



Connecticut Granger



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May 2016

State Master



Noel T. Miller
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

In the John Wayne film, "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon," Captain Kiddle's catch phrase was "never apologize, it shows a sign of weakness."

We have all been taught this lesson as being weak, but I have learned it takes strength to admit that you are wrong. As your State Master I find the buck ends on my desk. So I wish to correct the wrongs many of our members have given. I apologize to all the members who have been hurt by fellow Grange members. I apologize to all new members who have joined and then were forgotten by not having a mentor to assist them in our Grange family. I apologize to all members who have heard "This is the way it's always been done." I apologize to all whose ideas and suggestions were laughed at or rejected without discussion. I apologize to all members who have been rejected from an office/committee or event because they were not part of the gang or group. I apologize for those Granges that have closed or will close because those in charge have not asked for help, to gain new members. I have taken the burden off of every Granger's shoulders by taking on your guilt, failures, weaknesses, insecurities, evil, meanness. I was once told that keeping things in was like holding a house on your shoulders. You can't move or walk because of this heavy object you carry. If you release what has been built up, the house

will disappear and the weight on our shoulders will be gone. You can move and walk again. So let us hit the restart button, refresh ourselves and let's have a do-over. Let us all renew the Obligation of the Degrees and start fresh. And let's work together to move forward.

Degrees and inspections have begun. The Inspections are for my benefit to see where our Granges are, as in attendance, conduct of meetings, and financial strength. Degrees are for everyone and new members to learn the valuable lessons that explain the working of the Grange. Members who have received the Welcome Ceremony need to witness the degrees so they can visually see what they missed from the Welcome Ceremony and everyone else can renew their commitment to our organization that we love so deeply.

The Big E is some time away but if you plan on working in the store let me know as I have a list started. If you want to sit in the room on the weekend, let me know, and if you wish to walk in the Grange Day Parade, contact me. I will need names and phone numbers by June 1, 2016. The tickets are becoming harder to get so if you need them let me know. If a Grange Hall needs a piano, the one in the New England Grange Building is available for free, contact me. This is for a hall only (no resale) and is offered as-is.

Our Social Connection Committee is holding their Teamwork Event on May 21 at Cheshire Grange at a cost of \$5.00 per person. Come join us and work on our teamwork skills. Fun for all!!

The National Grange Master has made a ruling on teleconferencing of meetings or committee meetings. We would like to have regular meetings in the halls and in person but there are times when members are out of

area or confined and can have access to a Grange meeting via Skype, Zoom or other means. National Master Betsy Huber will allow this approach, but I, as your State Master, have some concerns and fears regarding the misuse of this meeting format. So if you plan to utilize this technology, please advertise

it so outsiders can have access and participate in your meeting. I will take a wait and see attitude at this time.

As springtime is around us it is time for graduations, weddings, family activities, and community events. Enjoy them and be proud of everything that we stand for as Americans, Grangers

and God bless us all. Take the time and smell freshly cut hay, the smell of newly plowed ground, the birth of new babies on the farm or in our homes, and the revived freshness of the fruitful fields, vineyards and orchards. See the beauty that He has given us.

Join the fun at Social Connection Event



Joanne Cipriano
Social Connection Director
Social@ctstategrange.org

Joanne Cipriano, Social Connection Director

Greetings from the Social Connection. We hope you are enjoying this spring weather. This is a good time to enjoy one of our social activities. Have you purchased your ticket? They are in each Pomona or you can give me a call. They are only \$5.00. A low price to enjoy a fun evening with your brother or sister Grangers. This is being held at Cheshire Grange on Saturday, May 21st.

Our evening will start at 6:00 with a typical Saturday night supper. Homemade soups and a sandwich plus some delicious desserts.

I check the mail and my emails every day for volunteers looking to help us. We need soup, sandwiches

and desserts. I will keep checking.

Don't forget to nominate a member of your Grange for the "Granger of the Year" Award. Applications are on their way. See you at Cheshire on May 21st.

National ruling on digital meetings

Betsy Huber, National Master

I have been asked to make a ruling on the ability of Grange members to participate, and specifically to be allowed to cast votes, in meetings of Subordinate/Community

Granges without being physically present; i.e. via telephone, audio or electronic video means such as computer.

After studying the National Grange Digest of Laws, I find no mandate that members must be physically present in the room to participate and/or to cast a vote in a Grange meeting. I also find that Grange members who personally cast their vote via electronic participation in a regular Grange meeting are not casting a proxy vote, as that term is generally understood. Proxy voting is the assignment of a right to vote by one person to another. Proxy voting is clearly prohibited by the Digest of Laws.



Participating in a Grange meeting via electronic means is not assigning one's right to vote to another person. It is exercising one's right to vote via a different medium of communication and participation.

In today's world, people are much more mobile than in 1867 or even 1967. Grangers are required to travel for their employment or even move to another part of the country or world. Grange members proudly serve in the armed forces or the Peace Corps, far away from their communities. Some Grangers temporarily relocate to warmer climates for several months of the year. Our youth may live at college for 8 months out of the year. Grangers may be nursing home residents or may be temporarily home-bound. Many of these members would like to remain connected to their home Grange while they may be unable to attend in person,

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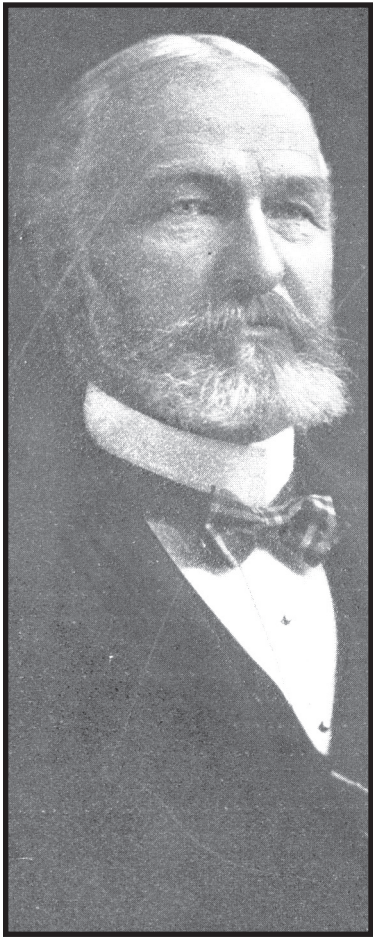
May 5

A part of the National Grange

*American Values,
Hometown Roots*

Scan this QR Code and join us on the web!

George Bowen: Master, Doctor, Leader



George Austin Bowen was born in Woodstock, Connecticut, on July 7, 1841. He was the son of Edward Eaton Bowen and Sophronia Tennate (Atwell) Bowen.

At the age of ten years he moved to Brooklyn, New York and remained there until after his marriage. He received the usual grammar and high school education and attended college and medical school. He received his M.D. degree from the University of New York and became a well known surgeon and physician.

On May 28, 1868, he married Catherine Electa Berrian in Brooklyn, New York. She was the daughter of Samuel Underhill Berrian and Eliza Anne (Parsons) Berrian.

He was a Republican in politics and a Congregationalist in his faith. The following taken from "The History of Woodstock Genealogies of Woodstock Families" by Clarence Bowen, sums up the life and activities of this busy man: "Practised medicine in Brooklyn till 1873 when owing to ill health he returned to Woodstock; was an organizer of the Woodstock Farmers' Club of which he was Secretary for the twelve years of the Club's existence. When the Club was reorganized as the Senexet Grange, Dr. Bowen became Master; was like his grandfather and great-grandfather Bowen, a member of the Masonic Lodge in Woodstock and at the time of his death was Marshal of the Lodge. He was President of the Woodstock Agricultural Society, Director of the Woodstock Creamery Corporation; President of the Connecticut Dairymen's Association; the candidate of the Republican party for Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut; Surgeon General in 1895 on Governor O. Vincent Coffin's staff; delegate in 1902 to the State Constitutional Convention, member in 1903 of the General Assembly and Chairman of the Committee on Humane Institutions. On his farm where he was born and where his father, grandfather and great-grandfather had lived, where two Arabian mares and a stallion named Ben Lincoln after Dr. Bowen's Civil War friend, George Bannister Lincoln, Adjutant 6th NY Regiment. A small flock of Southdown Sheep was also on the farm. Dr. Bowen planted an oak called "The Constitution Oak" given by the Department of Agriculture to every member of the Constitutional Convention. Near it on the farm was raised another tree, a granddaughter of the Charter Oak. From an acorn Dr. Bowen brought from Washington's Tomb and an acorn he had picked up near the Charter Oak he raised still other oaks. Dr. Bowen's funeral was conducted by the Putnam Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Woodstock."

As the previous article states he was the Charter Master of Senexet Grange. He was a Deputy of the State Grange during 1887; Lecturer of the State Grange during 1888 and 1889 "being one of the best" as stated in after years by one that knew him; he served as the third Master of the present State Grange during the years of 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893 and 1894. He brought much honor to this State by holding one of the highest offices in the Assembly of Demeter of the National Grange, that of being High Priest of Demeter. This office he held during 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900 and 1901 thus having the privilege of conferring the Seventh Degree many times upon many candidates.

He first became identified with the institution in the organization of Senexet Grange in 1887. From that time on he gave soul, energy and service to the movement in organizing Pomona and Subordinate Granges, in initiating and shaping legislation and leading the Order he was personally responsible for their organizations: Crystal Lake #60, Wolf Den #61, Natchaug #68, Shetucket #69, Canterbury #70, Ekonk #89, Ashford #90 and Bristol #116. The following Granges were organized by others under his administration: Granby #2 (2nd org.), Washington #11 (2nd org.), East Granby #12, Killingly #112, Hightland #113, Wethersfield #114, Rocky Hill #115, Unity #117, Beacon #118, Morris #119, Madison #120, Bethlehem #121, Waterown #122, Westbrook #123, Higganum #124, Hollenbeck #125, Pleasant Valley #126, Goodwill #127, Orange #128, Pohtatuck #129, Farmill River #130, Columbia #131, Wichita #132, Greenfield Hill #133, Trumbull #134, Silver Lake #135, E. Canaan #136,



Willington #137, N. Stonington #138, Middlebury #139, Plainfield #140, Brookfield #141, Rock Rimmon #142, Goshen #143, Prospect #144, Rippowam #145, and Norfield #146; also Excelsior Pomona #7, Sea View Pomona #8 and Fairfield County Pomona #9.

He was the first President of Patrons Mutual Fire Insurance Company and served in that office long and well, being in that office at the time of his death. Besides being a professional man of much renown, he ran a model farm in Woodstock and various businesses which he inherited from his father, who had received them from his father before him, (having been in the family for a number of generations.)

He died on October 30, 1910, having lived a full life devoted to the service of others. His mantle was taken up and carried on by others who had the same selfless service in their blood. He was laid to rest in Woodstock Hill Cemetery.



Dr. Bowen's final resting place in Woodstock Hill Cemetery.



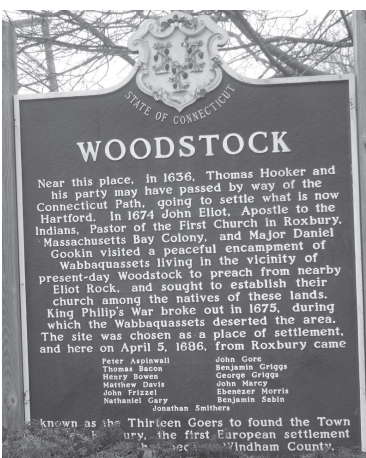
First President of Patrons



Doctor and Surgeon



State Legislator



Supporter of many Woodstock organizations

National Master's Ruling on Meetings

Continued from page one...

and certainly their home Granges would appreciate their participation and input.

Today's technology has improved so that there is little chance of someone fraudulently attempting to participate in a meeting as a nonmember or pretending to be someone else using telephone or other audio and/or audio and video technology. Our meetings are no longer secret; we encourage future members to visit meetings in order to learn what the Grange is about. Virtual attendance at a Grange meeting could provide another means of interesting prospective members in a non-threatening manner.

The Grange for many years has allowed committee meetings in which members conduct the business of the Order via telephone or computer with no negative consequences. Even portions of the National Grange Session are broadcast via computer to members far and near.

I am not saying that virtual meetings should take the place of members meeting together for fellowship and activities in a Grange hall or meeting place. This is still the mainstay of our Order. I also rule that the Digest does not require any local, county or State Grange chapter to invest in and employ the technology necessary to allow remote participation at every meeting or any meeting, for that matter. Therefore, the scope of this ruling clearly allows each Grange to determine the method and means of remote participation in their meetings as necessary to accommodate the technological comfort level and traditions of their local Grange. However, members who are separated by distance or disability should not be prohibited, as a matter of Grange Law, from fully participating in Grange meetings by electronic means to keep them part of our family.

National Grange Legislative Updates



Burton Eller
National Grange
Legislative Director

Rural Issues Lifeline Telephone Reform Harmful

The Lifeline Program is a federal initiative that provides discounted low volume landline or wireless phone service to low income households. The National Grange is strongly urging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to rethink and revise a reform proposal that would eliminate wireless Lifeline telephone service. The FCC proposal would shift the federal Lifeline program to broadband. The problem is that half of those living in rural areas either do not have broadband available or can't access broadband at speeds high enough for timely transmission in an emergency. That fact is not expected to change much in the foreseeable future. National Grange President Betsy Huber wrote FCC Secretary Dortch explaining this real-world disconnect and urged the FCC to revise the proposal to allow for continued Lifeline wireless phone use. Huber also penned op-eds that were picked up in the Washington Times, Agri-Pulse (the nation's most read daily food and ag e-newsletter) and Morning Consult (a daily e-newsletter for the corporate and business world).

Secure Rural Schools

The Secure Rural Schools program provides assistance to rural counties and school districts affected by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands. Historically, rural communities and schools relied on a share of timber harvest receipts to supplement local funding for educational services and roads but federal policies have substantially

reduced timber harvest in recent years. The original authorizing legislation, Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, expired in September, 2015 and must be reauthorized by Congress. In the meantime, USDA through the Forrest Service has allocated \$272 million to 41 states and Puerto Rico for FY16.

Legal Issues Supreme Court Agrees to Review Case Supported by Grange Amicus

The National Grange filed an amicus brief urging the Supreme Court to review a lower court decision in the Apple v. Samsung case that awarded excessive damages for an ornamental design, not functional utility, patent infringement on a smart phone. The Grange argued that damages awarded by the lower court were equal to total profits on the device and that fact would seriously impede innovation and become an incentive for troll-like litigation. An op-ed piece by National Grange Executive Committee member Leroy Watson urging the Supreme Court to review the case appeared in the Washington Enquirer daily newspaper in the Washington, D.C. metro area. The Supreme Court Agreed to review the case.

Food Issues GMO Labeling Controversy

The House of Representatives several months ago passed voluntary labeling legislation to preempt all state legislation requiring genetically modified ingredient labeling on food. The Senate failed to muster the 60 vote majority required to pass

the preemption legislation. Unless Congress passes a uniform national labeling standard by July 2016, a Vermont law will go into effect mandating GMO labeling. New bills in Massachusetts and Rhode Island largely mirror the Vermont law while legislation in Connecticut would remove the trigger provisions in existing law that require at least four other states to enact a similar measure before the statute can go into effect. All three efforts have broad support in their respective legislatures. In the meantime, ConAgra Foods, Campbell Soup, General Mills and Kellogg have announced they will begin labeling GMO ingredient food throughout the country. Some advocates of labeling do so because they support the consumer's right to know. Others however, are using the current labeling chaos to gain a marketing advantage. Those who are concerned about future world hunger fear the labeling controversy may stifle innovation necessary to feed the hungry populations in developing countries. Congress will scramble to reach some kind of compromise over the next several months but July is fast approaching.

Bus Stop Farmers Markets

Following in the footsteps of food trucks, those mobile fast food stands parked along city streets at noon, mobile farm stands are beginning to show up in so-called "food deserts". These low-income neighborhoods have plenty of quickie marts and liquor stores but lack full service grocery stores with fruits, vegetables and other fresh foods. These mobile markets show up at bus stops and transit stations in low-income neighborhoods with fresh goods typically at discounted prices.

Land Issues Farmers May Lose 600,000 acres in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

The Supreme Court has allowed the EPA to proceed with its Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plan for the entire 64,000 square-

mile Chesapeake Bay watershed. As a result, the EPA estimates 600,000 acres of cropland in the Bay watershed will need to come out of production. Land use decisions are typically the prerogative of state and local governments. However, the TMDL plan allows the federal bureaucracy to overrule these local decisions. With this ruling, the Supreme Court has cleared the way for EPA to apply the Bay TMDL plan to other major watersheds, including the Mississippi River watershed.

Health Issues Opioid Use Epidemic

Rural communities are experiencing fast-growing problems of opioid and heroin abuse at higher rates than urban communities. Agriculture Secretary Vilsack will lead a federal interagency task force charged with helping rural towns and organizations meet this challenge head-on. Over the next several months, Vilsack will travel to meet with local leadership to better understand how his task force can further support their efforts. The National Grange has notified the White House Rural Council of its willingness to help however it can.

Medical Treatment Challenges

National Grange cosigned a letter to Medicare Payment Advisory Commission Chairman Crossman urging the Commission to reject proposals change patient out-of-pocket costs and increase copays for low-income beneficiaries under

the Medicare prescription drug benefit (Part D)

National Grange cosigned a letter to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Burwell expressing concern with a proposed Medicare Part B Drug Payment Model that would cut Part B payments in several geographic regions that could adversely affect the care and treatment of patients with cancer, muscular degeneration, hypertension and rheumatoid arthritis.

National Grange cosigned a letter to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Slavitt highlighting the cuts to Medicare Advantage from 2014 through 2016 and expressing concerns about the consequences of further cuts in 2017. The comprehensive disease management program and care coordination services provided through Medicare Advantage help millions of seniors with disabilities manage their often complex and myriad health problems.

National Grange cosigned a letter to the bipartisan cosponsors in the House and Senate to support of their Small Business Healthcare Relief Act (S.1697 & H.R.2911). The bills would allow small businesses to provide Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRAs) to employees with health insurance. These HRAs would permit businesses to offer pre-tax dollars to insured employees to help pay premiums and other out-of-pocket medical costs.

Vilsack to attend National

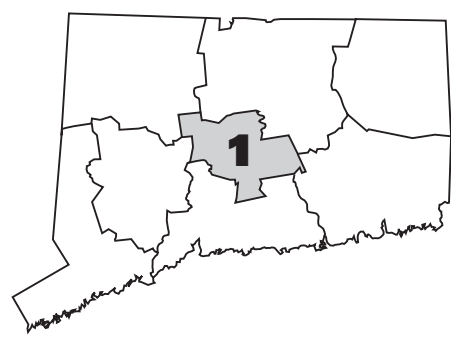


We are so pleased to announce Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will attend the 150th Annual National Grange Convention as a featured speaker for the Salute to Ag Breakfast on Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 8 am.

There are a limited number of tickets available for this event. Tickets may be purchased with registration. Registration

for the 150th Annual Convention will open on or before April 15 and will be announced here and on our website at www.nationalgrange.org.

Central Pomona No. 1



- Central #1
- Southington #25
- Meriden #29
- Higganum #124
- Hemlock #182



HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: Barbara R. Smith

Higganum Grange #124 held a wildflower walk at the Beaver Ledges property in April. This extensive wetlands and wildlife habitat connect to and extend existing open space that the Haddam Land Trust intends to purchase. The Higganum Grange #124 has begun fundraisers to support the Land Trust's purchase of this Beaver Ledges property by making cloth shopping bags made by Grange members for \$20.00 if you would like to support this cause. The Higganum Grange is very concerned with conserving our natural resources. Our meetings are held on the first Friday of the month and begin at 7:30. Refreshments are served after the meeting.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

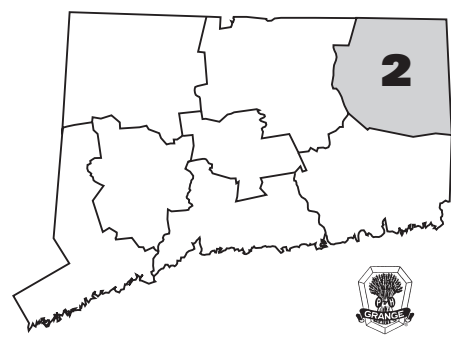
Corr: Maureen Sanborn

May 13: CWA

May 27: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- Quinebaug #2
- Senexet #40
- Wolf Den #61
- Ekonk Community #89
- Ashford #90
- Putnam #97
- Killingly #112
- Echo #180



SENEKET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

May 18: Memorial Service and Election of Officers

We are having regular meetings and interesting programs. We have been working on getting the kitchen in order as well as the meeting area. The Happy Herdsmen continue to meet. This 4H Club has been reactivated and has 20 members. They would like to do some community service for us in exchange for the use of our hall.

The Pomona meeting was held at our hall in April and voted to disband at the end of September. Members will

be notified.

Visit us soon.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

May 14: Roast Beef Supper 5pm

May 21: Square Dance 7:30 p.m.

April 3rd, Robert P. Jordan was presented his 80 year grange citation from Russell Gray. Gray also presented Bob with a commendation from the Sterling Board of Selectmen, naming Sunday, April 3rd as Robert P. Jordan Day in Sterling! Rep. Paul Brycki presented Bob with a CT Congressional citation, signed by him, Senators Mae Flexer and

Andy Maynard. 37 family members attended to honor their father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Bob was the first Master of Highland Junior Grange! Many stories were shared by those in attendance and it was agreed by all that Bon Jordan was the best snow plow driver Sterling has ever had! Bob even plowed some last year (at age 93)! Also honored that day were Celia Bennett (70 years) and Lorna Champagne, Luther Thurlow, Verna Cole, Russell Gray and Dolly Larkin (55 years). Dolly was unable to attend and her daughter, Tammy Dexter, accepted the award for her. Richard Laiho received his 25 year membership certificate. A roast pork luncheon preceded the program. The Junior Grange was represented with members playing the saxophone and piano, a monologue and a cute skit! One of Bob Jordan's 46 great-grandchildren (Lillian Sharpe, 10-a Junior Granger) played the a hymn on the piano. A great afternoon at Ekonk!

Past President, Katie Molodich, along with Granger, Tom Sweet Jr., visited Arline Boucher, presenting her with her 75 year Grange certificate.

May 7th the Juniors will have a Plant Sale with all proceeds benefiting Kaycee Chesters/family. Kaycee is battling cancer and was just fitted with a prosthetic leg, due to cancer. Please support this event. Questions call Rebecca at 860-564-1139 if you have questions about this.

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

May 2: Regular Time, 7:30 P.M.

The meeting time of Killingly Grange has been changed temporarily due to bad weather and better daylight hours for the sake of our elderly members.

Killingly Grange was very busy on Sat., Feb. 27 with breakfast, our regular meeting, Boy Scout Troop 43 Spaghetti Supper and bluegrass concert later in the evening. We have

been trying to conserve the use of oil and heat for the building.

Visitors at this meeting were Groton, Norwich and New London Granges. New London County Lecturer Anne Marie Knochenhauer was with us and we welcomed them warmly and apologize for meeting informally.

Looking forward to the State Baking Contest, Blueberry Muffins. Hat decorations. Later in the summer, Killingly Grange's Apple Festival and Tomato Festival.

We obligated Marie Allen as a new member at

our Jan. meeting. Marie has been a big help at some of our recent breakfasts. Thanks, Marie.

ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

May 10: CWA

May 24: Memorial, Chaplain

May 14: Ham & Bean Supper, 5 to 7 P.M.

We are now meeting the second and fourth Tuesday.

We are working on our contests. Our muffin recipe contest is due by July 30th.

Also we are still collecting pennies for charity.

Come and join us at our Ham and Bean supper on May 14th from 5 to 7 P.M.

Meriden Pork Supper

Meriden Grange No. 29 of 540 Broad Street, Meriden, will hold a Family Style Stuffed Pork Supper on Saturday, April 23, 2016 from 5:00 to 6:30 PM.

This is open to the public with the admission price of \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children. Take-outs will be available. The Grange will be serving a vegetable, mashed potatoes, stuffed pork with apple sauce, Cindy's famous coleslaw, and dessert.

For more than 130 years, Meriden Grange has been active in the local community, holding numerous programs and dinners and raising money for local organizations in the past several years like the Meriden Soup Kitchen and Meriden Humane Society, as well as hosting their popular annual fair each September.

For more information, please contact Meriden Grange President Robert Charbonneau at (203) 237-4617, via e-mail at info@meridengrango.org, or visit www.MeridenGrange.org.

National Ag Day

WASHINGTON - National Ag Day is typically celebrated on the first day of spring to increase awareness to the values of agriculture. On March 15, National Grange Youth Ambassador Shannon Ruso of New Baltimore, New York traveled to Washington to join other youth for Ag Day activities and meet with her congressional leaders.

"The Grange was established to advance the values of rural America," Ruso said. "It was great to see so many youth from several different organizations at our nation's capital to celebrate farmers and the food they provide us."

Shannon is a member of Ravenna Grange #1457 in New York State.

Ruso along with National Grange Master Betsy Huber, Legislative Director Burton Eller and Youth Development Director Charlene Shupp Espenshade participated in the Ag Day Mix and Mingle Luncheon at the Dirksen Senate Office Building on March 15.

"The Grange is very proud of our youth and we are happy to give them this opportunity to see government in action and make their voices heard in our nation's Capitol," Huber said. "Advocacy and public service have been an important part of the Grange throughout its 150 year history. We encourage our younger members to continue that legacy."

Senator Cory Gardner, (R-CO), spoke at the event challenging the youth in the room to "carry the big rocks" for agriculture by sharing the story of what farmers provide rural America and their suburban and urban counterparts. He said people need a farmer every day, even if they do not think about it. He said more needs to be done to make it more affordable for young farmers to get started in the industry.

These events honor National Agriculture Day and mark a nationwide effort to tell the story of American agriculture and remind citizens that agriculture is a part of all of us. A number of producers, agricultural associations, corporations, students and government organizations involved in agriculture were at the capitol to meet their legislators. This year's Ag Day theme was Agriculture: Stewards of a Healthy Planet.

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!

(USPS 563-220)

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DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the **5th Day** of each month and should be sent to:
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P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033

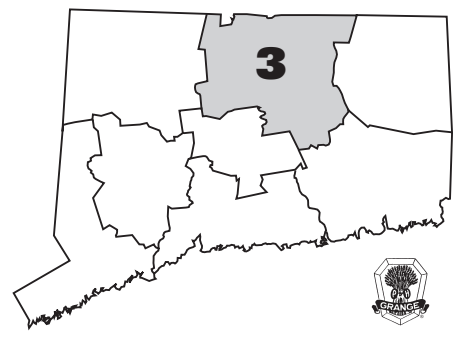
or

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

Connecticut Granger Staff

President/Editor Todd Gelineau
Vice President
Secretary Treasurer. Edith Schoell

East Central Pomona No. 3



- East Central #3
- Granby #5
- Glastonbury #26
- Manchester #31
- Vernon #52
- Coventry #75
- Hillstown #87
- Enfield #151
- Simbury #197

E. CENTRAL POMONA #3

Corr: Noel Miller

May 7: Host Hillstown, Lyme and Norwich Members

Footlights... the talent and skit runoff schedule for this night expecting all Granges to participate. Had four new members for the Fifth Degree. Welcome to our Pomona. We found a new insurance company for our liability insurance. What a deal!

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Leona Wilson

May 3: CWA Program
May 24: Memorial Day
June 7: Vacation Time

On May 3 our program will be presented by Sister Ruth, our CWA Chairman. On May 24 we will do our "Memorial Day" program presented by Sister Gail. Vacation time is here on June 7th. On March 15th Vernon visited us and brought a very good program about "Getting Older" which we all could relate to.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

May 5: May Day – Ref. Robert Warner
May 19: Flowers – Ref. Pat

Ridazon

Note: May 19 will be inspection as well. Congratulations to Heather Hill for taking the Fifth Degree and for becoming new members of East Central Pomona #3. Mother Nature has been kind to us and have blown down trees all around the hall so we have a lot of clean up to do.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Hillstown Grange #87 is holding our annual 'Blue Grass Night' with the "Yankee Blue Grass Jammers". Come and hear 'that old fashion music' on Thursday, April 28, 2016 at the Hillstown Grange Hall, 617 Hills St., East Hartford, CT.

The doors open at 7 and music starts at 7:30 pm and is open to the public, no charge for admission and refreshments. Great fun for all ages.

The Hillstown Grange has served the Hillstown area of East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester for over 100 years and is the oldest agricultural group in America and this event is part of our Grange Month

celebration.

Arrive early and tour the Historic Grange upstairs Hall that has been part of the community for over 100 years where the phrase "American Values with Hometown Values" is a way of life.

For more information please call Helen at 860-568-6268; Frank at 860-690-2845 or email: hillstowngrange@aol.com.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

May 14: CWA Program-Ref.



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary
secretary@ctstategrange.org

Springtime seems to be with us on a more permanent basis and with spring our Granges are beginning to come alive with activities and events. Please remember to let the Granger and the Central Office know about what's going on in your Granges. We are happy to promote your events as much as we can – but we have to know about them!

Quarterly Reports for the first quarter of this year are coming in well. However, there seems to be a common problem that is repeated by Granges that offer the Family Membership program. In section A of the new report form we ask for "Total # of family plan members." Here we are asking you to total up all of the individual members who pay dues under the family membership program. In section C we ask for the "# of family plans." In this section we are simply asking for the total number of families. When there is an error, we are finding that Secretaries are reporting the total number of family plan members in both sections. This results in paying dues at the family plan rate AND at the normal rate. This can be a big difference in your total. Please let me know if you have any questions.

The new membership recognition program has resulted in a good number of certificates being ordered through the Central Office. We know that it will be a bit of work for Grange Secretaries in the beginning

Blueberry Muffins, bring your entry with recipe

June 11: Election of Officers

At the March meeting our Grange went over our by-laws completely. We take these by-laws as a given, but some members (mostly new members) have never seen or heard of them. Changes were made not only to amount of dues and date and time of meetings but also some of the wording that no longer applies. After all they were written in 1899, updated when needed, but the wording

was never changed to reflect the century of difference. Our Secretary, Dawn, was out recovering from knee surgery and we wish her well and hope the healing process is going well.

We welcomed May Alevo into membership and voted to accept the application for another prospective member. Don't forget to bring your favorite blueberry muffins along with the recipe to the May meeting. Our winner will make them again for the State contest in July.

State Secretary

but we also know that your members will be proud to be recognized by your Grange. Again, let me know if you have any questions about 25-30-35-40 and 45 year recognition of your members.

We thank all of the Granges who responded to the survey sent out at the end of February regarding music licensing. We had hoped more Granges would have participated but it was still a good representation. The completed forms have been sent on to National Grange.

In the coming weeks we will be sending out the update forms for the State Directory and order forms for Dues Receipts. It is very important that you return these to us as soon after you hold your elections as possible (sooner if you don't elect this year). Even if you don't have any changes, please review the sheets for errors and send them back to us. There were quite a few Granges that did not respond at all last year and one Grange

that has information in the Directory that is a few years old now.

A mailing went out recently with the text of a resolution regarding the elimination of Pomonas. The resolution is included in this issue. As of this writing, no additional resolutions have been received (Apr. 15). Resolutions dealing with by-laws issues must be in to the Central Office exactly six months prior to the opening day of State Session. That makes the deadline April 20 this year. All other resolutions not dealing with by-law issues, may be sent to the Central Office at any time (preferably prior to September 15).

On the subject of State Session, this year's Session will be held Oct. 20-22 in Norwich at the Holiday Inn. We had a great session in 2013 at this hotel and know that 2016 will be just as wonderful. So mark your calendars!

Until next time... get out and enjoy the spring weather!

Simsbury & Green Monster Grange E-Cycling

Monster-Size Recycling Event

Saturday, May 14 • 9 AM - 12 Noon

Andy's Market
836 Hopmeadow St, Simsbury, CT 06070

ACCEPTING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

• Televisions	• Computers and Laptops
• Computer Monitors/Screens	• Printers and Fax Machines
• Toner and Ink-jet Cartridges	• Telephones or PBX systems
• Modems/Routers, Switches or Hubs	• All Types of Cables and Wiring
• Main-frames and Server Racks	• Stereos and Radios
• DVD and CD Players	• iPods, Walkmans and P.D.A.s
• ALL Storage Media	• and more

More information on the items accepted can be found on Green Monster E-Cycling at <http://www.GreenMonsterE-cycling.com> or contact them at 860-231-1426

Information on Simsbury Grange can be found at <http://www.SimsburyGrange.org>

NOT accepting ANY of the following:
• Air-Conditioners
• Washers/Dryers
• Refrigerators
• De-humidifiers
• Water-coolers
• Light-bulbs
• Vacuums
• Microwaves
• Household batteries

A \$10.00 donation is suggested.



Granger Address Changes

Name: _____

Grange: _____ No. _____

OLD ADDRESS:

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

NEW ADDRESS:

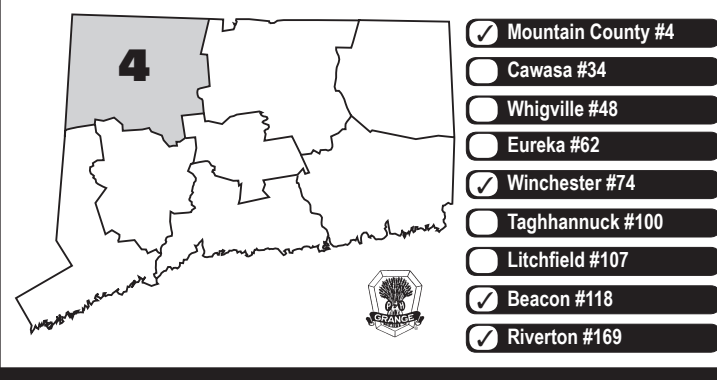
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please clip and mail to:

**Connecticut Granger, P.O. Box 1393,
Glastonbury, CT 06033**

or email: Granger@CTStateGrange.org

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd Gelineau

May 9: Fifth Degree at Winchester Grange. Paid supper at 6:00 P.M. (\$5.00), Degree/Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Mountain County was finally able to hold its day meeting on March 19 with good attendance, a great meal and an even better program by Lecturer Lin Erickson.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, May 9 for the conferral of the Fifth Degree beginning with a supper prepared by the members of Winchester Grange. Dinner is \$5.00 per person. We have heard of one candidate for the degree and would appreciate it if any others could contact the Master or Secretary to let us know they are coming for the degree. Otherwise, please come and enjoy the evening.

We are in the process of eliminating the second degree conferral in October and making that meeting a regular meeting. So, May is the only opportunity to receive the Fifth Degree (at least in Mountain County) before State Session in October.

WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

Corr: D. Brown

Starting in May, Whigville Grange meetings will be on the second Wednesday of the

month in the Grange Hall on S. Main St., Burlington. Meeting time is 7pm.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

May 10: Just for Mom, Ref. Bill & Betty Ahrens
May 24: A Day to Remember, Ref. Sue Kline & Bill LaTulipe

Winchester held its annual Cabin Fever Craft and Bake Sale in March. While we would have liked to have more customers attend, it was a good day and Winchester Grange was able to make a respectable amount for the treasury.

A second vote was taken at our last meeting to permanently change our meeting time. Previously we experimented with changing the time based on daylight saving. Members found that they preferred the earlier meeting time and actually dreaded going back to the old time in March.... So, effective immediately, Winchester Grange will now meet at 7:00 P.M. Please make the change in your handbooks and calendars.

Winchester Grange has had a clothing shed from St. Pauly Textile at our hall for the last year. We thank all of the members and friends of the Grange who have donated items by dropping them in the shed. Each pound of textiles, shoes, curtains, blankets,

etc. generates much needed income for our Grange. As you go about your spring cleaning, please remember Winchester Grange and donate your items to the clothing shed. We only asked that items be bagged and tied before dropping them in. This is an easy way to make money for the Grange and ensure clothing gets to people in need.

Our next event will be our Tag Sale to be held on May 21 from 8-2 at the Grange Hall.

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

I am sorry to tell you that John Morgan died on the morning of April 1st. He became a member of Pohtatuck Grange in Portland, ME on 4/13/1948 and a 7th degree member on 11/1/1948. John was a past master of Taghannuck Grange, held many other offices in our Grange and a member of the Ct. State Grange agricultural committee. At the present time John holds the office of gatekeeper for our Grange and attended our March 10th meeting where he was on the refreshment committee. We will all miss him.

Our second meeting of the month on May 26th is planning and set-up for our annual rummage and plant sale. The actual rummage and plant sale is June 4th from 9am to 2pm at the Grange Hall. Taghannuck Grange members will be at the Grange Hall to collect DONATIONS: (Please no furniture or televisions) Tuesday, May 31st & Wednesday June 1st from 10am to noon. This is our big fund raiser and people save that date and come from afar to buy the heirloom vegetable and flower plants at a great price.

Winchester Grange

TAG



SATURDAY - MAY 21, 2016

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM



Winchester Grange Hall - On the Green
100 Newfield Rd., Winchester Center, CT

RAIN OR SHINE

www.WinchesterGrange.org

WINCHESTER GRANGE

SPRING SUPER PRIZE PARTY

Penny Auction / Tea Cup Auction / Country Store
all rolled into one Super Prize Event!

Friday, June 3rd
• Doors Open: 6:00 PM •

FREE ADMISSION • 26 CHANCES TO WIN FOR \$1

Winchester Grange Hall
100 Newfield Road
(Near the Green - Route 263 & Newfield Rd.)
Winchester Center, CT 06094

www.WINCHESTERGRANGE.org

EUREKA GRANGE

presents

Baked Potato Extravaganza & Bake Sale

**SATURDAY
MAY 14th
5 - 6:30 PM**

Join us to enjoy delicious baked potatoes with all the toppings, including chili. Beverages are included.

Only \$5.00!

Eureka Grange Hall
777 Litchfield Tpke. (Rte 202)
in the Nepaug section
of New Hartford.

For more information:
CALL (860) 482-1111
or (860) 307-7000

Eureka Baked Potatoes

Eureka Grange is hosting a Baked Potato Extravaganza and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 14th at Eureka Grange Hall, 777 Litchfield Turnpike (Route 202), in the Nepaug section of New Hartford, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM.

Baked potatoes will be served with all the toppings, including chili. Beverages are included. The cost is only \$5.00 per person. There will also be a Bake Sale. All proceeds raised will benefit Eureka Grange and their community programs.

For more information, please contact Earl Phillips at 860-482-1111 or 860-307-7000.

Eureka Grange No. 62 was organized in 1887. The group meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays at the Grange Hall, with meetings beginning at 7:30 PM. Grange membership is open to all. Visit the Eureka Grange page on the Connecticut State Grange website at www.CTStateGrange.org for more information, or visit their Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/EurekaGrange

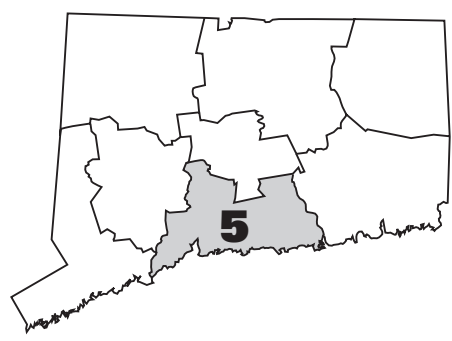
Family Activities:

Quilter Alert!

Irene Percoski, Family Act. Director

Quilter alert- I have the rules for the 2016 and 2017 National quilt block contests. If you would like a copy please call me, and I will send them to you. The deadline date for your entry this year is September 30, 2016. You must mail your entry to arrive before that date. Other than the quilt block there are five classes ; a table runner; finished quilted pillow; wall hanging; coffee cozy and crib/baby quilt. Rules are also included for Juniors. The junior categories are quilt block and pot holder. Web sites are included in the rules for downloading templates if needed. Good luck to all who choose to enter.

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- New Haven #5
- Cheshire #23
- Wallingford #33



NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

Corr: Wesle Dymoke
May 9: Fifth Degree
June 13: Election of Officers

All meetings are held at Cheshire Grange Hall beginning at 7:30 P.M.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller
May 4: Did you know. Men's Bakeoff
May 18: CWA Night, Open Meeting, Tea Cup Auction
 Our annual corm beef dinner in March was very

successful along with our competitive program featuring the men vs the women. The women prevailed. The theme for the competition was "Down Under". April was a busy month with two fund raising dinners we put on for two hiking clubs which we have been doing for many years. Plans continue for our annual fair in August. The Monday craft nights also continue.

As I write this, snow is falling and it is 28 degrees outside. This too will pass, and we wish you all a Happy Spring.

Ballroom Dancing at Cheshire Grange #23



Award Winning Dancers Jeff and Andrea Dunn (bottom picture) joined our own Kent & Lu Marshall (top picture) Wednesday Night, April 6th at 7:30 at the Grange Hall, 44 Wallingford Road, Cheshire for our Annual Ballroom Fever Open House. Evening was open to the public.

Kent & Lu Marshall and Jeff & Andrea Dunn showed us a variety of dances and then got everyone involved trying to teach us to dance.

Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Everything Old is New Again

by Terri Fassio
 Public Relations Co-Director

You may remember the classic song "Everything Old Is New Again" written by Peer Allen and Carole Bayer. The lyrics are timeless - and inspirational.

Don't throw the past away
 You might need it some rainy day
 Dreams can come true again
 When everything old is new again

Have you noticed recently, the latest trend in movies? Star Wars is once again on the tips of everyone's tongues, and it was recently announced that a new Indiana Jones movie is on the horizon, as well as a new Star Trek movie too. Many of the current television commercials are revising themes and trends that were popular ages ago. Charlie Tuna is back, and even the Muppets are back on television in a new series and in commercials. Vinyl records are once again a staple in the music world. Even the automobile industry is in on this trend, re-introducing classic autos like the Chevy Camaro and the Dodge Challenger.

These days, consumers are critical, and often thrifty, when it comes to spending their hard-earned dollars - so supporting a concept that they already trust goes a long way. This also applies to groups and organizations that they support. People

tend to gravitate towards things that are familiar to them.

So how does this apply to my Grange? All Granges hope to connect to those members that are no longer active, or re-connect to former members to bring them back into the group - and of course, hope to gain new members too. One way to do this is to revisit some of the events and activities that made your Grange popular and successful once upon a time.

Perhaps your Grange once hosted a Dairy Dinner or a Spaghetti Supper that was standing room only in its day. Or participated in a community service project that was well-received in the town, like cleaning the local cemetery or collecting cans and bottles. Members have fond memories of these past activities and events where they volunteered their time or attended and supported the organization. Why not take a look back, find something that worked for your Grange, and then host a new and improved "today" version of an event from the past!

Granges need to re-purpose timeless classics from their history into new, timely ways that takes people on a sentimental journey reminding them of the past, yet making new and positive memories looking to the future.



Looking for Memorial Day Side Dish? How about a scrumptious potato salad to take to your Grange picnic or potluck supper? No need to peel the potatoes in this super-easy potato salad recipe by Kraft.

DIRECTIONS

Mix dressings and seasonings in large bowl. Add remaining ingredients; mix lightly.

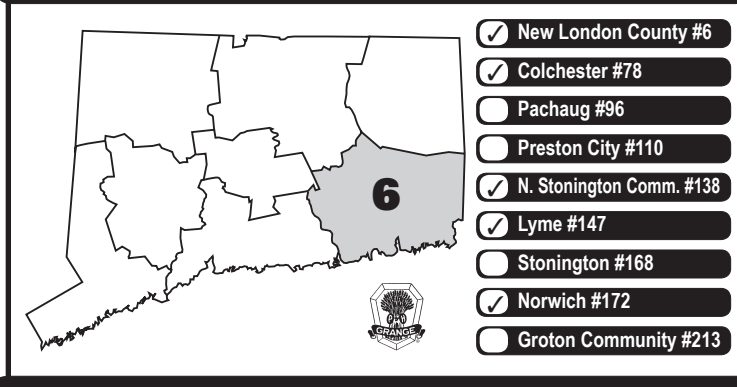
Source: <http://www.kraftrecipes.com/recipes/miracle-whip-rocking-bacon-ranch-potato-salad-57422.aspx#>

Bacon-Ranch Potato Salad

- 1/2 cup MIRACLE WHIP Dressing
- 1/4 cup KRAFT Classic Ranch Dressing
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- 1/8 tsp. garlic powder
- 3 lb. small red potatoes (about 9), cooked, quartered
- 6 slices cooked OSCAR MAYER Bacon, crumbled
- 1 stalk celery, sliced
- 1/2 cup thin red pepper strips
- 4 green onions, sliced



New London County Pomona No. 6



NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

May 14: Fifth Degree at North Stonington Grange

Our Talent and A-Number Contests were well attended. First prize in Talent went to Jason Miner from North Stonington Grange, singing an Italian aria. Jeff Barnes took second place reciting a very long poem about war. In the A-Number contest, Norwich Grange took first place with a skit about a groundhog. Colchester/Lyme took third with a skit that taught us why hens scratch the ground.

If you have any members who haven't taken the Fifth Degree, please make sure they come to North Stonington on May 14th. This is a beautiful degree and should not be missed.

The winter is over, thank goodness for that!

At last we can lower that darn thermostat!

Please come to Pomona the fourteenth of May

We promise a wonderful end to your day.

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: B. Trecarten

At our April 11th meeting we welcomed 3 guests. Jim Palmer, Deputy Pomona East, Agriculture and Conservation, Quinebaug Pomona, and Master, Echo Grange. Ted Beebe, State Membership, East Central Pomona, and Master, Norwich Grange. Lois Evankow, Flora East Central Pomona, and Lecturer, Lyme Grange. Thank you to all for contributing to our meetings.

We continue with our volunteer projects at Harrington Court, Apple Rehab, Willimantic soup Kitchen, and Veterans in Jewett City.

A thank you letter was received from the Veterans in Jewett City for the Easter Baskets that we donated in partnership with the Ladies Auxiliary. This is one of our

ongoing projects and much appreciated by the Veterans living in the Jewett City residences.

Kathy Culhane and Bonnie Trecarten from our Grange and Ted Beebe from Norwich Grange participated in the Community Partners Expo on April 2nd held at Cragin Memorial Library in Colchester. The purpose was to give information to the public regarding Grange and answer questions for potential new members. Several attendees filled out forms and indicated interest in membership. We are inviting these individuals to our May meeting.

Don't forget about CWA craft projects in the "Everything is Coming Up Roses" category. New London County Pomona voting to be held at Lyme Grange on June 4th. Decorated Baseball Cap judging to be held on July 30th.

Spring is finally here, hope everyone gets a chance to get out and enjoy it.

NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

May 13: "Bet On Yourself"

May 27: "Let's Hear Your Battle Cry"

At our March 11 meeting we enjoyed a ritual night with a rousing game of Hollywood Squares in which all the questions pertained to the ritual. (We need a little work). We exchanged officers for the evening and Jason Miner proved to be an excellent acting Master. On March 25 Sue presented her State Lecturer's Contest program, "What's Cookin'?" Although we had several members on the sick list Sue's program went on and was a great success, as usual.

We will be visited by American Senior Benefits on May 13. Our senior members should find a great deal of helpful information at this meeting

Colchester Community Expo



Kathy Culhane, Ted Beebe and Bonnie Trecarten at booth for Colchester Grange at Community Expo on April 2nd.

and we hope to see a good crowd there. We will have our Memorial Program on May 14. And if all those million and two acorns in the yard don't turn into as many little oak trees, next time I'll tell you all about awesome April.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

May 21: Annual Plant & Food Sale, 10-1

June 2: Memorial Service by Chaplain. Our bluebirds of happiness, the Graces, shine tonight!

July 7: Salute the Red, White and Blue

What happened to spring? We had our shipwreck party with 20 in attendance. Thank goodness the wild wind and rain subsided come evening.

The various things people were doing when the ship got wrecked were most interesting. From reading a book on deck, to sleeping, to drinking at the bar, to fishing and dancing the night away. Some even brought life

preservers. Everyone got with the spirit of the evening and seemed to have a good time. Marlyn and Norman Sitham had a cake made which read "Happy Anniversary Lyme Grange." What a special addition to this evening. Thank you folks.

Norman had made special fliers to be distributed in our area advertising our plant and food sale on May 21st.

Our Juniors are busy little bees, keeping their parents and grandparents busy helping with their projects.

This cold, miserable weather had many farmers worried. Buds on trees, then snow and cold does not make for a bountiful harvest.

It was voted to cancel Third and Fourth Degrees and Harvest Supper in May due to the fact we could not find a guest Master and anyone to lead the harvest march. A program will be presented by the Lecturer instead for inspection.

We continue to support Hillstown Junior Grange with one third of our collection given to them twice a year.

Who knows, maybe this year we will skip spring and go right into summer. The daffodils are all laying down wondering what happened.

NORWICH GRANGE #172

Corr: Kate Tefft

May 11: Limerick Day Eve

The program will feature limericks brought in by the members to prepare all for observing Limerick Day the next day. These short, nonsense, humorous poems will delight all.

Members are to be reminded that we still are collecting pennies, aluminum tabs, box tops for education, and now cancelled stamps to be used for our charitable projects. Don't forget the "G" dollars also.

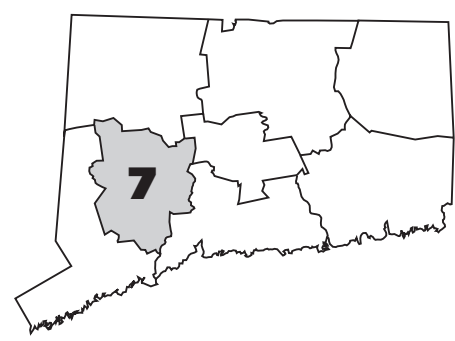
Cute quote: "A friend is a present you gave yourself."

Lyme Grange Celebrates 120 Years



Lyme Grange No. 147 recently celebrated their 120th Anniversary with this cake and a "Shipwreck" themed party at their April 7 meeting at their hall in Old Lyme.

Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- Excelsior #7
- Beacon Valley #103
- Bethlehem #121
- Prospect #144
- Bridgewater #153
- Wolcott #173
- Oxford #194



BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Cindy Legg

Welcome to our newest members Wendy Marcella and Tom Honyotski.

Beacon Valley Grange's meeting for May is Friday the 13th (beware of black cats) is entitled "Mommy Dearest." It's our inspection. Pat and Mary Lou are in charge of the refreshments.

Wednesday, May 17th Beacon Valley will host Excelsior Pomona. It is their inspection, and they are holding the Fifth Degree. If you have any candidates in need of the Fifth Degree, contact the Pomona Master Robert Buck.

Saturday, May 21st is a busy day. At 2:00 Beacon Valley will be holding an "Open Mike" at our hall and at 6:00 the Social Connection Committee will be holding their spring program called "Teamwork" at Cheshire Grange. That starts with a Soup and Sandwich Supper, followed by the program. The should both be fun events.

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers. Enjoy the lovely weather.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

May 23: Baking Contest, Memorial Service, Inspection by Ron Fischer

On April 25 we honored Ginny Greaco as our Citizen of the Year. She runs Bethlehem Daycare.

We draped our charter for Irving Armstrong and Bill Fairchild. Our sympathies to their families.

Sorry to see John-Ellen Samoska leave us and move to South Carolina.

Our Flea Market was a success.

PROSPECT GRANGE #144

Corr: Jean Meehan

To celebrate Grange Month, Prospect Grange decided to sponsor an essay contest for the children in the Prospect Elementary School graded 3,4,5. This gives them the chance to use the dictionaries we donated to them over the years.

The essay contest subject would be "What I like about Prospect". We were happy to receive a total of 77 entries. There will be three cash prizes given in each grade. They were judged by teachers

from out of town schools.

A ceremony will take place the end of April to announce the winners and hand out the prizes.

Prospect Grange was honored to present Robert Hiscox as the citizen of the year award for his many hours and years of volunteering his town to town committees and his flags along main street project and the maintenance of the flags. He is very involved with all things Prospect.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Dean Perry

The Bridgewater Grange has been active this past winter. All our regular meetings have been held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. We have a regular volunteer effort on the first Saturday of each month at the Loaves and Fishes program in New Milford. Four or more of our members work for 3 to 4 hours serving meals for up to 25 people.

On March 22 and 23 we delivered 18 Easter flower baskets to members and friends that are homebound or are in nursing homes. On Saturday, March 26 we will help out with the Bridgewater Easter Egg Hunt.

In April we worked with Loaves and Fishes on April 2, had a regular meeting on April 13 and a Community Service Award dinner on Friday, April 29. We honored Joseph and Adrian Caruso for their gardening efforts to beautify the community and for their work with students.

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of two of our members, Robin Stack, a longtime member of Metichewan and Bridgewater Granges, passed away in February 2016. Irving Armstrong, a longtime member of the Bethlehem and Bridgewater Granges, passed away March 20th, 2016.

WOLCOTT GRANGE #173

Wolcott Grange will sponsor dinner at LaFortuna Restaurant at 388 Wolcott Road in Wolcott on Thursday, May 5, 2016. Chips and salsa, chicken or beef tacos,

rice, beans and beverage, \$10 for adults. 4-7 P.M., Eat in or Take-Out. Please join us and help support Wolcott Grange. Happy Cinco de Mayo.

Next on the calendar will be a Community Tag Sale on June 18 from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. Set-up starts at 6:30 A.M. We will handle the advertisements, signs, and flyers. You bring your items to sell!

Only \$10 to reserve your space. First come, first served! Mail \$10 donation to Wolcott Grange Tag Sale, 313 Boundline Road, Wolcott, CT 06716. Please include name, address and phone number or email.

Save the date and don't wait! Free to shop, open to the public.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Jean Meehan

May 6: Health tips, 7:30 PM

May 9: Open Mic, 7:00 PM

May 20: Opening Night ceremony for Festival of Arts, Culture, and Entertainment, 6:30 PM at Town Hall.

We welcomed two new members in March and April: Rena Kerrigan and Sandy Mendyk. Rena attended the Gardening Series a couple of years ago, and Sandy came to the Small Business Fair last fall and liked what she saw of the Grange.

As the All-American General Store in Seymour has closed, the local weekly Open Mic has lost its home, so we are looking at a joint project between this group and the Grange. As of this writing, we plan to meet with them and see if we can agree on a night of the week for what would be a weekly instead of monthly Open Mic. Many of the performers have been attending our monthly Open Mic regularly. Stay posted.

Back in March, we met and planned the programming for 2016-17. There will be a change in the focus of programs presented.

In May, the Grange will be participating the the Festival of Arts, Culture, and Entertainment (F.A.C.E.) organized by the Cultural Arts Commission, many of whose members are also Grangers. We will have a table at the Opening Night Ceremony at Town Hall at 6:30 PM Friday the 20th. There will be all kinds of events in Town Hall and at the Grange all weekend long: music, poetry readings, an art show and sale, etc. Sunday morning at 10:00 AM, there will be a program put on at the Grange to highlight to the public what the Grange is and what we do.

Working on entries?



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Have you started on your "A Number" and Talent Entries yet? Time is getting short. I know that a few Pomonas have already had their contests and I thank them. Now how about the rest of you? Every Grange in the State should have an "A Number". The theme this year is animals. We had some great numbers last year. There will be a new title next year. If your Pomona hasn't had its

contest yet, please contact your Pomona Lecturer to see when it will be.

Did you take any good pictures this past year? No? Well spring is here along with all the gorgeous flowers and spring buds. Why not take a day trip and snap some pictures for our Photo Contest. The categories are: America the Beautiful, Animals, Grangers In Action, Family Celebrations and Historic Places or Events. You can enter one photo in each of the categories. Complete rules are in the Bluebook. Every Master, Lecturer, Secretary, CWA, and Youth Chairperson should have a copy. Photos may be mailed to me so they arrive by Friday, June 10th or may be brought to Cheshire Grange Hall between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 11th. If you are in the Glastonbury area, you can leave them with Todd at the State Office a few days in advance and I will go and pick them up.

If you haven't already marked your calendar for Sunday, June 12th, please do so now. Our Talent and "A Numbers" will be judged that afternoon as part of Grange Sunday and the photos will be on display. The Best of Show Photo will go on to National for Judging and our Talent Winner will be eligible to participate in the talent show at Lecturers' Conference. This is the day we Celebrate what the Grange has done. Bring your friends. Come to Church at 11:00 a.m. – enjoy a dinner put on by our Youth – view the photo contest entries and winners and then go upstairs and enjoy the talents of your fellow grangers. This would be a nice way to get a new member. Show them what the Grange is all about.

Hopefully by the time you read this, the weather will be nice. Travelling should be pleasant and safe. Our Granges always welcome visitors. Why not take in a meeting in another Pomona and make some new friends. This is what the Grange is all about.

150th National Session in Washington, D.C.



Book your hotel stay at the Hilton Dulles Airport Hotel by September 2nd for the special discounted rate.

Hilton Dulles Airport Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon, VA 20171. Book by phone: (703) 478-2900.

Power of the Past,
Force of the Future

Washington, DC | November 15-19, 2016

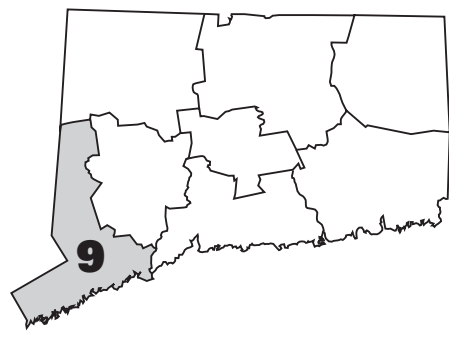
Take advantage of the early bird registration of \$25.00 until September 2nd and save \$5.00.

Visit the National Grange website for convention schedule, tours, and more... www.NationalGrange.org.

The Connecticut State Grange Executive Committee has discussed the feasibility of sponsoring a bus trip to the Convention from Connecticut. If you are interested in taking a bus trip to National Session, please let the State Master or Secretary know.



Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



- Fairfield County #9
- Redding #15
- Harmony #92
- Greenfield Hill #133
- Norfield #146
- Cannon #152



HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: George Ward

May 13: Regular Meeting, Refreshments at 6:30, Meeting at 7:30

Lecturer's Program: Farming in Monroe.

The Lecturer's program for May will be by one of our new members, Alyce Block, a longtime resident of Monroe. She will speak on Farming in Monroe. She is a Board Member of the Farm Bureau.

Our Spring Fair is scheduled for May 7. We will have in addition to the tag sale items, jewelry, baked goods, needlework, etc., antique articles donated from an estate sale.

The annual Agricultural Fair is scheduled for August 13. Announcements for exhibits for vegetables, flowers, canned goods, needlework, etc. will be going out shortly.

The 125th Anniversary of Harmony Grange will be scheduled for a Sunday in September. The lower level of the hall will be painted and some redecorating will be done for the event.

Our yearly inspection by our Worthy Deputy will be at our June meeting, June 10.

All are invited and welcomed to attend our meetings. Please call to be sure the meeting is being held as scheduled because of emergencies.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

May 1: Cannon Grange participates in Wilton GoGreen Festival

May 5: Business Meeting

May 19: Business Meeting

August 28: 84th Cannon Grange Agricultural Fair

We welcomed an enthusiastic audience to our annual Silent Movie Night on March 19th. We were

treated to the drama of "Little Annie Rooney" starring Mary Pickford. John Mucci provided a dazzling piano accompaniment, playing for over 90 minutes non-stop. Many thanks to John and Doug and Sara Shepherd for providing the film, and to Doug and Sara Shepherd for preparing the refreshment counter and table. Also, many thanks to Bil Mikulewicz for his elegant poster that advertized the movies. We've begun framing and hanging Bil's posters he has crafted for our many events. They are beautiful to see, but also make a wonderful historical record of our activities.

Cannon members will be on hand at the Wilton GoGreen Festival on May 1st. This will provide an ample opportunity to be out front of the public where we can work some magic in membership recruitment. One of our give away gifts for the event will be a small envelope of green bean seeds, with instructions for planting and how to enter them in our 84th Agricultural Fair later this summer.

We welcome the following junior members to our Grange membership: Sara Shepherd, daughter of Doug Shepherd; Evan Clark, Anna Clark and Aaron Clark, children of Michele and Harry Clark. All the children have been active for many years in our variety of events, most notably the Silent Movies and the annual agricultural fair.

Please note that our Agricultural Fair is set for Sunday, August 28th. We've begun the planning process and look forward to seeing a great crowd.

Please note our program schedule. Visiting Patrons are always welcome--won't you join us?

Cannon Grange hosts acoustic night

Cannon Grange Hall will host an Acoustic Night featuring a variety of musical acts of song and ensembles. Students of music and persons of all ages (children, youth and adults) who would like to perform are cordially invited to participate. A tuned piano will be available at the front of the stage. Cannon Grange Hall is located at 25 Cannon Rd., with ample free parking by the Grange Hall and at the Cannondale Railroad Station. The event will take place on April 23 at 7:30 p.m., and there is no charge for admission.

"The Acoustic Night fits perfectly with our series this year of programs on healthy living, enjoying leisure and recreational time for better health. The first Acoustic Night held last November was a huge success that inspired scheduling this one during April, National Grange Month," said Grange



president Doug Shepherd, adding, "Musical ensembles will find the auditorium at the Cannon Grange Hall a delight in which to perform as it possesses fine acoustical properties." Performers can sign up via email or by calling 203.762.1900.

Cannon Grange is a family organization that

is part of the Connecticut State Grange and the National Grange Order of Patrons of Husbandry based in Washington, DC. Cannon Grange was organized on May 4, 1899 and has met continuously since then at the historic Grange Hall located at 25 Cannon Rd.

National Grange applauds decision

Today, the U.S. Supreme Court announced its decision to review the ruling in the long-running design patent infringement case between Apple and smartphone rival Samsung. This important case is about correcting an outdated interpretation of how damages are awarded for design patents in infringement lawsuits.

The lower court's ruling elevates design patents and ornamental features of a product over utility patents and a product's functionality. Additionally, the court-awarded damages for infringement could be equal to the total profits earned from the alleged infringing product. These massive damages from infringement could result in total profits – an incentive for troll-like litigation over design patents. For these

reasons and their implications on the rural and agriculture industry, the National Grange is thankful the Supreme Court is reviewing this decision.

Unwarranted design patent damage awards make rural consumers particularly susceptible to trolling threats from design-patent abusers. The risks are also much higher for family-owned rural small businesses because jobs, opportunities and progress for these often marginalized communities all rely on their success.

The National Grange applauds the Supreme Court for its review of the case due to the serious implications for rural connectivity under the existing ruling. The ruling, as it stands, makes it tougher for rural entrepreneurs to prosper because it makes access more expensive.impossible.

Please Join Us For a Hungarian Inspired Meal

Greenfield Hill Grange
1873 Hillside Road, Fairfield

Saturday, April 23rd
Doors open at 5:30 pm
Dinner served at 6:00 pm

Dinner includes:

Chicken Paprikás w/ Nokedli
Székely Gulyás
Cucumber Salad
Green Beans
Pogácsa

Dessert & beverage included
BYOB

\$20 Donation per Adult
\$10 kids 12 or under

Please RSVP by April 18th to
Cindy Wakeman-D'Andrea
(203) 243-1887



Granger Shout Out



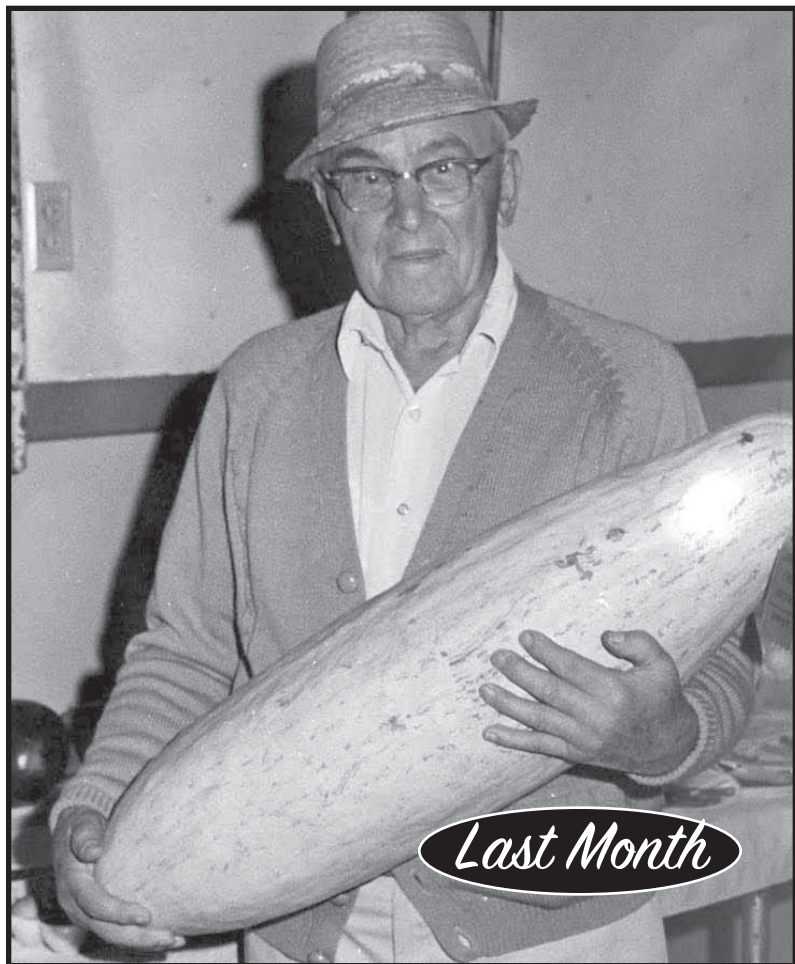
A big thank you to Brent Prindle for taking good care of Taghannuck Grange and helping our ailing/lonely members.

Submit your Shout-Outs today!

Granger@CTStateGrange.org
They can also be mailed to
P.O. Box 1393
Glastonbury, CT 06033

WINDOW TO THE PAST

Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a history to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of faces and places as we look through the Window to the Past. You can contact us by calling (860) 626-5074 or on the web by emailing: submissions@ctstategrange.org.



We heard from Marie Exley from Ekonk Community Grange with the answer to the April photo. She said the gentleman in the photo is Freman Strunk from Brooklyn Grange.



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange Friends!
After the last issue, I decided to hunt for Easter and all its candy goodies. Then I went to a meeting of Wolcott Grange where I helped 3 new members take their obligation. Congratulations!

I sent one of my living relatives to the wedding of former CT State Grange Agriculture Committee member J Allen Cameron. He reports back that Shelley was a beautiful bride! Congratulations to the Cameron family!

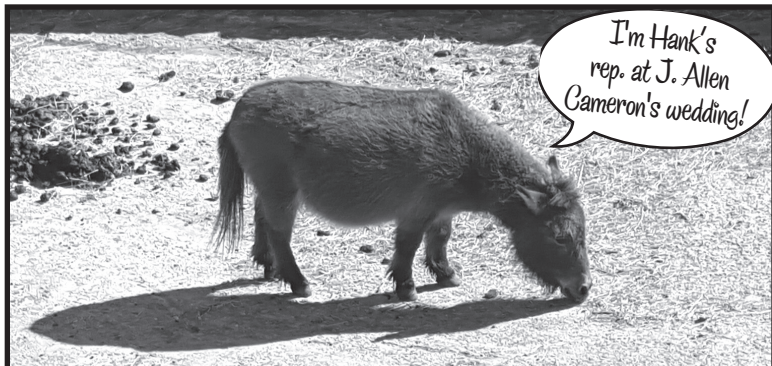
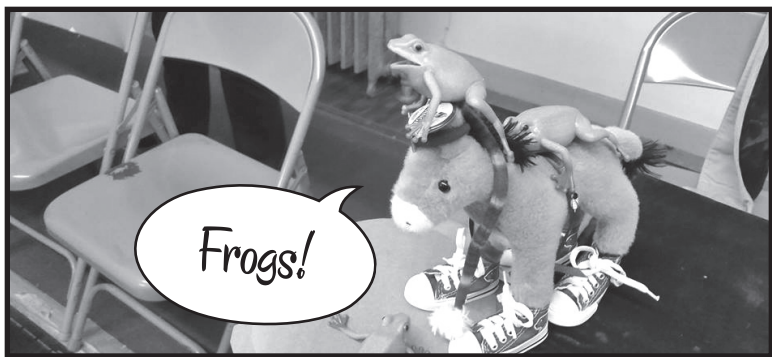
I then made the trek to Norwich where I got to hang out with a few new frog friends. We had some fun times!

We also went to Stonington Grange for their Community Service Award Night honoring Fred Burdock. Congratulations for all the hard work. And Lila - good job!

Where will Noel, Marcia

and I be off to next? Be sure to follow me on Facebook to keep track of all of my adventures. Please take a minute to follow the link

and click the "Like" button. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro> Say Hello if you see me around the State!





Michelle DeDominicis
State Junior Grange Director
juniors@ctstategrange.org



NATIONAL YOUTH NEWS

The National Junior Grange is not only working on physical health this year, it is also working on Grange Health. Lillian Booth, National Junior Director, is ready to visit your State to present the National Junior Grange Leaders' Enrichment Workshop. Preparing our adult leaders is key to having a healthy and successful Junior Grange program. Book a date now by contacting Lillian at juniors@nationalgrange.org

Is your Grange ready for a Junior Grange program? Do you know about the National Junior Grange Leaders' Enrichment Workshop? This two-day workshop is designed to help new and experienced leaders learn and polish skills to be ready to work when they get those ten, twenty or thirty new Junior Grange members all at once! Learn more by contacting National Junior Grange Director Lillian Booth at juniors@nationalgrange.org or by visiting the website, www.nationaljuniorgrange.org.

EKONK COMM. JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Rebecca Gervais

At our MARCH meeting, we were happy to have Katelyn Demelo join! Welcome Katelyn! Also in March, 5 Juniors and 3 Honorary members went to Villa Maria, a convalescent home in Plainfield, with homemade cards. We enjoyed seeing the residents, and greeting them. They appreciated our cards and seeing the children.

Unfortunately, we

Junior Grange

missed the opportunity to go to see a sugar shack. I guess that this year wasn't a good year for maple syrup. We will enjoy it all the more, next year.

At our April meeting, we voted that the profits from our spaghetti supper will go to Kaycee family. She is a 5th grader who is receiving cancer treatments. The profits from our plant sale and raffle will still go to Kaycee's family. The supper is April 16th, our entertainment will be Biomes. They are coming with a tidal pool/touch tank, so it should be a fun evening!

We voted to go to Tara farm animal rescue: 670 Babcock Hill Rd. in Coventry, CT. We HOPE to squeeze that in April.

We signed a thank-you for Mr. Stuart, the man who came to our March meeting and taught us a lot about bees. He was very interesting and patient with our many questions. Did you know that one honeybee makes only about 1 teaspoon

of honey in its lifetime?!!

We also signed a thank-you for Mr. Thurlow, who donated cans of sauce for the spaghetti supper, pasta, and a check for \$100.00! His generosity ensures a better profit to donate to Kaycee!

We also signed a thank-you for Barbara Salisbury who collected 40 "G" dollars for us. Wow! We have a lot of support!

On April 3rd, the Subordinate Grange held their awards luncheon. Our members Lillian, Abbey, Evelyn, and Brianna put on a skit, and did a good job! Abbey did a funny monologue, and Eveyln and Lillian each played a musical piece. Great job girls!

Natasha and Kayla held down the fort at the Power-lifting competition this weekend, which was held at Sterling's municipal building. We had a table for baked goods, candy bars, and protein bars! I am truly grateful to have such dedicated helpers!



The Ekonk Juniors who each raised \$35.00 or more for St. Jude. Evelyn, Bree, Natasha, and Abbey. Jared is hiding behind the flag.



Members of Ekonk Community Junior Grange recently visited Villa Maria Convalescent Home in Plainfield. While there they presented residents with handmade cards.



Ekonk Comm. Junior Grange recently held an indoor fun night.

In Memoriam

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| John Morgan, G.S. | Taghhannuck #100 |
| Mary Danielson, G.S. | Killingly Grange #112 |
| Willis Fairchild | Bethlehem #121 |
| Marjorie Anderson, G.S. | N. Stonington #138 |
| Peter Smith | Lyme #147 |
| Robin Stack | Bridgewater #153 |

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

State Chaplain

Charles Dimmick, State Chaplain



"The Peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" writes Paul in Philippians 4:7. What is the "Peace of God"? Does it differ from ordinary peace? If so, how does it differ? And what is meant by saying it will "guard your hearts"? The first thing to understand is that we are not talking about peace in the ordinary sense, not "peace and quiet", or peace as in absence of war, or peace as in peaceful surroundings. In fact Jesus

specifically says "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." So there it is; what is meant is not worldly peace, but peace of mind and peace of heart.

The Peace of God provides a shield so that we may be surrounded by a sea of troubles, even in great pain and adversity, and still possess an internal calmness and assurance of God's love towards us which enables us to bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things. As with all God's gifts, this one is offered to us freely, with no strings attached. The difficulty comes with our inability to accept this gift, our reluctance to believe that it is there for the taking. Our faith is too weak. One is reminded of Jesus inviting Peter to walk to him across the water. Peter started out from the boat towards Jesus initially with great confidence, but as he continued to walk and neared Jesus he saw the wind and became afraid, and began to sink.

So then, what we need to do is practice not being afraid when trouble surrounds us, to remind ourselves that God is always with us, His love there for us, His peace ready to be implanted in our hearts. This peace will not cause our troubles and tormentors to vanish, but rather will allow us to face them calmly, without fear, without trepidation. Thus it was with the early Christian martyrs, facing troubles and persecutions far greater than most of us will ever be called to endure. It must be admitted that in those early days just being a Christian increased one's chances of facing troubles and persecutions, and thus it was important that the "Peace of God" was available to aid them. There is a poem about this by William Alexander Percy which made its way into the Episcopal Hymnal. The last verse is:

The peace of God, it is no peace,
but strife closed in the sod,
Yet let us pray for but one thing—
the marvelous peace of God.



A scene from Ekonk's indoor fun night.