

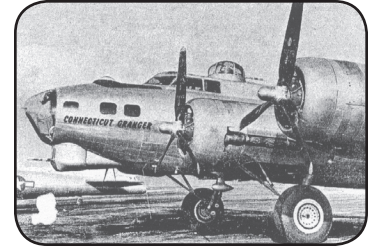


Happy Holidays!

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Connecticut Granger



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Vol. 58, No. 3

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

December 2017

"That's the Grange Way"



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

"THAT'S THE GRANGE WAY" is the new battle call from the 151st National Grange Convention held in Spokane, Washington. This is a positive phrase, not the negative one, like "that's the way we have always done it." That's the Grange Way represents the overcoming we do in our communities. With the dinners, community service projects, Dictionary Project, sewing items, food banks, scholarships, Foster children, volunteer work, fairs, demands all hands on deck to get the work done. "That's the Grange Way" is how we get it done.

The National Grange Convention started out with snow and the rumbling of snow plows early in the morning. The convention was one day shorter so many committees met before hand to get an early start on resolutions. Our three resolutions, "Use of the Word Milk" fell under National Grange policy. The resolution on the Connecticut Valley National Heritage Corridor was considered a state issue and the Image/Likeness Rights of Grange Members was rejected.

We congratulate Ekonk Community Grange #89 for taking third place with their Community Service book. Sterling, Mass. took first place and second place went to Portland, ME. All New England! Ekonk

Community Grange also received Distinguished Grange for the sixth year. The Gervais and Sharpe families received honors for the Grange Legacy families, new this year. Charles Bierce of Riverton Grange #169 won second place for his best of show photo. Good job to all of you winners, "That's the Grange Way."

The convention also had election of officers for the National Grange and Brother Phil Prelli was elected Overseer Good luck in this new position. Betsy Huber retained hr position as National Master, as most of the officers remained the same.

While at the convention we had the report on the AC chiller and furnace. On the last day of the convention we learned that it will be covered under the insurance policy. This will cover over \$450,000 of the costs needed for the replacement of the two systems to make them into one. With donations and loans there is enough for the project to be completed.

Our youth team did not raise enough money to put a pie in Phil Prelli's face but we were the fourth highest raiser for the Youth Fund. Thank you, Jaimie for raising that money at our State Session. "That's the Grange Way."

All of the new Pomonas have met and new by-laws committees are or have written new by-laws. Read them and let your thoughts be known before they are voted on, these are what you will be following in the new Pomona. Take your time and get it right the first time.

The State Master's Conference will be in Oregon the first weekend in March. The westerners

are tired of travel east so it's our turn to travel. The report of the California State Grange legal battle is in the courts, we have won and monies have been returned to the California State Grange and they have given money back to the National Grange for legal expenses. But the California Guild, as they call themselves, are still pushing Grangers and National Grange for money they do not deserve. We need to keep on top of this to protect all Granges and the National Grange.

This is the time of year that we all reflect on the past year and look at our strengths and weaknesses. We prepare for the new year and this is the time for family and friends. Let us celebrate all the joys and happiness that are around us this Christmas season and let's not forget the members we don't see at our meetings and those less fortunate and help out as Grangers are known to do. "That's the Grange Way". Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Phil Prelli Elected National Overseer



F. Philip Prelli was elected Overseer of the National Grange at the Convention held in Spokane, Wash. Nov. 7-11. Phil is a Past Master of the Connecticut State Grange (2002-2006) and has served the National Grange as Secretary and Chairman of the National Executive Committee. Along with many other Grange offices held through the years, Phil has served as a State Representative and Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of Conn. Phil succeeds Jimmy Gentry of North Carolina who held the position for quite a few years.

The Connecticut State Grange congratulates Phil and wishes him a happy and productive term as National Overseer.

Legislatively Speaking

Alma Graham, State Legislative Director

Thanks to all who did submit resolutions for this past State Grange session. There was a noticeable decrease in the number of resolutions submitted. Those that were submitted were well thought out and covered many important issues affecting our state.

Three resolutions carried on and were submitted to National Grange. Resolution number 17 concerning the potential elimination of property taxes on motor vehicles was addressed immediately. We sent letters to our local House and Senate members just days before the budget vote.

I am happy to report that the adopted budget did not include the elimination of motor vehicle property taxes. The Legislative Committee will review the rest of the resolutions to determine what action is needed as well as which ones to include in the next Legislative Guide.

The next session of the General Assembly will convene on February 7, 2018. Gordon Gibson will again be our voice at the Capitol watching and communicating on various bills as they arise. We will be posting any testimonies, which are submitted to the General Assembly by the Connecticut

Continued on page 2



A part of the National Grange
*American Values,
Hometown Roots*

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NEXT ISSUE ...
Articles Due Dec. 15

Past Master Ira F. Wilcox

Ira F. Wilcox was born on December 19, 1900 in Coventry, Connecticut. He was the son of Ivan Francis Wilcox and Madge (Rhodes) Wilcox.

He received his education in the local grammar schools and Willimantic High School.

On July 4, 1922, he married Helen Marguerite Reynolds in Eagleville, Connecticut. She was the daughter of George Everett Reynolds and Nettie (Dunham) Reynolds.

The following children were born to them: Calvin Sleeth and Alice Marguerite Wilcox.

Brother Wilcox by faith was Methodist and by politics a Democrat. He has been very active in many fields and endeavors, some of which are as follows: Past Secretary of the Board of Finance, and Justice of the Peace in the Town of Mansfield. He formerly owned and operated a grocery store in Eagleville. For many years was associated with his father in the Retail Grain business and Woodworking Shop in Merrow; Treasurer of the Patrons Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He was a member of the first Corn Club which the 4H Club Leader A. J. Brundage organized; Manager of the Mansfield Fruit Spray Ring which consisted of small fruit growers in the vicinity of Mansfield; member of the Grange Underwriters of Connecticut; owned and operated a fruit farm; served upon Governor Lodge's 50th Anniversary of Powered Flight Committee. He is a member of the Masonic Order, Uriel Lodge #24, and Past Master of that Lodge; Past Patron of Climax Chapter #98 of the Order of Eastern Star;



member of the Past Patrons and Matrons Association of that vicinity; member of the Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Association of the 9th Masonic District and served for many years upon the Committee of the Tolland Federated Church.

Some of his Grange offices were as follows: Master and Sec. of Tolland Grange #51, Gatekeeper, Lecturer and Exec. Comm. member of East Central Pomona #3; served as Secretary of East Central Pomona Soft Ball League for over 15 years; President of the New England Grange Officers Conference held in Boston each year; member of the East Central Pomona Past Master's Association; Deputy of E. Central Pomona 1934-1937; General Deputy in 1938 and 1929; Gatekeeper of the Conn. State Grange 1940-1943; Asst. Steward of the State Grange 1944-1946; Steward 1947; Overseer 1948-1949 and was the 20th Master of the Connecticut State Grange during 1949-1953; Priest Analyst of the Assembly of Demeter of the National Grange during 1949-1953.

Many highlights occurred during his administration, a few of which are: Establishment of the Central Office for the State Grange in the Patrons Mutual Insurance Building in Glastonbury with a full time Secretary; starting and successful operation of the first Juvenile Grange Camp in America; Dairy Supper support and encouragement of the

use of milk products in cooperation with dairy groups; the first Grange Family Contest and many other things.

Sister Wilcox is of a retiring nature in public life, but her warm hospitality toward those who come to the "Wilcox" home is something one never forgets who have had the pleasure of being entertained there.

S p o o n v i l l e Subordinate Grange #211 and the following Juvenile Granges were organized during his administration: Wichita Juvenile #25 reorganized; Middlefield Juvenile #11 reorganized; Mattabesset Juvenile #38 reorganized; North Haven Juvenile #50 reorganized; Roxbury Juvenile #67; Torrington Juvenile #68; Union Juvenile #69; Rippowam Juvenile #70; Beacon Juvenile #71 and Berlin Juvenile #72.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The 20 State Master articles we have published in this newspaper have been, largely, the work of Sister Lida Ives many years ago. They, in many cases, have been updated and researched further for additional information. Unfortunately, her work ends with State Master Wilcox. The 21st Master was Donald K. Peck of Litchfield Grange. We would love to bring our history of State Masters to the present day and need your help. If there is a member or members out there who would like to work on this project, please get in touch with me at secretary@ctstategrange.org. The families of State Masters from Don Peck forward are also encouraged to write bios to be placed in the permanent records of the State Grange.

Legislatively Speaking

Continued from page one...

State Grange, on our web site.

The recent November elections primarily concerned local offices and referendums. I am aware of a couple of Grange members who were elected as First Selectmen in their local towns. Congratulations to them and any others who were elected to local boards and commissions. Unfortunately many people look at these local elections as not important. I had that discussion recently with someone who had closely followed the Presidential election last year. When I mentioned voting this year, she stated that she did not bother with local elections. To all who think this, just remember that when your local budgets are created and your tax bills arrive. It is your locally elected officials who are setting your tax rates. They are responsible for your school budgets, roads, local services and programs. I encourage your Granges to meet and talk to your local officials. Maybe ask them to come to your Grange and educate you about their office or position and the needs of your town.

State Secretary



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary
secretary@ctstategrange.org

As I write this article, it's "Black Friday", Thanksgiving is over and Christmas is on its way! It seems like yesterday we were closing the 133rd Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange.

We can report to you that we have a new contract in place with the Holiday Inn Norwich for the 2018 State Session. As with any event, there were "bumps"

along the way but on the whole, they have treated us exceptionally well in the three years we have met there and know the same will be true in the coming year.

I have received emails and calls from several Granges concerning paperwork to be completed for their local municipalities regarding their property tax. These filings are required by State law but each town handles them a little differently. Most were due at the beginning of November but if you are still working on them and have questions, please let us know. We may not always know the answer but we are willing to point you in the right direction.

The most common question has been regarding 501(c) status. All of our Granges in Connecticut are either a 501(c)(5) or a 501(c)(8) under the IRS classifications. 501(c)(5) covers "Labor, Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations" while 501(c)(8) covers "Fraternal Beneficiary Societies and Associations". You would think all Granges would have been classified as one or the other. Unfortunately, this is the IRS and they have, without rhyme or reason, classified some as agricultural and others as fraternal.

Ultimately it means the same thing when it comes to tax exemption. While we are considered tax exempt, we do not enjoy the same tax exempt benefits enjoyed by 501(c)(3) organizations who are able to accept charitable donations that the donor can then deduct from their taxes.

We recommend calling the IRS tax exempt customer service line (877) 829-5500 to find out your specific classification. Ordinarily I would be happy to do this on behalf of Granges but these calls can take 30-90 minutes and I can only request information for one Grange per call, per IRS rules.

We remind all Granges the fourth quarter of 2017 will close on December 31. Please send in your reports as soon as possible. The 2018 Annual Word cannot be communicated to your Grange until the report for the fourth quarter is filed.

As always we remind you of the many items of regalia, songbooks, supplies, and some furniture we have on hand at the Central Office. Give us a call or email to find out more.

Address of State Master to the 133rd Annual Session

Brothers and Sisters of the Connecticut State Grange,

We have had a challenge thrust upon us by the 132nd Session of the Connecticut State Grange, which will take us to new heights in the direction of the Pomona Granges in the State of Connecticut. Your Board of Directors took this resolve and committed themselves to the final resolve which will strengthen the new Pomona Granges into the future. There is plenty of work still ahead of us and we all have to give and take to make sure this plan will succeed. If we fail, then the Pomona Granges in Connecticut will not be around in the future.

MEMBERSHIP

This year we have seen a slight increase in new members among our Community Granges. To those who have brought in new members, I say well done. Share how you were able to get these members with fellow Grangers. Our Membership Committee has provided Membership Packages to more Community Granges this year and hopefully more will ASK FOR HELP from this group of hard workers. Free custom brochures and materials do help promote your Grange. I challenge those Granges that have not taken advantage of this program to commit to the asking.

This year we have lost three Granges – Wolf Den #61, Echo #180 and Litchfield #107. This is always a difficult part of the job ... to say goodbye to a Grange that has been part of the community for many years. The choices were made by the members to turn in their Charters. I wish to let these members know that there are neighboring Granges that will make you welcome in their Granges.

Please find another home in the Grange. Thank you all for the work that you have done in the name of MEMBERSHIP.

NATIONAL GRANGE

This is the 150th year of the National Grange. Celebrations have been nationwide and many Granges are using this event to promote community activities and Grange events. When you read the history of the founding of the National Grange it is interesting that we have come full circle. In 1867, a divided nation was trying to unite after a great Civil War. A small group of men were trying to organize farmers from both the north and the south into a fraternal organization which offers legislative, social, education, family, and spiritual opportunities. After failing, they opened the doors to equality by offering membership to women as equals, essential to the unity of the Order.

Today we are a divided nation, whether a red state or blue state, we need the Grange to become a leader in the unification of this nation. Our values have survived the test of time, our resolves have been threatened and we have overcome them. We as Grangers are known for our honesty, hard-working, charitable, friendship, good cooking, dedication and American values. Let's continue on this path and reunite the haters, meanies, selfish, misinformed and misguided people who wish to tear apart this nation rather than rebuild the nation. As it reads in the Constitution, "WE THE PEOPLE."

EDUCATION

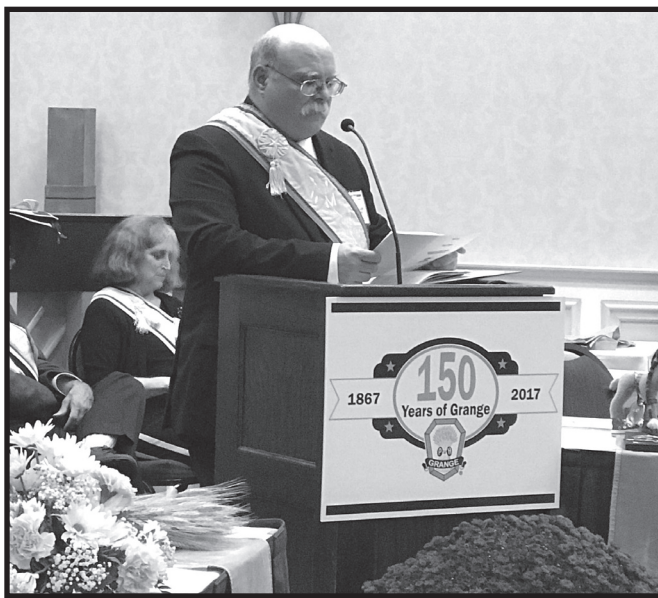
We still believe that all

should be able to attend college. It has been shown that college graduates do get better paying jobs than non-college graduates but we are still concerned with the higher cost of a college education. Our children and grandchildren should not be indebted for many years repaying huge student loans, especially if in low paying jobs.

We still believe that the 3R's must be taught on the grammar school level so our future generations can do math, write correctly and read. These basic skills are still the necessities of life in this world, though electronics are great, they will never replace those basic skills the 3R's instill in a person. Remember batteries will die and power will go out.

Vocational Education is still needed in the world with plumbers, electricians, masons, and mechanics still needed in the country. Many elder tradesmen are leaving the field with no replacements in sight. These jobs will always be needed and we must encourage young men and women to fill these positions.

Vocational Agriculture is needed to feed the world. Many new technologies are being developed daily to increase the production of food. We know through our



degree work that Grangers are the Husbandmen and Matrons of agriculture. This must be passed on to the next generation of farmers. The FFA is still the friend of the Grange but we must approach

research and education they provide will keep us safe and assist in great yields in production. They should be top priority in funding, so contact your legislator as to the importance of these agencies.

CAMP BERGER

Camp Berger is the gem of the State Grange. Chris and Lyn Kimberly continue to improve the camp and have provided new activities to gain new campers. This year the Connecticut State Grange was left a large donation to the Camp Berger Maintenance Fund by John Morgan of Taghannuck Grange #100. We will use this generous donation for future repairs to the Camp. We find that we need strong communication between the State Grange and the Kimberly's for the betterment of the Camp. Thanks to the Kimberly's for the work they have done for our Camp.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

I wish to thank those directors that helped promote State Grange events and projects. Our CWA Director has continued to move us forward with the Let's Celebrate event. With "On the Farm" crafts and items it was enjoyable to see all the items, which proves our members do have a sense of humor. I thank the Youth and Juniors for the Luncheon and the work they do during the year.

I wish to thank the officers for the work that they do, being short-handed on Deputies they are the eyes and ears of the State Master. Though we have rough road ahead of us, I can count on these officers to keep us out of the ditch.

I do wish to thank the Board of Directors for the work that was put upon them this year with the Pomona Resolution. Their commitment and hard work made this task more doable. Their expertise in Grange rules and law always lets me know that the State Grange is in good hands.

I wish to thank the Secretary and Treasurer for the dedicated work they do for this State Grange. Their knowledge and commitment has proven time after time that this State Grange is in great shape and hands.

present programs at our Grange meetings so we can exchange ideas and interests and maybe get new members. The Grange has supported the FFA since their beginning and we should continue to show our support for these future leaders.

AGRICULTURE

Connecticut's agriculture is still growing even during these stressful times. While manufacturing companies are leaving the state for cheaper states to operate from, more farm units have popped up in Connecticut. Farmers' markets have opened a place for small owner/operators who wish to produce fresh organic fruits and vegetables. Connecticut farmers produce over \$4 billion dollars of income for the state economy. We still have to work with legislators to keep our farms in Connecticut. Taxes, regulations, and immigration problems must be addressed to encourage farmers to continue here. We all love to see farms out our windows, and fields of tobacco or sunflowers and hayfields that give this state its rural charm.

We also need to assist the pollinators in this state. Bees do more to continue farms here than we do, for without the bees no trees can bear fruit and no plant can bloom. So we as Grangers should work to keep the bees here by planting pollinator plants outside our homes and Grange Halls. The National Grange Building has a three tier beehive on its roof. The bees can collect pollen from the grounds of the White House. They hope to have honey samples at the 151st National Convention.

We need to continue our support of the College of Agriculture and keep the Experiment Station for the

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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Vice President
Secretary Treasurer. Edith Schoell

Address of State Master Noel T. Miller

Continued from page 3...

Thanks for keeping me on task.

DEPUTIES

This year we tried a new survey of Community Granges which was designed by George Russell, Overseer. They were completed with great success and shows that our Grangers are working harder to keep their Granges in the limelight of their communities. Keep up the great work that you are doing.

I wish to thank the General Deputy for the continuous work that he does in keeping me informed and on schedule. Donny has always had my back and I wish him well on his new path as husband. Congratulations.

I wish to thank Peter, Cindy, Ron and Geno for filling in on Pomona Inspections and visiting Granges in my absence. Their resources have always been a benefit to me and I thank them for their service.

POMONAS

This year the State Executive Committee was tasked with the formation of new Pomona Granges. We have met that challenge head on and over six months of discussions and research have resulted in the plan for the future of Connecticut's Pomona Granges. We are starting to meet with the new Pomona Granges to start the by-law and organizational portion of this huge task. The important thing to remember is that in order for this to be successful, we need everyone to be on board. Without your help and support this plan will fail, and if it fails then there may never be a Pomona Grange in Connecticut. This past year we have seen an increase in attendance at Pomona meetings. Pomona is a useful tool and resource for degree days, ideas for Community Granges to brainstorm and a social gathering of friends and like-minded people. If we can pool all of the pluses of Pomona Grange into the new ones then they all will be successful for a grander future. Let's work together and do it right.

CLOSING COMMENTS

I still enjoy being your State Master. Everywhere Marcia and I go we have been welcomed and treated like family. Hank the Burro is still the most talked about mascot in the National Grange and enjoys the visitations and meetings.

This year we have had to make tough decisions to keep this State Grange moving forward. We are in the business of selling Grange halls as Cherry Brook Grange hall has been returned to us from the Town of Canton and Echo Grange is selling their hall. We hope that this doesn't become a trend.

The Northeast Region is having discussions on the future of the Northeast Leaders' Conference, Lecturers' Conference, New England Grange Sunday and New England Youth Weekend. Most has to do with declining attendance and increases in the cost to individuals and State Granges. This is a serious discussion for these events which enable State Directors to interact with one another and a chance for National Representatives to meet with all at one place. We will see what the future will be.

Our "G" dollars contest is still a favorite of some, although it is harder to get them in this state. I wish to thank all those Grangers who have collected them to help offset the National Grange Assessment.

As I conclude I wish to thank all of our Grangers in the State of Connecticut, for without you there is no Connecticut State Grange. The hard work that your members do throughout the year only makes me look better as your State Master. I always enjoy talking with you and listening to your comments, whether positive or negative I will always hear you out. Just remember everyone you meet is a potential member for the Grange. They just haven't been asked yet so it's up to you and ask "Do you want to join the Grange?"

Thank you all and God bless you and the Connecticut State Grange.

Noel T. Miller, Master
Connecticut State Grange

Chocolate Silk Pie with Marshmallow Meringue



Pies often grace holiday tables, and holiday potlucks and refreshments at Granges! Kraft has a yummy recipe for Chocolate Silk Pie with Marshmallow Meringue that looks delicious and sounds amazing - and it's quick and easy to make too!

INGREDIENTS:

- 5 oz. BAKER'S Bittersweet Chocolate, divided
- 4 oz. (1/2 of 8-oz. pkg.) PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese, softened
- 1 jar (7 oz.) JET-PUFFED Marshmallow Creme, divided
- 1 pkg. (3.9 oz.) JELL-O Chocolate Flavor Instant Pudding
- 1 cup cold milk
- 1 OREO Pie Crust (6 oz.)
- 1 cup thawed COOL WHIP Whipped Topping

DIRECTIONS:

Microwave 4 oz. chocolate in medium microwaveable bowl on HIGH 1 to 1-1/2

min. or until melted, stirring after 1 min. Add cream cheese, half the marshmallow creme, dry pudding mix and milk; beat with mixer until blended. Pour into crust.

Beat remaining marshmallow creme with COOL WHIP in separate bowl until blended; spread over chocolate layer in crust.

Refrigerate 2 hours or until firm. Meanwhile, use remaining chocolate to make chocolate curls. Refrigerate until ready to use.

Garnish pie with chocolate curls before serving.

How to Make the Chocolate Curls:

Microwave chocolate on HIGH a few seconds or just until you can smudge chocolate with your thumb. Pull vegetable peeler slowly along bottom of chocolate piece to make curl. Repeat to make additional curls.

Serves: Makes 1 pie

SOURCE: <http://www.kraftrecipes.com/recipes/chocolate-silk-pie-marshmallow-meringue-113193.aspx>



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Reaping the Benefits of Positive Publicity

by Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

Is publicizing my Grange really that important? The answer is a thousand times YES!

From articles in the newspaper with your Grange Name in the headlines to a letter to the editor, through online and social media sources, or even as simple as face-to-face and word-of-mouth communications, publicity comes in a variety of different forms.

But what are the benefits received from positive publicity?

Publicity is Free. Most newspapers, magazines and websites do not charge to print articles and news releases. It takes very little effort to provide the media with your information. Just talking about your Grange while at the grocery store, in line at the movie theatre or a concert, or even while you attend an event run by another organization such as the Lions or Rotary Club, is a free benefit and publicizes your Grange. Publicity is by far the most economical way to reach local audiences.

Publicity Increases Visibility. As the old saying goes: no one hears the tree that falls in an empty forest. Well, the same could be said for a Grange that no one has ever heard of. Positive publicity generates interest in your Grange. The more your

Grange name is in print or on the web, the more your Grange will become a household name on the tips of everyone's tongues.

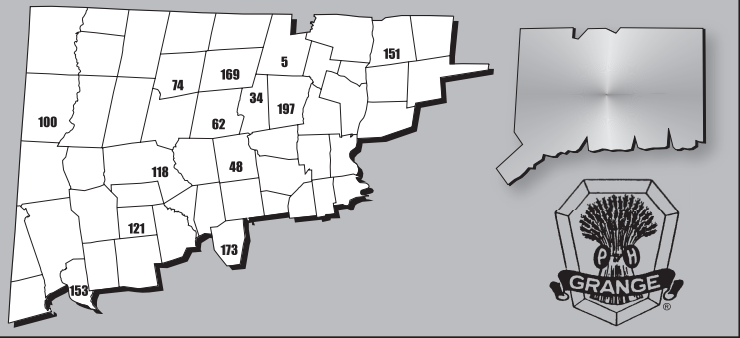
Publicity has Staying Power. When your Grange has an article printed in a publication or on a website, your Grange name stays in the public eye as the article is often shared with others.

Publicity Enhances Credibility. Your Grange needs to operate at peak performance and become a well-oiled machine, at least in the eyes of the public. The public is diverse in their assessments. Positive publicity creates the perception that your Grange is active and "on the move." When your Grange is in the news, it becomes a viable, credible and trusted organization.

Positive publicity increases the general awareness of your Grange and brings attention to your Grange's activities, events, programs and projects. If public relations and positive publicity are not a part of your Grange's marketing, it may be time to consider taking the steps to implement a strategy and reap the benefits.

The CT State Grange Public Relations Committee is here to help. Contact Terri or Bob today at information@ctstategrange.org or publicrelations@ctstategrange.org.

POMONA A



Granby No. 5	Bethlehem No. 121
Cawasa No. 34	Enfield No. 151
Whigville No. 48	Bridgewater No. 153
Eureka No. 62	Riverton No. 169
Winchester No. 74	Wolcott No. 173
Taghannuck No. 100	Simsbury No. 197
Beacon No. 118	

POMONA A UPDATE

As of this writing, the By-Laws Committee of Pomona A has met and drafted a working copy of our Pomona's new by-laws. Copies have been sent to the secretaries of all Community Granges located in the new Pomona. They have been asked to share this information with their memberships to give all Pomona members within those Granges the opportunity to read them and to have an opportunity to voice any concerns they have when the Organizational Meeting is held on a date to be determined.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau
Dec. 12: Christmas – (\$5 grab bag gift), Ref. by all members (Holiday theme)
Dec. 26: No Meeting – Merry Christmas!

In early November,

Winchester Grange held its fall Super Prize Party and Bake Sale with excellent attendance. We are, however, hoping more members come to help out at the next one so please plan to be with us for the Spring Super Prize Party. Date to be announced.

Looking ahead: On December 12 we will hold our Christmas Party Meeting featuring a \$5 grab bag gift exchange and holiday themed refreshments provided by all members. It's always a fun evening. Join us.

We received word in November that the Winchester Center Vol. Fire Dept. (their firehouse is attached to the back of our Grange Hall) would like to connect the Grange propane lines to the large capacity tank they installed years ago. They also generously offered to do the work at their own expense.

Enfield donates reader



Dawn Percoski, secretary of Enfield Grange, presenting a Micro-Chip Reader to Dawn Struck, founder of the Enfield Community Cat Project. The non-profit, captures, treats, releases and maintains feral cats in Enfield.

This will make the ugly tanks on the south side of the building obsolete. The savings in propane purchases and tank rentals will be enormous. We thank the WCVFD for their generous offer and support of the Grange. This fire department was organized in the 1950's, in large part due to the efforts of Winchester Grange and its members. Our Grange is truly at the heart of this community hosting both the Fire Department and the Post Office.

Until next time... Merry Christmas and STAY WARM!

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Jan. 13: Out With the Old, In with the New

Feb. 10: Vacation

In November we learned all about the color orange with skits and quizzes and some Connecticut history added. Puzzling question – What is the color of nutmeg?

In December we will exchange crazy socks. If you would like to join the fun you need to get up early as we meet at 10:00 a.m. followed by snacks and conversation. Also in December, East Central Pomona members will get together on the first Saturday for one last Christmas party. Sister Kay will let us all know where we will meet. Enfield Grange will no longer be with many of the Granges that was East Central Pomona and will now be part of a new Pomona forming west of the river. New adventure – new friends to meet.

There is always a need to clean out closets and drawers and make room for something new. That is what we need to focus on in January. What old ideas aren't working in our Grange and what new ones are we willing to try? Trying something new takes a bit of courage. If we are to grow, we have to be willing to test that courage. For the New Year, bring your ideas to share.

Where will we go on our vacation? Will we take a cruise or camp in the backyard? Come join us in a cold month and talk about the warm ones.

My Favorite Food



Marge Bernhardt
 State Lecturer
 lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Merry Christmas!! It's hard to believe that it is December already and time for all our Grange Christmas Parties. Enjoy these festivities with your Grange Family. Our Grange friends are an important part of our lives. Let's all get out and visit with our Brothers and Sisters of the Grange. Our numbers may be getting smaller, but we all have made life-long

friendships to be thankful for.

Our Essay Contest was very popular last year. We had a lot of excellent entries making the judging very hard. As you read our first place winning entry, why not think about your favorite food and get a head-start on this year's contest.

My Favorite Food

By Nancy Weissmuller

My favorite food is chocolate cake – rich and moist – from scratch – the way my mom used to make it. The frosting would have been hers, too. She would start with those two oblong chunks of chocolate with the raised figures on top, placing them in the double boiler where they would get thinner and thinner, finally melting into a shiny pool of tempting chocolate. Then Mom would plop a chunk of butter in with the melted chocolate, add powdered sugar, milk and vanilla and beat everything into a thick, creamy fudge that she would spread a half-inch thick between, over and around the two layers of cake that had been cooling on the racks. The finished product would than hide under the silver cake cover until dinnertime where it was revealed with a flourish and eaten with relish by all at the table – especially me! Do you wonder that I was a chubby child??

Past Deputies

The Past Deputies Association will hold their Christmas meeting and party at Cheshire Grange on Sunday, December 10. We are trying a new format with our usual potluck dinner being served at 2:00. The meeting will be held following dinner which will be hosted by Noel and Marcia Miller.

The program will be in the charge of the members of the old Excelsior Pomona. For those who would like to participate, we will have a \$5 grab bag. The theme of the Country Store is "Gold and Silver."

The report of the recent raffle will be given.
 Hope to see you in Cheshire.

Social Connection



Joanne Cipriano
 Social Connection Director
 Social@ctstategrange.org

The Social Connection's Helping Others Project has been started and we have received our first donation. We are asking each Grange to fill a white sock with toiletries and other useful items to be donated to the West Haven Veterans Hospital. We will accept your donations anytime and will collect them up to the end of the 2018 State Session.

We have started plans for our annual dinner. We started with a mystery dinner and we will be ending with a mystery dinner. Save the date – Saturday, April 28th. Tickets will be available after the first of the year.

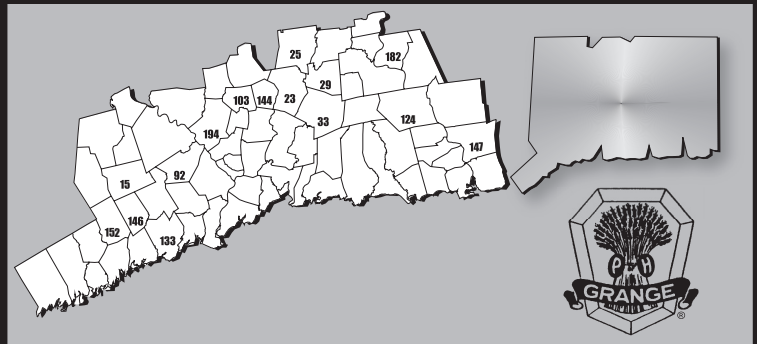
From Barbara and I to all our supporters, "Wishing you all the happy things this very special holiday brings!"

S. CT Past Masters

The members of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters will meet at Beacon Valley Grange on Saturday, Dec. 9th. It will be our annual Christmas program. Vice President Cindy Legg will be in charge of the program. Further details will be discussed at our November meeting.

Come and join us- we love visitors.

POMONA B



Redding No. 15
Cheshire No. 23
Southington No. 25
Meriden No. 29
Wallingford No. 33
Harmony No. 92
Beacon Valley No. 103

Higganum No. 124
Greenfield Hill No. 133
Prospect No. 144
Norfield No. 146
Cannon No. 152
Hemlock No. 182
Oxford No. 194

REDDING GRANGE #15

Corr: Marge Sendewicz

Dec. 11: Christmas Celebration

Redding Grange will close out 2017 with our Christmas meeting. It will start with a 6 P.M. potluck supper followed by a 7:30 P.M. meeting and Christmas program. We will share the Christmas spirit with all and we will have a \$3 gift exchange. Please do plan to join us for the last holidays of the year.

It's a fun night and if you wish to attend, please contact our Secretary.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Dec. 6: Youth in Charge
Dec. 20: Christmas Party. Open Meeting \$5.00 Grab Bag and Card Exchange

Our Craft Show in late October was very successful with 30 crafters on hand. We hosted the Pomona B mentors meeting which was well attended. Several members attended the State Session in Norwich where Cheshire Grange was one of the two top honor Grange's in the State. We placed second in the Community Service program for Grange's with over 50 members. A fund raising dinner was held in early November for a local hiking group. We continue to make Christmas favors for our shut in members to be delivered during the Christmas season. We extend our wishes to everyone for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #3

Corr: Dan Lauttenbach

Dec. 14: Annual Christmas Program. Card Exchange and \$5 Grab Bag. Refreshments by all members.

On Oct. 12 Vern reported that this year's apple harvest has been as good as it could be. Almost perfect conditions! There has been still great corn available at Billy Beaumont's Farm. (BTW there was still good corn up to last week). Vern said he has tilled everything under except for Swiss chard and turnip. Janet reported on the CWA entries and the new theme for the year- Pirates and Treasures. Dan

reported that all the fair premiums were sent out. Janet reported we didn't have enough blue ribbons this year and will have to place an order for those that we still owe our winners. By the time you read this these should be all sent out. I was to be out of town on the 26th of October so it was decided to forego the second meeting in October.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the members of Wallingford Grange!

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our fundraising activities are over until the first of the new year. Our October bake sale at Walmart was very successful. I can't believe how much our members backed and how much the public purchased.

Our November tag and bake sale and raffle held yesterday (11-4) was also successful. This is thanks to our members: Pat and Ron Fischer, Cindy and Ray Legg, Delores Merancy, Judi Reynolds, Mary Lou Raymond, Diane and Victor Godin and Joanne Cipriano.

Ron Fischer will hold the next Open Mic on Saturday, Dec. 16th. Time is 2 to 6. As usual we invite everyone to come and enjoy the music or participate. Snack food will be available- as always everything free of charge.

On Dec. 8th we will have our meeting and Christmas party. A potluck supper will be served at 6:00, followed by a short business meeting and party. Come and enjoy it with us.

On Saturday, Dec. 9 we will host the meeting and Christmas party of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters. Everyone welcome.

From the members of Beacon Valley Grange to all our fellow Grangers "Wishing you a sleigh full of wishes and dreams come true."

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Dec. 12th @ 6:30 p.m. - Deck the Hall & Holiday Party - Please bring 1-2 items for the Weston Food Pantry.

Jan. 9th @ 6:30 p.m. - Business Meeting & Barn Dance Planning

What's happening at the Norfield Grange? By the time this goes to print we will have successfully held a joint Wreath Making Event with the Weston Garden Club and a beautiful live wreath will be hanging from our door! Our December meeting we will share "Holiday Cheer" and decorate our hall with festive lights, a tree and even a creche scene! Each month we ask our members to bring 1-2 non-perishable food items to donate to the Weston Food Pantry to help our neighbors in need. And we will discuss the planning for our 5th Annual Barn Dance & Chili Supper set for late January/early February sure to be a big turn out for this fun community event! All Grangers, family and friends near and far are welcome to come join in the winter fun.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

Jan. 4: Our Favorite Hobbies

Feb. 1: Every dog has his day. Woof!

Mar. 1: Lion or Lamb. The CWA contests for 2018 announced.

You can tell we live in New England, 30 degrees one day and 75 degrees the next.

We're off to a fantastic start with five new members this fall. Three of them are teenagers and 2 of them, Olivia Eastman and Riley Tefft, received the Sixth Degree at State Session in October.

Congratulations to Norman Stitham for being honored at State Session as Granger of the Year. He is very special, making posters, collecting items for animal shelters, writing a quarterly newsletter, to name a few.

Amy Winner collates our Community Service. She does such a fine job presenting it. We won third prize due to her hard work.

Christmas cards were passed out for all of us to write a note to a service person. These will be forwarded to Frank Forest as we will tuck them in packages sent in December along with homemade cookies.

Hope everyone had a fantastic Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all along with a Happy New Year!3

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Jan. 12: Winter Wonderland

Jan. 26: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Feb. 9: February Holidays

Feb. 23: Omitted,

unless regular meeting is canceled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meetings.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Robert Buck

Dec. 1: Get into the Spirit of the season, 7:30 PM

Dec. 15: Christmas Potluck, Holiday grab-bag exchange (\$5.00), 7:00 PM

Dec. 29: G.O.M.A.D. - Music and Dance party, 7:00 PM

The handicapped ramp is well under way here in early November, and hopefully will be completed by Selectman Jeff Haney and his helpers by the time you are reading this. New member Rich Wilber has lent a helping hand to the work-Thanks, Rich. We look forward to the increased access this will give to our Grange Hall.

In November, we had a nice Neighbor's Night on the 3rd, and were entertained by the music of members Dan Golias on guitar, Raye Hodgson on auto-harp, and Glenn Belinsky on saxophone, though not all playing at the same

time. Dan and Raye played folk tunes, while Dan and Glenn played some jazz improvisations.

Oxford Grange was honored to be a Silver Honor Grange at State Session in October, Cheshire Grange being the only other and they were awarded the Gold level.

G.O.M.A.D. continues to be a fun event with the music and dance party the last Friday of every month. Attendance is reliably 40-50 and everyone seems to enjoy themselves. Come on out and discover what you bare missing.

Oxford will be part of the new Pomona B. Master Maggie and husband Rob attended the organizational meeting in Cheshire on October 29th. A By-laws committee was established and much covered with plans to announce the next meeting in the new year. Attendance at this gathering was good, and I look forward to everyone working together with old friends to establish a strong new Pomona Grange.

Celebrating 100 Years



Grange members and family members came together on Sunday, November 19th to celebrate Mildred Bell's 100th birthday. This was a surprise party held at Beacon Valley Grange No. 103. Connecticut State Grange President, Noel Miller was there to present Mildred with a state certificate of appreciation. A social was held afterwards, along with a set of birthday cakes for the occasion. Top Photo: CSG President, Noel Miller presenting Mildred Bell her Certificate of Appreciation to everyone's applause. Bottom Photo: A group shot of Mildred and her children. Her children are Golden Sheaf members.

View from the Hill

Burton Eller, National Grange Legislative Director

TAX REFORM ~ The Framework

The United Framework for Fixing Our Broken Tax Code was unveiled September 27 by the President and Republican members of Congress. The so-called "Big Six" who will have tremendous influence over the details of tax reform are all supportive of the Framework blueprint. The Big Six are Senate Finance Committee Chairman Hatch (R-UT), House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Brady (R-TX), Senate Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY), House Speaker Ryan (R-WI), Treasury Secretary Mnuchin and National Economic Council Director Cohen. In addition, Chairman Hatch and Chairman Brady report the Republican members on their committees are

solidly behind the blueprint. Democrats, on the other hand, are skeptical and have questioned the validity of several provisions in the Framework. They contend that by dropping the top tax bracket from 39.6 to 35 percent, the Framework is handing a tax cut to the wealthy. Beyond the general targets for comprehensive tax reform contained in the Framework, a whole host of specific provisions remain unknown. As with most initiatives in Washington, the devil will be in the details as Congress tries to write comprehensive tax reform legislation.

The Framework Outline

- Nearly doubles the standard deduction to \$24,000 for married taxpayers filing jointly and \$12,000 for single filer
- Reduces the current seven 10% to 39.6% tax

brackets to three at 12%, 25% and 35%

- Eliminates most itemized deductions except for home mortgage interest and charitable contributions
- Repeals the death tax, generation-skipping transfer tax and Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT)
- Limits the maximum tax rate for small and family-owned businesses to 25%
- Reduces the corporate tax rate to 20% from 35%
- Allows businesses to immediately expense the cost of new depreciable assets other than structures for five years
- Preserves business tax credits for research and development and low income housing
- Repeals numerous additional special exclusions and deductions such as local and state taxes

What about Agriculture?

Because so much of the business of farming and ranching relies on borrowed money and operates on tight profit margins, agriculture is concerned about the outcome of several provisions as the tax reform package moves through Congress such as,

- Cash accounting that recognizes income when received and expenses when paid
- Interest expense deductions on capital purchases and operating loans
- Like-kind exchanges (Section 1031) that allow the sale of assets and purchase of replacement property of a like-kind
- Capital gains taxes that discourage property sale and transfer
- Deductions for local and state taxes

What About PAYGO?

The 2010 statutory Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) Act passed by a Democratic Congress requires the federal government to tally the revenue effects of bills that have become law. PAYGO reinstated pay-as-you-go rules used in Congress from 1990 until 2002 which require most new spending to be offset by spending cuts or offset by new revenue. The Framework would supposedly yield around \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts producing budget deficits. Senior Republicans on the Hill suggest that any deficits caused by tax cuts

will be offset by tax reform revenues through economic growth. But to avoid automatic PAYGO spending cuts up front, Republicans must muster 60 votes in the Senate with help from Democrats for a waiver. That will be tough. On the other hand, if Democrats block the waiver, they risk deep cuts in programs that are important to Democrats in order to satisfy PAYGO.

Senate Republicans are considering the possibility moving a tax bill through a budget resolution procedure they're drafting for FY'18. The resolution procedure would allow the Senate to advance and pass tax legislation with only 51 votes in the Senate thereby bypassing a Democratic filibuster. Both parties have used budget reconciliation to pass difficult legislation in the past.

What's Next?

The National Grange will push for equitable tax treatment of its members as tax reform legislation moves through Congress. In addition to tax law changes laid out in the Framework, the Grange will pay special attention to what Congress proposes on cash accounting, interest expense deductions, like-kind exchanges, capital gains rates and local and state tax deductions.

HEALTHCARE ~

What Now for the Affordable Care Act?

The Senate failed to muster enough votes to pass the latest attempt to repeal and replace ObamaCare. The bill, sponsored by Republican Senators Graham (R-SC) and Cassidy (R-LA), was vigorously opposed by hospitals, doctors and the insurance industry. Graham-Cassidy would have ended federal funding for Medicaid expansion and the subsidies to help people afford coverage, and would have converted these monies into block grants to states. The block grant would have been capped per beneficiary regardless of how much a state spends, the grant would not adjust to changes in states' funding needs, and it could be spent for virtually any health-care purpose. The measure would also have given states a waiver out of ObamaCare regulations if they could otherwise provide "adequate and affordable" coverage to people with pre-existing

conditions.

After the Senate pulled the vote on Graham-Cassidy, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Chairman Alexander (R-TN) and Ranking Member Murray (D-WA) announced they would resume their stabilization talks. The emerging stabilization plan could include:

- Funding of cost-sharing reduction for two years
- Allowing individuals over 30 to purchase cheaper, skimpier so-called "copper plans"
- Flexibility to Section 1332 waivers that allow states to tailor health insurance plans for their state's needs

Meanwhile, President Trump announced plans to issue an executive order to allow health insurance to be purchased across state lines. Selling insurance across state lines could encourage the formation of interstate association health plans (AHIPs) and allow membership groups to offer health plans as a benefit of joining.

Veterans Affairs

Proposed regulation changes at the Department of Veterans Affairs would allow VA providers anywhere in the country to conduct telehealth visits with VA patients across state borders regardless of state licensing. Right now, VA telehealth care is limited by state restrictions that prohibit physicians from seeing a patient via telemedicine in a state where the physician is not licensed. President Trump announced plans for "anywhere to anywhere VA healthcare" priority in August.

IMMIGRATION ~

Ag Workers on Fast Track

"The Agricultural Guest Worker Act of 2017" will be introduced in the House the first week of October. Sponsored by House Judiciary Committee Chairman Goodlatte (R-VA), the bill is a collaborative effort between the Chairman and the agriculture community. A few key points are:

- Gives USDA authority to enforce and administer a new H-2C program to begin two years after enactment. The current H-2A program
- Continued on page 9...*

Have a Good Day!

Chris Hamp, National Lecturer

I know each and every one of us is busy, busy. It is fair season, for most of you it is get ready for State Convention time, and of course, it is that glorious time of the year when seemingly everything in our gardens is ready to be canned, frozen, or dried!

I am asking you to encourage your Granges and Grangers to subscribe to our new National Grange magazine, Good Day!

This is a quarterly publication of the highest quality! In my opinion, *Good Day!* is a beautiful, glossy, substantive magazine with a breadth of content and information that can keep any reader interested and absorbed. I'm positive that you will also find a plethora of ideas for Lecturer's programs (bonus!).

Please fill out and return the subscription card below to the National Grange in Washington. Feel free to distribute copies of the subscription card to your members, collect the money/checks and cards and mail them to National Grange in batches or send yours along as soon as you get this to ensure delivery of the next issue.

Be Awesome! Be a Doer!

Make it a Good Day!™

As a Grange member, for only \$14 a year you can receive our new quarterly magazine and enjoy great features, the latest information about the Grange, contests, programs, benefits and more!

Name: _____

Grange Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

email: _____

You may choose to be billed by checking here

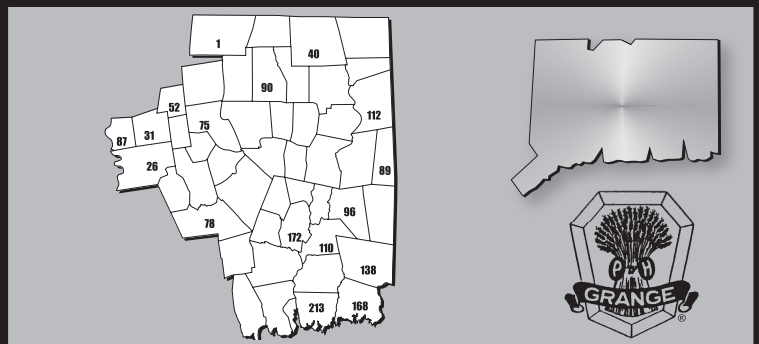
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Card # _____ Visa MC Disc.

Exp. Date _____ CVC Code _____

**Mail subscription card to National Grange,
1616 H St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.**

POMONA C



Stafford No. 1	Ashford No. 90
Glastonbury No. 26	Pachaug No. 96
Manchester No. 31	Preston City No. 110
Senexet No. 40	Killingly No. 112
Vernon No. 52	N. Stonington Comm. No. 138
Coventry No. 75	Lyme No. 147
Colchester No. 78	Stonington No. 168
Hillstown No. 87	Norwich No. 172
Ekonk Community No. 89	Groton No. 213

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong
Dec. 8: Holiday Stress Relief Yoga

Vernon Grangers have been busy beavers writing cards to the military and making favors for the local nursing homes. We even had a special craft night inviting friends to help! The holidays start on first for us with having another "Program in a Box" put out by the National Grange lecturer. This one is good for us all... Holiday Stress Relief Yoga!!!! We are also going to have our usual whacky gift exchange....fun for all.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller
Dec. 7: Christmas

We are collecting food items for the Coventry Holiday Committee so please bring non-perishable food items for this meeting to be dropped off at Human Services. Watch the weather and if we cancel we will meet the third Thursday. Happy Holidays to all our members, families, and friends.

EKONK COMMUNITY & JR. GRANGES

Corr: Sue Gray

The Juniorshada "Spooky Room" at the annual Sterling "Spooktacular" at the Sterling Municipal Building. Carrie Molodich decorated an SUV and she and Russell Gray away candy as part of the Trunk Or Treat that afternoon/evening. Many other Subordinate and Junior members had various roles in the success of this annual event, which brought an evening of super fun to over 300 children! . Our Junior and Subordinate both had booths at the annual Sterling Farm Day. The Juniors held their own Halloween party and a great time was had by all! 5 Juniors earned

their "Host State" badges and several are working on their State badges, learning much more about Connecticut. The Juniors will have their annual St. Judes fundraiser that day after Thanksgiving. They have another new Junior! They are working on their Christmas program. This year they will present a variety of countries traditions, with "Small World" as their theme. The annual Subordinate Grange Christmas Bazaar will be Sat., Dec. 2nd. We gained two members by initiation and several by demit from Echo Grange. Sad to lose yet another Grange but we welcome them into our fold. Merry Christmas to all!

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
Dec. 8: Christmas Party

At our October 13 meeting Nick Mullane, Chairperson of our Legislative Committee, introduced the two candidates running for First Selectman in November. Each candidate spoke on their qualifications and plans for the future of our town. On Oct. 27, the hall, decorated in spooky Halloween décor, welcomed costumed youngsters and adults to an evening of parades, prizes, games, refreshments and a cup social packed with lots of interesting items. Money raised from the cup social helps to pay for the fruit baskets we deliver in December. We donated a hearty Thanksgiving dinner to 8 needy families in town and gift cards for a happy Christmas to others.

On December 8 we will hold our annual Christmas party. Please bring a wrapped present (marked clearly with the child's name) for each child you bring with you and leave them (the presents, not the children) in the kitchen so

Killingly Grange #112



The officers and members of Killingly Grange #112 pose for a group photo at their July picnic held at Quaddick State Park.

Santa will have a gift in his bag for each one. There will be a short meeting at 7:30 and the party should begin by 8:00. On the 15th we will carol around town and deliver fruit baskets to shut-ins and Golden Sheaf members. Please join us at

the Grange Hall at 6:30 and join the fun. And if those golden leaves will just hold on for a few weeks more, next time we will tell you all about novel November.

**FORMER E. CENTRAL
 POMONA**

Corr: Noel Miller

Dec. 3: Get Together at Good Will Grange Hall, 7:00 P.M. All bring a Wacky Stocking Exchange. Each bring a bit for the program and each Grange bring a dessert. See you there.



Hello Grange Friends!

It was so nice to see all of my Grange Herd mates, and all of my Grange friends while in Spokane, Washington for the National Grange Convention.

It snowed on Sunday, November 5th when we first got to Spokane. The plow trucks were out. I was pulling a red wagon that I cam across - faster - big wheel - wee!. I also got to see the hotel in the snow and a giant Christmas tree made of lights!

Congratulations to CT State Grange Executive Committee member Phil Prelli on being elected Overseer of National Grange. I extend my congratulations to all of the newly elected National Grange officers!

I wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and safe and happy New Year!

Be sure to follow me on Facebook for news of my latest travels. Please take a minute to follow the link and click the "Like" button. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>



View from the Hill

Continued from page 7...

will sunset at that time.

- Annual visa cap of 500,000 but allows for increases or decreases depending on demand. Unauthorized ag workers at time of introduction who become H-2C workers do not count against the cap.
- For seasonal workers, initial visas will be for 18 months continuous stay. For non-temporary work (skilled workers such as milkers), initial visas will be for 36 months continuous stay.
- Wages will be state or local minimum wage or 15 percent above federal minimum wage, whichever is greater.
- There is no requirement for employers to supply housing or transportation.

Markup in the House Judiciary Committee will occur within a few days of introduction and the bill is expected to pass the House. Over in the Senate, Democrats are likely to insist that ag worker legislation become part of a broader overall comprehensive immigration legislative package which will tend to stall ag worker relief for the foreseeable future.

RURAL BROADBAND ~

Proposed Boost to Rural Broadband

Democrats in the Hill are calling for a \$40 billion rural and inner-city investment to expand internet access. Their plan is modeled on the 1930's Rural Electrification Act that's credited with increasing access to electricity from 10 percent of Americans in 1936 to 90 percent by 1950. Democrats say public funds are necessary because internet companies on their own have failed to cover large segments of the public.

Electric Co-Ops Step In

People living in rural communities are four times more likely to lack access to high speed internet than those in urban areas. Increased bandwidth has become a necessity for precision agriculture, health care, education, businesses and tourism in rural communities. Rural Electric Cooperatives, formed nearly 80 years ago to bring electricity to rural inhabitants, are increasingly stepping up to fill the rural broadband supply gap. The existing co-op distribution networks may lend themselves to deployment of broadband service. Several co-ops have found that building out a broadband network, either on their own or partnering with established telecommunications providers, using their existing infrastructure is an efficient way to serve rural customers.

HELP FOR SECRETARY PURDUE

Secretary Perdue has lamented for months that he is the only confirmed appointee serving at USDA. Now help appears to be on the way. The Senate Agriculture Committee will meet Monday evening October 2 to vote on the nominations of Steve Censky to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture (Perdue's number 2) and Ted McKinney as Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agriculture. Censky is the CEO of the American Soybean Association and McKinney is Indiana's Director of Agriculture. The noncontroversial candidates are expected to be quickly confirmed by the Senate. Later in the week, the Senate Agriculture Committee will hold hearings on the popular nominations of Bill Northey to be Under Secretary for Farm and Conservation Programs and Greg Ibach to be Under Secretary of for Marketing and Regulatory Programs. Northey is Secretary of Agriculture in Iowa and Ibach is Nebraska's Agriculture Director. There has been no word from the Senate Agriculture whether hearings will be scheduled for controversial nominee Sam Clovis to become Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics.

The Senate Finance Committee had scheduled an October 5 hearing on the nomination of Greg Doud to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of Special Trade Representative. Doud is President of the Commodity Markets Council and was a senior aide to the Senate Agriculture Committee during the 2014 farm bill process.

Ekonk Awards at National



Above, (left to right), State Master Noel Miller, Marilyn Johnson (Master of Montana) and Betsy Huber (National Grange Master) pose for a photo as Marilyn receives a Grange Legacy Family Citation on behalf of Ekonk's Gray family at National. Left- Ekonk's third place entry in the National Community Service Contest.

Handmade Implement Box



Phil Prelli (National Exec. Comm. from CT) opens a new handmade implement box presented to the National Grange by Melanie and Roger Bostwick in Spokane, WA.



The Delegates to the 151st National Session gather for a group photo in Spokane, WA.

WINDOW TO THE PAST

This Month



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.

November



No answers were submitted for November's photo

2018 Info available



Irene Percoski
CWA/Family Activ. Director
cwa@ctstategrange.org

Every Subordinate Grange should have received a CWA program and needlework entry blank explaining the crafts and baking contest along with

the few changes to the needlework categories for 2018. If your Secretary or CWA chairperson or Master has not read this at your Grange meeting, please ask about it.

Questions have been asked about the size of Class A. Afghans. It must be big enough to cover the top of a twin size bed. Anything larger is fine. Anything smaller is not. Remember – anything worth doing is probably going to take a lot longer than you think. Happy sewing and Happy New Year.

Camp Berger Pond Hockey Tournament



Saturday, Jan. 29, 2018
Park Pond/Camp Berger
Winchester Center, CT

SAVE THE DATE!

www.bergerhockey.com

National Grange elects officers in Spokane, WA

Every two years the National Grange elects officers, the majority on an "odd year" like 2017, and two Executive Committee members on "even years." The results from our elections are as follows:

President Betsy Huber (PA) re-elected.

Phil Prelli (CT) was elected Vice President (Overseer).

Lynette Shaeffer (IL) and Stephen Coye (NY) were elected to the Executive Committee, joining Leroy Watson (NH) and Duane Scott (WI).

Cindy Greer (CO) was elected Ceres and Lena Shufeldt (OK) was elected Flora.

Also re-elected to their positions was Christine Hamp (WA) as Lecturer; William "Chip" Narvel (DE) as Steward; John Plank (IN) as Assistant Steward; Brenda Rousselle (VT) as Lady Assistant Steward; Barbara Bourdieroux (FL) as Chaplain; Dwight Baldwin (IO) as Treasurer; Judy Sherrod (TN) as Secretary; Chris Johnston (MI) as Gatekeeper and Susan Noah (OR) as Pomona.

The officers of the Assembly of Demeter remained the same: Bruce Croucher (NY), Roger Bostwick (KS) and James Owens (ME).

HOLIDAY BREAKFAST & SALE

Holiday pancake breakfast and Grandma's attic sale will be held on Sunday, December 3rd from 8:30 AM - 11 AM. Come enjoy a Breakfast of Pancakes, including sausage, coffee, tea and juice, all for just \$5, \$3 for kids under 14. This month's pancake special features "Eggnog pancakes and Cranberry pancakes with walnut syrup". Free seconds on regular pancakes, coffee and tea.

Shop for Holiday items in Grandma's Attic and Jon's Books, open during breakfast. Come to browse, eat, or just visit the historic 129 year old "Hillstown Grange Hall". Free Admission. Held at the Hillstown Grange, 617 Hills St. East Hartford.

For more information: call Frank at 860-690-2845 or email: hillstowngrange@aol.com



JOIN US FOR A

HARMONY GRANGE CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

JEWELRY - FOOD - RAFFLES - SANTA - ANTIQUES

2 Shelton Road, Monroe, CT
Junctions of Routes 111 & 110

DECEMBER 2, 2017 9 AM - 3 PM



Homemade Christmas Cookie Sale

Selling delicious homemade cookies by the pound.

You hand select what you want!

Sponsored by

Whigville Grange

Saturday, Dec. 9th

10 AM to 1 PM

Terryville Congregational Church, Main St, Terryville, CT

Tea cup auction too!

Public is invited, free admission and parking

In Memoriam

The following are the deaths reported to the Granger & State Grange on Quarterly Reports during the year. As we reach the end of 2017, it's important to remember all members who have passed to the "Great Grange Above." We strongly encourage reporters to provide these names on a monthly basis. Some (not all) have appeared in the "In Memoriam" column during the year.

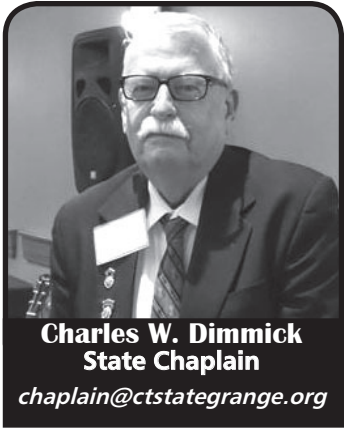
Evelyn Urda, G.S.	Ashford #90
Linda Bunnell	Beacon #118
Deborah Buono	Beacon Valley #103
Mary Dubay	Bethlehem #121
Marion Blake	Bethlehem #121
Dorothy Gustafson	Bridgewater #153
Genevieve Saunders, G.S.	Cannon #152
B. Dante D'Addeo, G.S.	Cawasa #34
Violet Danila	Cawasa #34
Anna Brown, G.S.	Cheshire #23
Janet Hale	Cheshire #23
Ruth Kazmier, G.S.	Cheshire #23
Roslayn Manware	Cheshire #23
Carolyn Mobsby	Cheshire #23
Ann Ryan	Cheshire #23
Burton Van Hise	Cheshire #23
Albert Bray, G.S.	Coventry #75
Beverly MacDonald	Ekonk Comm. #89
Mildred Stearns, G.S.	Ekonk Comm. #89
Sylvia Tyler	Ekonk Comm. #89
Lyall Shaw, G.S.	Granby #5
Clarissa Matthewson	Groton #213
Marita Rand	Lyme #147
Alma Limpert, G.S.	N. Stonington #138
Frances L. Miner	N. Stonington #138
Marion McLaughlin	Norwich #172
Herman Weingart	Norwich #172
Stephen Chucta	Oxford #194
Dwight Hyde	Oxford #194
Jean Suplicki	Pachaug #96
Frieda Burns, G.S.	Preston City #110
Elsie Butler, G.S.	Preston City #110
Maurice Butler, G.S.	Preston City #110
Roger Allen, G.S.	Prospect #144
Evelyn Haines, G.S.	Redding #15
Evelyn Hedus, G.S.	Riverton #169
Lawrence J. Grennan, G.S.	Senexet #40
Fernanda Magao	Senexet #40
Calvin Wilcox	Vernon #52
Justin Williams, G.S.	Wallingford #33
Casmir Dzielinski, G.S.	Whigville #48
Anton Grocki, G.S.	Whigville #48

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

*Happy Holidays & Cheers
to a Healthy & Prosperous
2018 from,
The Norfield Grange #146,
Weston, CT*

*Happy Holidays to our
Campers, Families,
Friends, Alums & Fans of
Camp Berger.
From,
The Kimberly Clan
- Camp Directors
& Family*

True Giving



with true Christian giving. In Luke 14 Jesus has strong advice as to what true giving consists of. He states:

When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will

be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

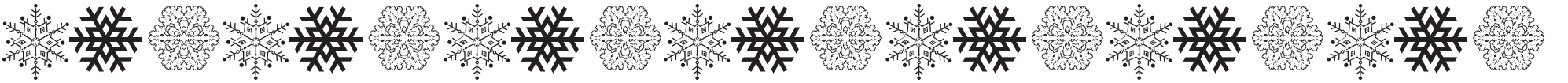
There is another aspect of true giving that one should strive for, that of anonymity. Beware of giving for the purpose of being lauded for your generosity. Part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, as recorded in the sixth chapter of Matthew, states:

"Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets,

as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

In modern times we are able to fulfill the spirit of this last injunction by giving through our churches and various charities, so that our gift is anonymous at least to the recipient,

certainly more convenient than the method of delivery used by the original St. Nicholas, who according to legend secretly delivered three bags of gold to the home of a poor man so that he could give dowries to his daughters. This is said to be the origin of the European custom of leaving out a pair of shoes for St. Nicholas to fill with gifts. It is also often given as the model for anonymous giving. Let us also follow these precepts and examples by true Christian giving this holiday season.



Happy Holidays



from
Connecticut Granger

&
Connecticut State Grange

