list of children.

We had our Christmas Dinner Party at a local restaurant this year. I hope everyone enjoyed their meal. We had 16 in attendance.

One of our loyal members passed away recently. Barbara Pennington was secretary of our Grange for many years, until she retired at almost 90 years of age. Failing eyesight and driving from Colchester for each meeting became hard so she had to stop coming. She was a lovely lady and will be missed.

Many suggestions have been proposed for a fundraiser this spring, but no decisions have been made yet. A spaghetti supper, a cookbook, selling greeting cards were all suggested, and every single one of these projects require a lot of work. So, each member should be willing to do their part to make them a success.

Hope to see you at a meeting in the near future.

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Leona Wilson

Feb. 5: Presidents

Feb. 19: Did You Know?

On January 15 our program was about snow and welcoming in the new year. We hope that this year will not bring a lot of the white stuff. On Feb. 5 we will learn about the Presidents of the United States. On Feb. 19 our

program will be "Did You Know?"

TOLLAND GRANGE #51

Corr: J. Jordan

Feb. 5: Presidents 16-20. Join us for our continuing discussion of our presidents. We will meet at St. Matthew's Church beginning at 7:30 P.M. All are welcome.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Frank Forrest

Hillstown Grange is holding a Soup-N-Seed event on Thursday, January 24. Doors open at 6:00 P.M. for our homemade soup dinner followed by a gardeners' forum about getting the garden started. Soups will be made from this winter's root cellar produce featuring pumpkin and garden vegetable soup.

The Agricultural Committee plans to announce this year's special gardening contest and seeds will be available. Also a gardening discussion with question and answer time will start at 7:30 P.M. giving all gardeners a chance to talk and dream about their 2013 gardens. Bring your favorite seed catalogs to share. Great for novice or first time gardeners to learn from the old pros. Remember, in less than 2 months we can plant our peas!

The Hillstown Grange is located at 617 Hills Street, East Hartford, CT. Located in the Hillstown corner of East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester since 1888.

No cost for this event but a free-will offering basket to cover the cost of dinner supplies will be circulated. Snow date is Feb. 28.

For more information, call Frank at 860-690-2845 or email:

hillstowngrange@aol.com

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Feb. 8: Winter Olympics

Mar. 9: How Green It Is!

Our December meeting saw a few changes in officers. For various reasons some members felt the need to decline

certain offices and others were asked to step up and fill them. I am happy to report that it was all accomplished and the new officers were duly installed. As I write this the weather is still calm and warm (well temps in the 40s are warm). Our annual donation to the Enfield Day

Care Center was received with many thanks, and a large donation of new stuffed animals was made to the children who lost everything in Hurricane Sandy.

Happy Valentine's Day to all. Come visit.

Discovering the Leader Within

The Connecticut State Grange is sponsoring a statewide Leadership Workshop on Saturday, March 9th, from 10 AM to 2 PM, with guest presenter Carmen Brickner. The event will be held at Goodwill Grange Hall, 43 Naubuc Avenue, Glastonbury.

The subject of the workshop is "Discovering the Leader Within." We are leading all the time, whether we know it or not. As people of influence within the Grange,

someone is watching and learning what is acceptable, admirable, or inappropriate all the time. And the community is learning about the Grange from you.

According to Brickner, "This workshop will be about personal discovery of the best we each bring to the Grange and how we can create strong and cohesive future growth for individuals and the Grange."

The workshop is open to all Grange leaders and

members. There is a \$5.00 per person Registration Fee. Luncheon Fare will be served, and is included in the cost. Those wishing to attend are to RSVP to CT State Grange President Jody Cameron before March 1st either via phone (860)564-7614 or e-mail president@ctstategrange.org.

Brickner founded CLEARbrick, Inc. in 1991 to enhance spirit, dignity, growth and abundance through coaching leaders at every level in organizations. She systematically guides people through the infrastructural and cultural changes required to support value-driven team-based continuous improvements.

Prior to founding CLEARbrick, Inc. she honed her education and expertise as a CPA, educator, IT project leader and organizational developer in the private sector for CIGNA, Total Systems Resources, St. Francis Hospital, and ABB-Combustion Engineering.

Brickner is highly sought as a public speaker, leadership coach, group facilitator, lean consultant and organizational educator. Her energetic and humorous style brings vitality to her powerful and practical message.

Discovering the Leader Within



Join Us for a
Workshop by Guest Speaker
Carmen Brickner

Saturday, March 9th
10 AM - 2 PM

Good Will Grange Hall • 43 Naubuc Avenue, Glastonbury

• \$5.00 Registration Fee -- Luncheon Fare will be served •



Bring an Open Mind and Courage!

R.S.V.P. by March 1st to
Jody Cameron
president@ctstategrange.org
or (860) 564-7614

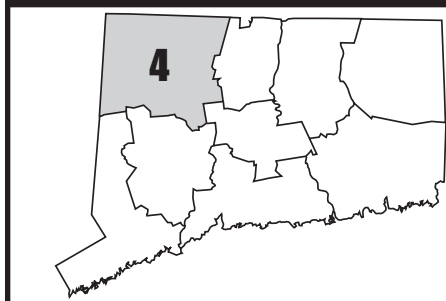
Southern CT Past Masters

The next meeting of Southern Connecticut Past Masters will be held at Oxford Grange on Saturday, Feb. 9th. When we meet - we eat. So make something yummy for the potluck supper and be at the hall at 6:30 P.M. We eat promptly at that time. Meeting and program to follow supper.

(l to r) Bob Sendewicz, Joanne Cipriano and Carl Bernhardt at the Dec. Meeting.



Mountain County Pomona No. 4



- Cawasa No. 34
- Whigville No. 48
- Eureka No. 62
- ✓ Winchester No. 74
- Taghannuck No. 100
- Litchfield No. 107
- Beacon No. 118
- ✓ Riverton No. 169
- Cherry Brook No. 210

MISSION STATEMENT

Mountain County Pomona No. 4 has strong leadership, a keen sense of community and many skills and talents which we use to promote and support our local Community Granges through citizenship, legislative and agricultural policies within our Pomona.

MOUNTAINCOUNTYPOMONA#4

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Feb. 10: Litchfield Grange Open House, 2 P.M.

Feb. 11: Pomona Meeting at Whigville Grange. Program - "Information"

Mar. ?: Possible Date Change for this meeting

The big event for Mountain County Pomona in February will be the Litchfield Grange Open House to be held on Sunday, Feb. 10 at the Grange Hall in Litchfield (opposite the Litchfield Inn). Members throughout the state and Pomona are encouraged to attend. The Cherry Brook Chimes Bell Choir will entertain and the State Master and others will speak on revitalizing Litchfield Grange. Please see the article on this page for further information.

The next regular meeting of the Pomona will be the following evening at Whigville Grange Hall with the program entitled "Information." A vote will be taken on a by-law change at this meeting to change the long-held Day Meeting from the fourth Wednesday of March to the fourth Saturday of March (unless the meeting falls on Easter weekend, when it will revert to the third Saturday). Watch this column next month for more information if you are unable to attend the meeting.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Feb. 12: Something for Your Sweetheart/Country Store, Ref. Ramona Fassio

Feb. 26: "Red, White & Blue"- Ref. Linda Senkus

Mar. 12: A Green Month, Ref. The Meles

The second meeting of January was moved to the fifth Tuesday of the

month due to bitter cold temperatures on Jan. 22. Plans will be in the works for several new fundraisers for the Grange as insurance, oil, a loan for our new boiler, and other expenses have depleted our treasury. One new fundraiser is a 2013 calendar available from Grange Master Todd Gelineau. Members are asked to make a donation of their choosing to the Grange treasury in return for the calendar. A cookbook in honor of the 125th Anniversary of Winchester Grange is also being put together in time for the celebration to be held on April 14 at the Grange Hall. Join us!

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Shirley Moore

Feb. 1: Reg. Mtg. 7:30, Program: Talent Night; Ref.: Sue Belle-Isle & Raine Pederson

Feb. 15: Pot-luck supper 6:30, Akke & Dennis Jasmine; Program: Hits from Broadway

Unfortunately, this correspondent had a triple by-pass on Nov. 9 which has limited many of my activities. Then on Dec. 24, Rujo had a heart attack and is now more limited in what he can do. However, we have been blessed with many relatives, friends and neighbors who have rallied around and helped us. To all who have sent cards, called, visited and provided meals, we say "Thank you so much". We hope to be back in the loop soon, but it is taking time.

Riverton did have a Christmas program for the grandchildren of our members on Dec. 21. Even though attendance was small, the kids really had a good time reciting poems, singing Christmas songs,

receiving gifts and having refreshments. I want to thank Phil & Maureen Prelli for arranging the program for the evening.

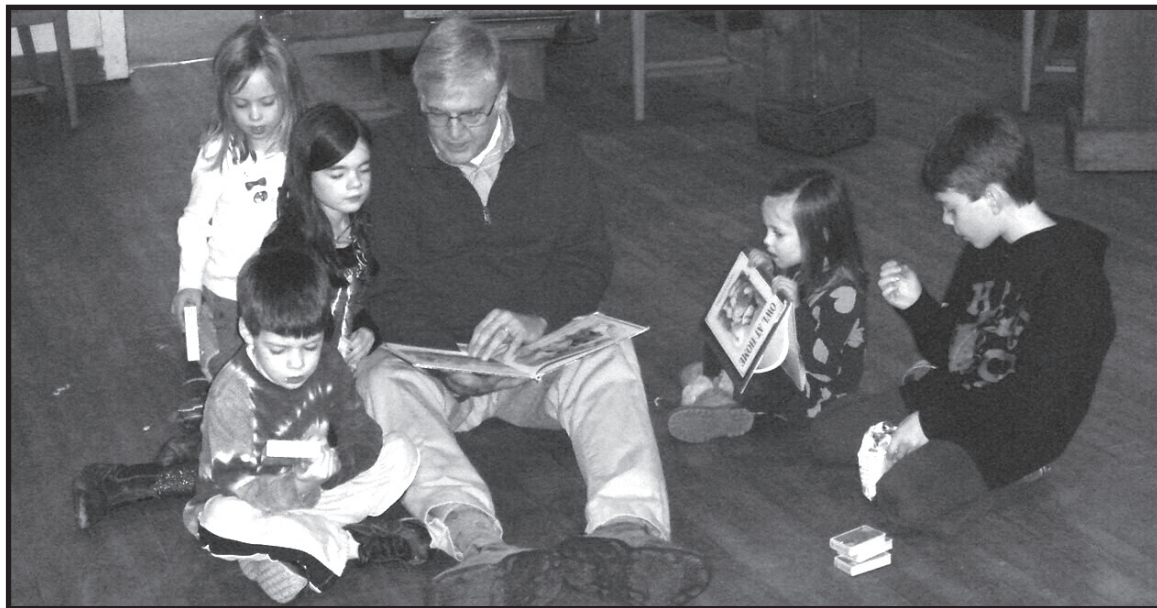
Our daughter, Sue Belle-Isle, did present the Jan. 4 program entitled "Resolution Time" which

also included several bits of information about the month of January. At this meeting, the charter was draped in memory of Bob Baldwin, who was a Golden Sheaf member of the Grange and a member of Victory Grange before

the merger with Riverton. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife, Cindy.

We look forward to the March Pomona meeting which will be held at our hall.

Riverton Christmas program



Phil Prelli reads "Twas the Night Before Christmas" at the Riverton Grange Christmas Program on December 21.

Join us for the Litchfield Open House

On Sunday, February 10th, members of the Litchfield community are invited to attend a special Open House at Litchfield Grange Hall to learn about Litchfield Grange and the significant impact it can have in the community.

The Open House begins at 1:00 PM. Litchfield Grange Hall is located at 435 Bantam Road (Route 202), opposite The Litchfield Inn.

The Cherry Brook Chimes Bell Choir under the direction of Mary Lou Keefe will provide the entertainment for the afternoon. The choir originates from the First Congregational Church of Canton Center and has 5 octaves of bells and three octaves of chimes.

Connecticut State Grange President Jody Cameron and Grange representatives from across the area will be speaking on the benefits of the Grange to the Litchfield community including fellowship, community service, contests and activities, events, agricultural and legislative initiatives, children and young adult programs, and more.

Litchfield Grange Hall was built and dedicated in 1953. Through the years the group has presented an annual agricultural

fair, hosted concerts and lectures, held tag sales and community dinners, and was well-known for their popular holiday cookie walk. The Grange was formed November 13, 1889, with 45 charter members. The organization grew quickly, to at one time having more than 200 members.

Community service projects have been the backbone of Litchfield Grange, where members have invested thousands of hours yearly to local projects, such as presenting scholarships and numerous community citizen awards, sponsoring a campership at Camp Berger Summer Camp each year for a local deserving child, donating to the local food pantries, donating baby hats and blankets to hospitals and more. Litchfield Grange even co-sponsored a Barn Dance to help raise money for a Litchfield resident who lost their family farm in a fire. But despite all of the Grange's good work, members were growing

older and tiring.

Members recognize that an infusion of energy is needed to bring Litchfield Grange back to its community service roots, and so as Litchfield Grange members celebrate their 124th anniversary in 2013, the group has launched a new growth initiative, beginning with the Open House on February 10th.

"Litchfield Grange is the perfect example of a Grange changing with the times and staying relevant," said Todd Gelineau, a member of the Connecticut State Grange Growth Team. "Now they need to grow their membership so that they can have an even greater and more significant impact in the community they service."

For more information on the activities of Litchfield Grange, or for membership information, please contact Connecticut State Grange President Jody Cameron at president@ctstategrange.org, or call the Connecticut State Grange Central Office at (860) 633-7550.



Litchfield Grange Hall (435 Bantam Rd. in Litchfield)

Do You Remember?

ANNE SEGER

by Betty Jane Gardiner

For many years Anne Seger served on the Camp Berger Committee of the Connecticut State Grange. She took care of all the ordering- food, supplies and everything needed to run a successful camp. She was a great worker in every way.

Anne Silva was a small-town girl- friendly and helpful in every way- always there when she was needed. She grew up in Avon, the middle child of eleven children who attended a one-room school. She went to Farmington High School where she was very popular. She met Cliff Seger whose family owned a large farm in Canton and they married in 1947. They formed part of a group of young farm couples whose social life revolved around Cherry Brook Grange. There were baseball games, square dances and dinners in addition to the regular meetings.

The Segers had no children of their own but started Cherry Brook Junior Grange and devoted much of their time working with young people. In 1972, when Connecticut hosted the National Grange Session, their Juniors participated in the opening ceremony.

Cliff was Master of Cherry Brook Grange and of Farmington Valley Pomona. Anne was the long-time Secretary of the Subordinate and active in the Pomona.

Anne was known as a great cook! Everyone loved her apple pies. She headed the kitchen for Grange's annual turkey supper and worked on the Red Cross Blood Drives where her carrot cookies were the favorite refreshment.

After high school she had gone to work at the Canton Center Post Office and became office assistant to the Postmaster. Upon his retirement she was appointed Postmaster- a position she held for 33 years until in 1995 a broken hip forced her to retire. In the early days there were no home deliveries, so everyone had to go to the post office to pick up the mail. She knew everyone and thought of them as her extended family. She kept folks informed of town news and activities and was the first



Marie Langer (left) and Anne Seger check the turkey for the recent Cherry Brook Grange Fair Supper.



Canton Center Post Office



Avon one room schoolhouse



Carrot Cookies



Cherry Brook Grange No. 210

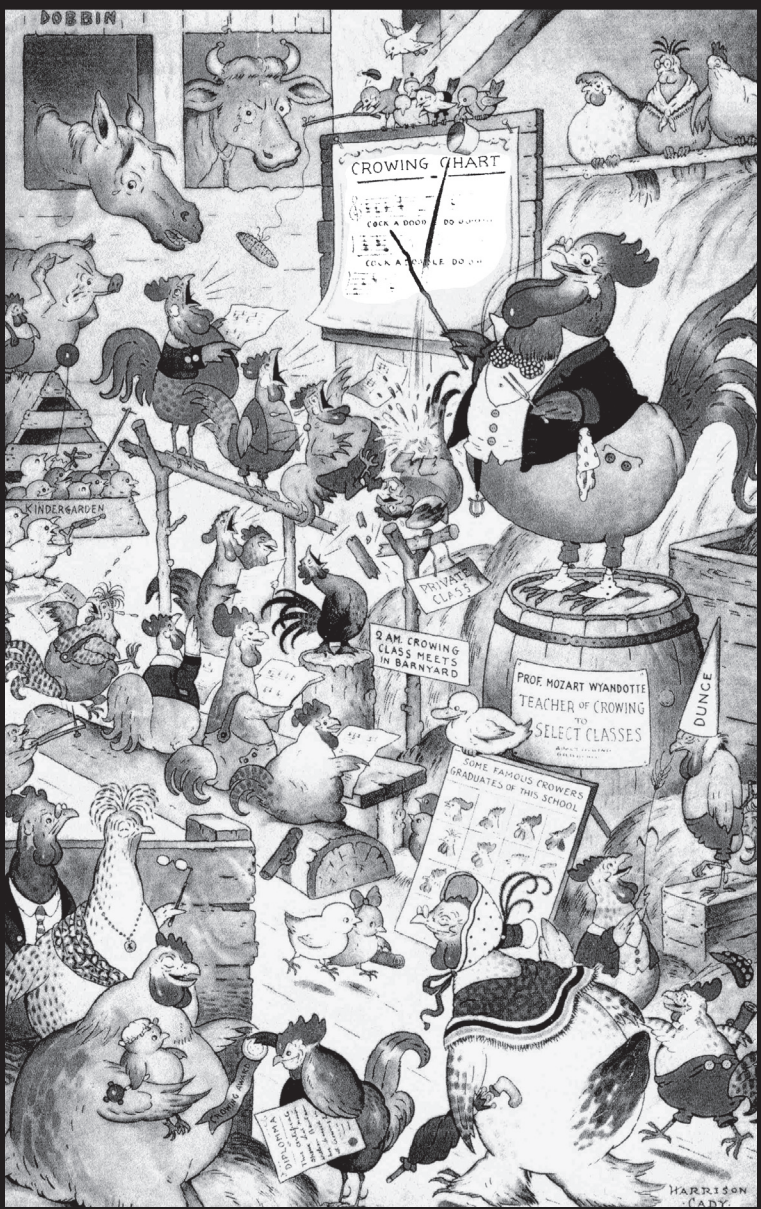
one to arrive at the door with a covered dish for anyone who needed congratulations or an expression of sympathy.

Her dedication to the job was admired! Never having learned to drive, she waked the mile and a half to work every morning arriving by 6 A.M. and leaving for home at 5:30. This was her schedule until she was in her 70s.

Anne lost her husband at a young age- twenty years before she was called to the Great Grange Above! At the time of her passing the local newspaper referred to her as "Canton's Unforgettable Village Postmaster." She was that- and also a good friend and an outstanding Granger!

Do remember Anne Seger.

Let's CROW about the Grange!



Ekonk Community & Jr. Granges



Members of Ekonk Comm. Grange made their annual visit to Richmond Grange in RI and presented the program.



Ekonk Juniors post for a group shot following their Christmas production of "The Littlest Reindeer."



EKONK COMM. JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Rebecca Gervais

On the 9th, several kids made aprons and fabric covered picture frames for Christmas gifts. It was a lot of fun, and an easy, but special, gift for the kids to make. Special thanks to Diane Davis for her idea, fabric, and help!

Another \$20.00 was donated to St. Jude. That brought our total up to

\$461.00!

Ekonk Junior had a busy December! We held our Christmas Play, The Littlest Reindeer, and about 100 people were there to support us. The kids did an awesome job! Maria Angelone did a GREAT job on her guitar and singing us two popular Christmas carols. We made \$70.00 on our Christmas tree raffle, special thanks to the Griffiths who donated it. Special thanks also go out to Linc Cooper who cut out a plywood and 2X4 sleigh and chimney, and to Deborah Sharpe who painted them up. Our set looked almost as good as the kids. Santa capped off a great evening by handing out presents to all the kids.

Allyson DiNola presented her Native American information, and earned another badge! She had pictures to go along with her interesting facts.

Our January meeting found us playing party type games. Marshmallow and spaghetti towers were created, bean bags were tossed (girls won), and musical chairs was played. 18 members were present. A group of volunteers will be coming up with an idea of something that we can do for Sandy Hook students to celebrate the lives that were lost.

In February the girls will have the program. Can't wait to see what they come up with!

Northeast Leaders' Conference

Robert Charbonneau, State Public Relations Co-Director

The Northeast Grange Leaders' Conference was held in Portland, Maine January 11-13th. Patrick Brewer, the Master of the Maine State Grange welcomed everyone to the conference. He introduced the national guests (National Grange President Ed Luttrell & National Grange Membership/Leadership Director Michael Martin). Each State Masters introduced their participating officers and committee directors. The first day concluded with breakout sessions for the various committees.

Day 2 of the conference began with Beth Merrill speaking on the preparations and fund-raising for the 2013 National Grange Convention to be held in Manchester, NH in November. Then Nancy Hartford, an Insurance specialist with State Farm, gave a presentation titled "Are You Covered." She talked about different coverages available and their limitations, as well as about auto insurance, and then further spoke about the advent of telematic devices such as "On-Star" and black box devices attached to the vehicle - their ability of monitoring the conditions of a vehicle. Portions of Hartford's talk also covered homeowners coverages and what to be aware of.

National Grange President Ed Luttrell had an interesting session about "Myths and Facts" about the Grange. His presentation included historical as well as Grange Growth information.

Walter Boomsma, Webmaster of the Maine State Grange, presented a workshop titled "Media and Member Relations." He discussed building a story, the inverted pyramid, and how to determine newsworthiness.

The afternoon session began with National Grange Membership/Leadership Director Michael Martin hosting a presentation titled "Developing the Leaders Around You: How to Help Others Reach Their Full Potential." He addressed the perceptions, responsibilities and challenges of leadership.

Martin was followed by Willie Grenier, who spoke on "Agriculture in the Classroom." Her workshop included several video presentations on the program.

The Banquet and musical entertainment rounded out Saturday evening. Sunday saw a presentation by the Maine State Grange Chaplain which was followed by discussion with the State Masters and a business meeting.

Overall, it was well-planned and informative weekend. We thank the Maine State Grange for hosting this event, and for their fellowship.

In Memoriam

- Barbara Pennington Glastonbury Grange #26
- Marjorie Sanford Prospect Grange #144
- Edna Clark, G.S. Enfield Grange #151
- Louis J. Godin, G.S. Wolcott Grange #173
- Sara Tormey Echo Grange #180

Please keep us notified of deceased members. Use the email or the regular mailing address listed in the Granger Staff list in this issue.

Chaplain's Message



Mark 12:30-31a (GNB) Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second most important commandment is this: "Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

GOD'S VALENTINE GIFT

by Joanna Fuchs

God's Valentine gift of love to us
Was not a bunch of flowers;
It wasn't candy, or a book
To while away the hours.
His gift was to become a man,
So He could freely give
His sacrificial love for us,
So you and I could live.
He gave us sweet salvation, and
Instruction, good and true-
To love our friends and enemies
And love our Savior, too.
So as we give our Valentines,
Let's thank our Lord and King;
The reason we have love to give
Is that He gave everything.

Let us continue daily to take the time to reflect on God's faithful love for us so you can share his love with those around you. Genuine love and affection comes from knowing and experiencing God's love through Jesus Christ.

1 John 4:19 (GNB) We love because God first loved us.



Winter root vegetables await customers at the January Norfield Grange Winter Farmers' Market



Norfield Grange Winter Farmers' Market

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 story to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of the 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

Answers to Previous Photos:

There were no answers to last month's picture of the 1951 State Grange Session at Footguard Hall in Hartford



Grange featured in puzzle



The Manchester Journal Inquirer runs a feature called the "Picture Puzzle" similar to the Connecticut Granger's "Window on the Past" which asks readers to identify unmarked photos from the archives of the newspaper. A recent photo featured in the column turned out to be a Grange picture.

by Chip LeClerk

Journal Inquirer (Manchester, CT)

A pair of observant readers was able to help us solve our latest Picture Puzzle.

Irene Percoski and George Kotowicz of Tolland each provided names and some wonderful information about the picture that showed five adults wearing sashes with one (of) them in the middle holding a cake.

Irene said in her email that this photo was taken during an anniversary celebration of Ellington Grange.

"I believe this photo was taken sometime in the 1980s," Irene explained. "From left to right is Margaret Warner and Frank Warner (Hamden Grange No. 99), who was a past State Master of the State Grange. In the center holding the cake was Ellington

Grange Master Julianna Ballard. Then Harry LaBonte and his wife Elsie LaBonte, both were State Deputies (from Tolland Grange). Julianna is now the Chaplain of Enfield Grange and Elsie is the treasurer of Tolland Grange.

George, who has been a Grange member since 1966, recognized Frank and Margaret Warner and Harry LaBonte. he said in his phone call there are some clues on the sashes the people in the photo are wearing.

"Harry is wearing a deputy sash," George said. "He would go around to the different Granges to make sure the clubs were operating correctly organizationally and ritualistically. They would look over the books, how the meetings were run, and check on the officers.

"At one time there used to be a Grange in every town, now there are about 80 statewide. This picture looks like it was taken to celebrate how many years the Grange was open, either 75 or 100 years.

George said the Grange is the second oldest fraternal organization in the U.S., next to Masons.



National Grants available for Deaf Projects

The National Grange Foundation has developed a special fund specifically for the purpose of supporting deaf activities within the Grange. They are offering Grants to Community Granges through their respective State Granges to fund various deaf awareness projects.

Community Granges in Connecticut interested in applying for a Grant must submit their requests to the Connecticut State Grange prior to June 1st for consideration. Requirements of application include the following:

Name of State Grange

Name of Community Grange

Name and Address of Contact Person

Date of Submission

Name of the Project

Description of the Project

Anticipated number of people involved

Anticipated impact on the Grange (State and/or Local)

Anticipated impact on the Community or State

Other anticipated results of the project

The deadline for the Connecticut State Grange to submit Grants to the National Grange Foundation is July 12, 2013.

The National Grange Foundation will award a maximum of three grants in 2013 with awards up to \$500.00 each to State Granges, who then will transfer those funds to the Community or Pomona Grange conducting the deaf activity included in the grant application.

Grants may be awarded for any project that enhances deaf education. Creativity and uniqueness of the projects will also be factored into the selection process. The Grange Foundation is looking for projects with not only an impact on deaf education but plans that involve members working with deaf community in some way. The Foundation will give preference to Granges who are doing more than fundraising.

For additional information, please visit the National Grange Foundation website at <http://www.grangefoundation.org>, or contact CT State Grange President Jody Cameron at president@ctstategrange.org.

Rand celebrates 80 years



Doris Rand was recently presented with an 80th birthday cake by the members of her Grange, Lyme #147.