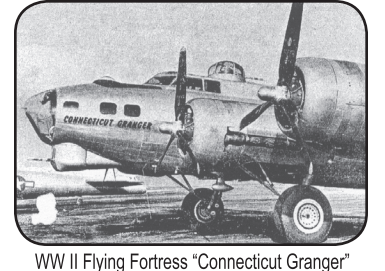




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Connecticut Granger



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

Vol. 58, No. 6

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

March 2018

Join the team... get involved



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

What a wild and mild winter we have had, frigid cold one week, blustery snowstorm, next warm drenching rains the next. The maple trees are confused whether to flow maple sap. I have seen robins in February and even seen a redwing blackbird the other day. Mr. Groundhog has missed the mark as to more winter weather ahead. Let the mud season begin. This year many Granges are having Seed Exchanges or giving seed obtained from the University of Rhode Island or Hart Seeds in Wethersfield. These educational programs are great tools to gain new members, along with workshops in Planting Gardens, and pruning fruit trees. Many people are interested in backyard gardens and farming and will go to a meeting to learn and have their questions answered. Use this as an opportunity to bring people into our halls and maybe become new members.

The National Grange's new magazine "Good Day!" is a hit by members who receive it. It is a well prepared, full of information, recipes, Junior Grange, Youth

Grange, Grange Family, Grange heritage, games and crafts, and Grange events. For \$14.00 for four issues it is well worth the price. This is one of the best items that has come from the National Grange. If more subscriptions arrive then this magazine will continue. Scuttlebutt is that it may be shelved. This is the best that the National Grange has done and every family should subscribe to it. Forms are in the Granger, invest in this venture. I promise you won't be sorry!

This year I have decided not to have Community Grange inspections. Last year we had Grange surveys which were well received. Though we will not go to Community Granges, we will visit to see you in action. Keep up the good work that you do, but if you need help call me and I will come or send someone to answer your questions. This year with the new Pomona coming on line there won't be inspections of Pomona Granges. This year we are sending modified National Grange Leader handbooks to all Community Granges. These handbooks explain the duties of officers, committees, reports required by this State Grange and other informative information for all officers, committee chairpersons, members. Don't throw them in a desk drawer, read them, make it part of a Lecturer's program. They will answer most questions officers ask

us and can guide everyone to an understanding of the Grange Way.

We are still working on changes in the Northeast Grange events. To date there isn't a Leader's Conference. The Northeast Lecturers are not having a conference in August, the Youth is having a program in July. We are sending people to the mid-Atlantic Leader's Conference to see how they have combined their conference there. We in New England are confronted with the cost of these conferences and many Grangers pay for these out of their own pockets and wonder if they are getting the bang for the buck. They want programs that will benefit them not information of local interest. We need to build our leadership program to get new leaders involved in the Grange higher than the community level. If we can't get new leaders then our Pomona and State Grange will be limited in future leaders. Join the team and get involved. It's lonely at the top.

March is the month of St. Patrick and many a Grange will be hosting Corned Beef and Cabbage dinners. Get out and support them. Join the friendship and fun of the Irish. Just watch out for the Leprechauns for they will steal your gold and brew. Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Supreme Court Denies Appeal

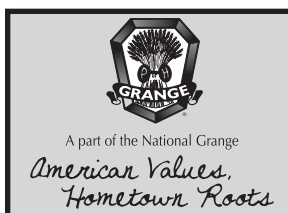
As many of you know, on November 30, the California Court of Appeal issued a lengthy, well-reasoned decision affirming the state trial court's judgment declaring that the California Guild must return all Grange property to the California State Grange. The Guild appealed that decision to the California Supreme Court. Its petition for review argued that the Court of Appeal had not properly stated the law applicable to fraternal organizations like the Grange, and erred in enforcing the rules of the National Grange.

On February 14, the Supreme Court denied the Guild's petition for review. In so doing, it confirmed that the Court of Appeal's reasoning and conclusion were correct statements of the facts and California law relevant to the Grange. The Supreme Court's ruling means that the appeal in the state court is now over, and the judgment entered in the trial court is final.

The California State Grange now is moving to recover control of its property, and to seek redress for any Grange property that the Guild has spent since 2013. It has filed a motion to appoint a receiver to immediately take possession of all property held by the Guild and transfer it to the California State Grange; that motion will be heard on February 23. The California State Grange has also filed a motion for summary judgment to establish the specific amount of Grange property that the Guild should have returned following the Charter revocation in 2013. That motion will be heard on March 5. If successful, the California State Grange will be permitted to collect money from the Guild to repay funds from Grange accounts spent by the Guild since 2013 for its own purposes. Finally, the California State Grange is analyzing its options to pursue individual officers of the Guild and other third parties to recover monies that they have wrongfully taken.

The Supreme Court's ruling represents the culmination of five long years of litigation in the state court. This victory would not have been possible without the perseverance, sacrifice, and resolute faith in our Order displayed by Grangers around the country. I want to thank every one of our brothers and sisters who helped make this victory possible, from those on the front lines in California, to the many Granges in other states whose members donated their time and money to support our efforts, to the countless Grangers who sent kind words and good thoughts that

Continued on page 2



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NEXT ISSUE . . .
Articles Due
Mar. 15

Appealing to Millennials

From the National Post



Millennials (folks born between 1980 and 2000) are the largest generation in human history. Why don't they make up the majority of members in our organization? What kind of membership benefits do this generation want?

Interest in membership of community organizations among millennials is on the rise. Notably, more so than their predecessors, Generation X and the Baby Boomers. Actually, interest in memberships among baby boomers is on the decline.

In terms of potentially engaging millennials as members, this is great news! But what it is that millennials want from a membership?

Millennials are an idealistic, altruistic generation that is passionate about social causes that benefit the greater good. As a whole, millennials tend to be generous with their time, money and influence. They freely use their social media platforms to raise awareness and money for causes important to them.

Climate, environment, civil justice, poverty and education are some of the top issues of concern. Millennials care about belonging, supporting and impact. They regard their resources, such as time, networks and money, as having equal values, resulting in individuals often going beyond monetary donations as a way to become personally invested in a cause.

They prefer technology to find volunteer opportunities online. They are most likely to get involved with organizations that offer a range of volunteer opportunities, from short- to long-term projects, especially those that allow them to lend their knowledge and expertise.

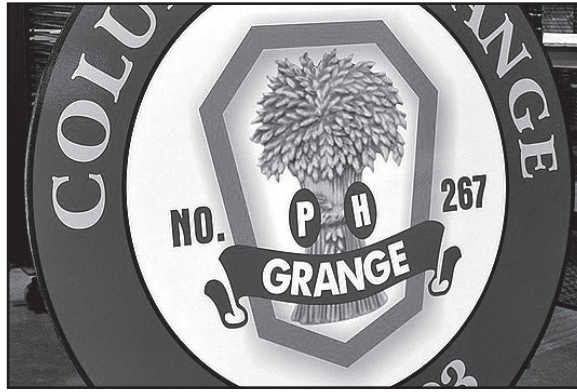
This information should help the Grange go about marketing membership in an attractive way to these potential members. With membership growth our communities will be better supported and our traditions can be continued. We can also grow in new ways or return some older programs so we don't miss opportunities to highlight our mission impact. We want to create long-term relationships with these young members.

In today's world, an organization's mission matters – and carrying out that mission is critical for an organization's solvency.

Can you think of programs we have done, are doing or could offer to entice some volunteering from this age group? It will give your Grange a chance to recruit and make some new connections in your area. Remember I am available for questions, comments and suggestions at membership_faith@ctstategrange.org.



The benefits of good exterior signage



Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

Did you know that 85% of your prospective members live within a 5-mile radius of your Grange? That means that they potentially see your sign from 40 to 60 times per month. If your Grange is having an event, 17% of those people may stop by just on impulse if their interest is peaked. Passersby would not realize that your Grange was even there unless it was properly marked.

Did you know that 13% to 20% of the population moves each year? That means your Grange has 13% to 20% of new residents to attract to your Grange through signage. Get them to notice you first, and second, become interested in your activities and events, and then work towards turning them into new members.

Is your Grange hosting a dinner, having a guest speaker, presenting a Community Award, or planning a community game night? Put up a sign or banner at your Grange Hall or meeting/event location

promoting the specific event at least a month in advance of the date. Folks can only attend if they know what is happening and that they are welcome. Signage is the most effective way to advertise and promote your Grange and events.

Replacing an existing sign also has its benefits. Installing a renovated sign or new sign can increase interest as much as 16%. Giving your old sign a new paint job is a fast and inexpensive way to get your Grange noticed.

Creative and attractive signage can only benefit your Grange. Need help on where to start? We can help! Email Terri at information@ctstategrange.org or Bob at publicrelations@ctstategrange.org today.

(Sources: <https://www.signs.com/blog/the-benefits-of-signage-infographic/> and <https://smallbiztrends.com/2013/06/business-signs-work.html>)

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

To pay by credit or debit card, fill out the information completely. Please note if you have a different billing address than mailing address above.

Card # _____ Visa MC Disc.

Exp. Date _____ CVC Code _____

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



Time to plan your Grange Month events

Betsy Huber, National Master

The Sesquicentennial Year of the Grange! One hundred fifty years of Grange work in America- what a milestone! This year should be filled with celebrations in every Grange, coast to coast, especially during April, Grange Month! We have a proud history of supporting, educating, advocating, and entertaining rural Americans. Very few organizations last for 150 years so this is our time to celebrate.

What do you think of when I say “That’s the Grange Way”? I think of American Values, Hometown Roots. Traditions and history. Honesty, trustworthiness, fidelity. Caring about others, helping our communities, helping others even far away. Civic participation. Interest in legislation and our government, from local to national. Holding leadership positions in your community. Using our hands to

make things for others – Quilts for the Brave, premie caps, mittens, the hundreds of items that Grangers everywhere make. Teaching others how to make or grow things. Being Doers. Teaching Sunday School or 4H Clubs or Scouts. Being proud of our history. Trying new things, but staying true to our roots and ritual.

This is our theme for 2018 Grange Month – “That’s the Grange Way.” Following up our Doers theme from 2017, it’s the Grange Way to be doers, to volunteer and give and contribute to life where we live. To teach the world how to get along, what faith, hope, and charity really mean in everyday life. How to love others even if you don’t like them or don’t agree with them. We want to tell the world what the Grange Way means, and why they should care, why they should want to join us and help with our efforts to improve lives from the grassroots up. In our nation where people are more sharply divided and combative every day, the Grange Way is needed now more than ever. It’s up to us to spread the Grange Way among our neighbors, friends, strangers, people who don’t look like us.

I hope you will take time to think about the Grange Way, discuss it in your meetings, and hold an open house to demonstrate it to others who will want to join the cause. The Grange has been an advocate for rural America for 150 years. Let us celebrate this year and work toward the vision for the next century!

For more information or to download and/or order promotional materials, please visit the National Grange website: www.NationalGrange.org

You're Invited to our Grange Month 2018 event

Date _____

Time _____

Place _____

Contact _____

www.nationalgrange.org

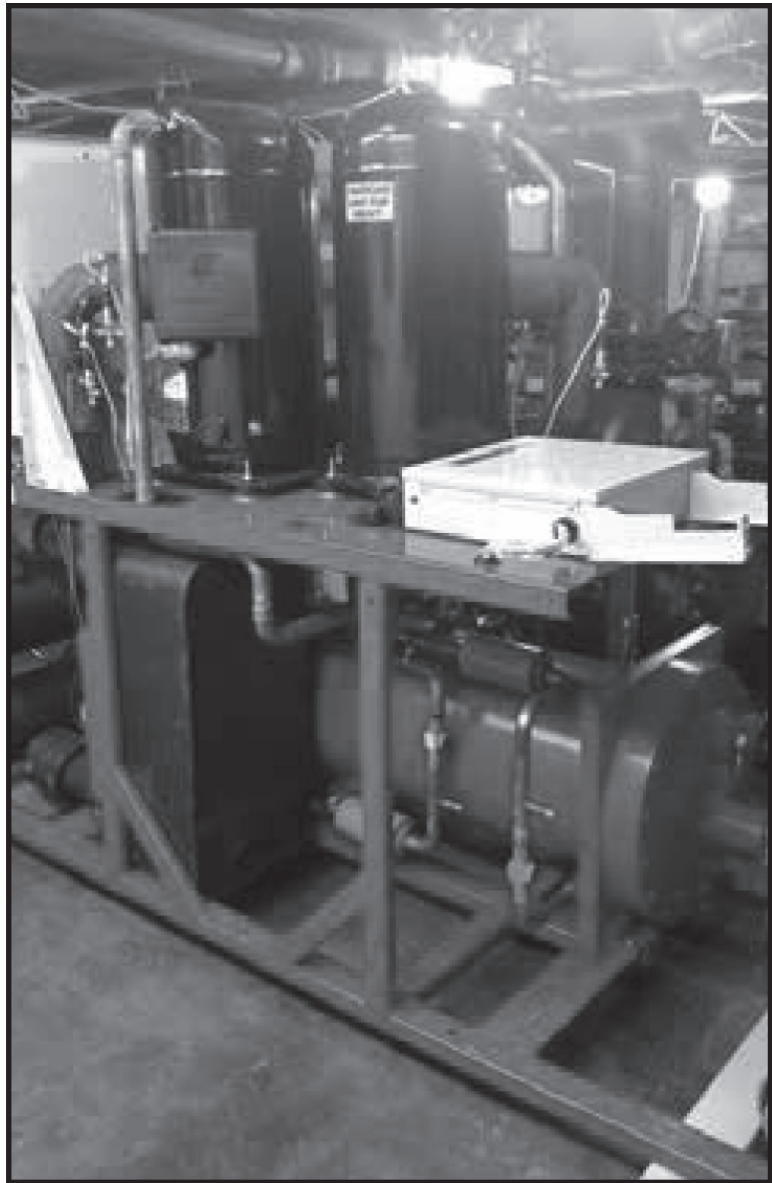
2018 Grange Month Posters available for download at www.NationalGrange.org

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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DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS
 News is due on the **5th Day** of each month and should be sent to:
 Connecticut State Grange
 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

“Chillin” at National



The new chiller for the National Headquarters building (Washington, D.C.) was delivered in late January with installation taking place in following weeks. While engaged in this project, it was determined that National needs a new boiler. Donations are still needed and are being accepted for the National Grange Building Fund.

2018-2019 National Officers

- Betsy E. Huber President (PA)
- F. Philip Prelli Vice President (CT)
- Leroy Watson Exec. Comm. Chair (NH)
- Lynette Schaeffer Exec. Comm. Secretary (IL)
- Duane Scott Exec. Comm. Member (WI)
- Steve Coye Exec. Comm. Member (NY)
- Christine Hamp Lecturer (WA)
- Judy Sherrod Secretary (TN)
- Barbara Borderieux Chaplain (FL)
- William “Chip” Narvel Steward (DE)
- John Plank. Asst. Steward (IN)
- Brenda Rousselle Lady Asst. Steward (VT)
- Dwight Baldwin Treasurer (IA)
- Christopher Johnston Gatekeeper (MI)
- Cindy Greer Ceres (CO)
- Susan Noah Pomona (OR)
- Welina Shufeldt Flora (OK)
- Bruce Croucher High Priest of Demeter (NY)
- James A. Owens Priest Annalist (ME)
- Roger Bostwick Priest Archon (KS)

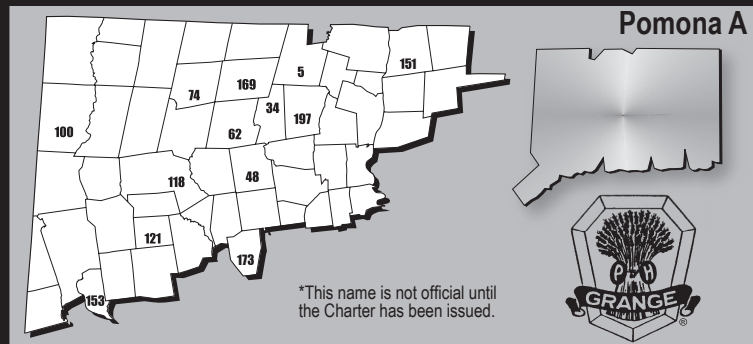
California Supreme Court Ruling

Continued from page one...
 helped sustain us while we waited for the lawsuit to run its course. This great result is a tribute to all of you, and it is a vindication of the fraternal values that bind our Order together.

Now, we can begin the process of bringing the state court litigation against the Guild to an end, and returning to the work of building our Order and serving our communities, as generations of Grangers have done since 1867. Actions on the two trademark cases are still pending in federal court but we hope they will soon be resolved also. I know that, when we all come together to work to advance the ideals of our Order, we can do great things.

Fraternally yours,
 —Betsy E. Huber

Mountain Laurel Pomona*



Granby No. 5
Cawasa No. 34
Whiggville No. 48
Eureka No. 62
Winchester No. 74
Taghhannuck No. 100
Beacon No. 118

Bethlehem No. 121
Enfield No. 151
Bridgewater No. 153
Riverton No. 169
Wolcott No. 173
Simsbury No. 197

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

March 13: St. Patrick's Day, Ref. Bill LaTulipe, Shanin Star

March 27: CWA Program, Ref. Craig Leifert

I'm sure we're all talking about the weather. It's March so spring really should be just around the corner. Let's all hope. In the meantime, join us for a Grange meeting. We would love to see you.

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

At our February meeting we draped our Charter in memory of Amy Whitcomb, a long-time and well-loved member of our Grange. Many Grangers wore their sashes at her memorial service held on February 7th in Cornwall.

Taghhannuck Grange again meets twice monthly starting this month at 7:30. The Graces will present the program on March 8th with Anything Goes.

Margaret Hopkins will present An Aerial Update on March 22nd.

Members loved the article "The Grange Chair" in last month's issue of the Granger. It brought back many memories about past Grange meetings. Our Grange has 33 chairs thanks to Stuart Prindle of Prindle Insurance Agency and sadly some from Granges that closed. We have members (and chairs) that came from closed Granges in Kent, Warren, Cornwall and Sharon (Silver Lake & Webetuck) and we found one chair in Falls Village with no idea who donated it.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

March 6: 7:30 P.M., Eloise Osuch, Refresh.

Apr. 7: Flea Market, 9-1 P.M.

Don't forget our Flea Market on Sat., Apr. 7 from 9-1 P.M. Bring your goodies for sale. You don't need anymore.

On January 10 we went to the Memorial Hall Community Meeting and presented them with a microwave oven or use by the hall. Thanks to Cheryl Johnstone who got it thanks to a program by Conaire Co. where she works.

We draped our charter in memory of Donald Wheeler.

Congratulations to Rob Buck, Overseer; Eloise Osuch, Treasurer and Al Maddox, Exec. Comm. For the new Mountain Laurel Pomona.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Apr. 7: The Story of Root Beer.

May 12: Famous Mothers -CWA Program

Please note the change in the April meeting Date. We usually meet on the second Saturday but have moved it up a week in order for us to be in the Spring Craft Fair on April 14 at Holy Family Church. They have reserved our spot right next to the door. This will be the only Fair we enter until the Summer Farmer's Market.

Illness has kept many home the last 2 months and flu season seems to be in full swing. I hope the spring sunshine brings healing to all.

Wolcott Chocolate Fundraiser



Wolcott Grange has partnered with CC's Chocolate for a delicious event! Make your own Easter Goodies. Limited space available!

Cost \$25 per person
Fun for the whole Family

You will make and take home:
Chocolate Bunny Pops • Chocolate Covered Oreos
• Chocolate Covered Pretzels

Watch a chocolate bunny being made.
Every participant receives a raffle ticket to win the bunny at the end of class!

Sunday, March 25, 2018
Class A - 12 P.M. Class B - 3 P.M.

Mail payment to: Wolcott Grange #173, 313 Boundline Road, Wolcott, CT 06716. Please include your name, payment, email for confirmation (if desired) and specify which class time you would like.

State Secretary



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

By the time you are reading this, your Grange should have received a large packet of materials from the State Grange. Please let me know if your Grange has not received it or if you have any questions.

PLEASE put the receipts from the 990N filing in a safe place. This is proof your Grange has filed its taxes.

We had hoped to be able to print information on the new Pomonas in the 2018 State Directory. Unfortunately, only one Pomona was complete as of February, so we had to proceed without them. It wouldn't have been fair to print one and not all three. Instead, we will print a supplemental sheet for Pomonas when all are organized and "ready to roll."

So. Connecticut Past Masters

The members of Southern Connecticut Past Masters will meet at Cheshire Grange on Saturday, March 10th. In place of the usual Potluck Supper, we will enjoy Cheshire's Corned Beef Dinner- time 6 o'clock. Reservations are a must. Call Marge Bernhardt.

Our regular meeting will be held following the dinner. The program is entitled "Something Ending in Green" to be presented by Vice President Cindy Legg. Our annual Election of Officers will be held during the business meeting. As usual, we will have a Country Store.



Please join us in Washington, D.C. on April 15-18, 2018 as we work with the 115th Congress and the Trump Administration on National Grange policy priorities. Spring is an extremely crowded and busy time in Washington, D.C. Tourists and students from around the country and abroad flock to Washington on spring trips making hotel rooms scarce. Appointments with Representatives and Senators are a challenge to confirm, therefore the National Grange encourages those members who will be attending the 2018 Fly-In to register, reserve hotel rooms, and make Capitol Hill appointments early.

Hotel Dates Ending Soon:

Our hotel is the Quality Inn Tysons Corner 1587 Spring Hill Road, Vienna, VA 22182. Phone is 703-448-8020. Our group

rate is \$109 +12% sales tax per night. The cut-off date to make a reservation at this rate is **March 15, 2018.**

The Quality Inn is located just northwest of the Capital Beltway (I-495) in Vienna, VA. The hotel provides free parking and is just one block from the Metro's Silver Line for travel to downtown Washington, D.C. The hotel also provides a complimentary full breakfast Monday-Friday 6:30 A.M. - 9:30 A.M. and 7:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M. on Saturday and Sunday.

Please make your reservations directly with the hotel and mention that you would like to book with the National Grange's block of rooms.

Schedule:

Sun., April 15: Arrival and check-in
Evening mix and mingle dessert social at the hotel

Mon., April 16: Issue briefings and speakers at the National Grange Agency Visits

Congress. Capitol Hill appointments
Tues., April 17: Congressional Capitol Hill appointments

Late day/evening departures for some
Wed., April 18: Finish Capitol Hill appoint.
Return home

For more information and online registration, visit: www.NationalGrange.org.

2018 National Quilt Block Contest

Tender Heart

(Credit to: Missouri Star Quilt Company)

Sherbet Pinks/Oranges
– 4 colors, 2 light and 2 dark – prints or solids

- Cut 4 strips, 2-1/2" x 10" (one of each color)
- Sew strips together (All seams are 1/4"), along the long side, to make a strip set.
- Strip set should measure 8-1/2" x 10". Press all seams.
- Cut strip set in half, length-wise, to make 2 rectangles. Each rectangle should measure 5" x 8-1/2".
- Flip one rectangle around so colors are reversed.

White

- Use 100% cotton, solid white for the corners.
- Cut 4 squares, 2-1/2" x 2-1/2".
- Cut 2 squares, 5" x 5"

Constructing the Quilt Block:

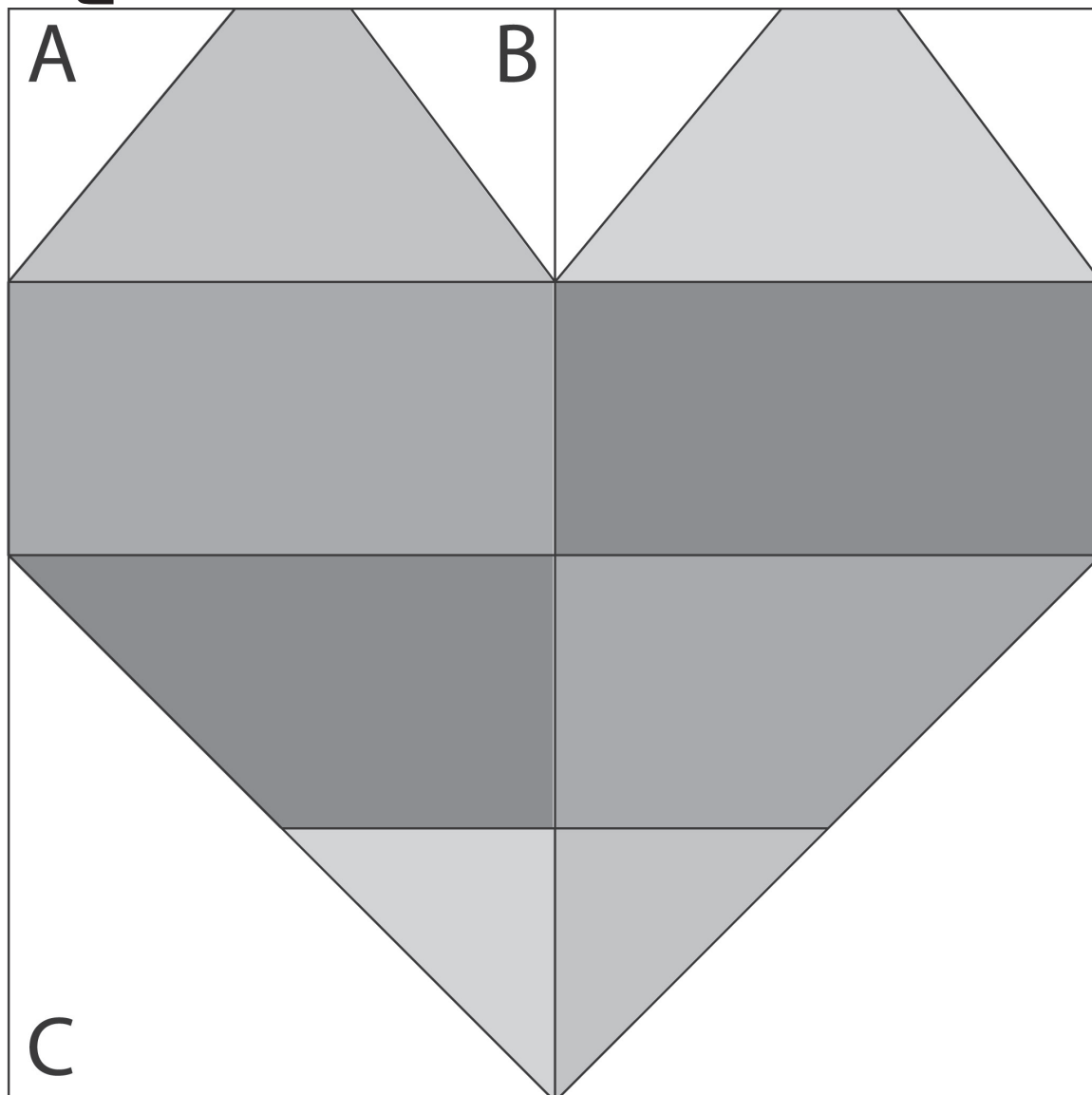
- Fold the four 2-1/2" white squares once on the diagonal and press the crease to mark a sewing line.
- Place a creased 2-1/2" white square on one corner of a 5" x 8-1/2" strip-pieced rectangle with right sides facing. Stitch on the sewing line, then trim the excess fabric 1/4" away from the sewn seam (A).
- Repeat for the adjacent side of the rectangle (B).

Make 2 and sew them together vertically.

- Fold the two 5" white squares once on the diagonal and press the crease to mark a sewing line (C).
- Place a creased 5" white square on top of one lower corner of the block with right sides facing. Stitch on the marked sewing line, then trim the excess fabric 1/4" away from the sewn seam.
- Repeat for the other side of the rectangle to make the bottom of the heart.
- Unfinished block is 8-1/2" x 9-1/2".

Rules:

- The National Grange Quilt Block Contest is open to both members and prospective members.
- All contest entries must be received by the National Grange Lecturer by **October 31, 2018**. Send entries to: Christine Hamp, National Lecturer, 16418 N. Birdie Road, Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026.
- Any entries received after the deadline will not be judged. However, all entries received will be exhibited at the 152nd Annual National Grange Convention in Stowe, Vermont.
- The Quilt Block you



enter in the contest for judging must be made by you.

- There is no limit on the number of quilt blocks a person may submit, but choose one quilt block per person to be judged.
- All entries will be retained by the National Grange to be made into finished quilts and will be sold at a later date

to raise funds for the Grange Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity. You will receive a donations letter from the Grange Foundation acknowledging your donation.

- A 2018 Quilt Block Entry Form must be completed for the block to be judged. Visit the National Grange website www.NationalGrange.org.

NationalGrange.org.

Groups:

- Group I – Adult (Age 14+)
- Group II – Junior (Age 13 and under)

Prizes:

- Monetary prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in both groups.
- Ribbons will be awarded to all entries.

Quilts of Valor



Brothers and Sisters,

I am thrilled to see the sew days, activity nights and all sorts of great events highlighting the 2018 National Grange Quilt Block Contest. Please send me photos of you quilting.

On February 6th I stopped by Green Bluff Grange #300 outside Spokane, Washington to see how their Quilt Block Party was doing – they were doing great!

I am also excited to already have received the first of the Tender Heart quilt

blocks in the mail. Thanks Kathryn Smith of Beaver Valley Grange #306 in Oregon for these two beauties.

I am looking for quilters who would be willing to make a Quilt of Valor to be presented to a Grange veteran. I am especially interested in identifying quilt makers in the 2018 National Grange Convention host states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont. If you are interested in joining this amazing project please contact me for details.

For additional information, I can be reached by email at lecturer@nationalgrange.org or by phone at 509.953.3533 (voice or text).

Be a DO-er!

Fraternally yours,
Christine E. Hamp
Lecturer
National Grange

Scrubbies Wanted



I have had some contact with people wanting to make scrubbies and have sent out instructions and patterns. Thank you to all who showed interest. I am still willing to meet with anyone who would like a hands-on demonstration. There have been questions regarding the Class A Afghan size. The rules say no smaller than a twin bed size. I am not going to insist on a measuring tape in judging. Please use common sense when making your afghan and this will avoid any arguments.

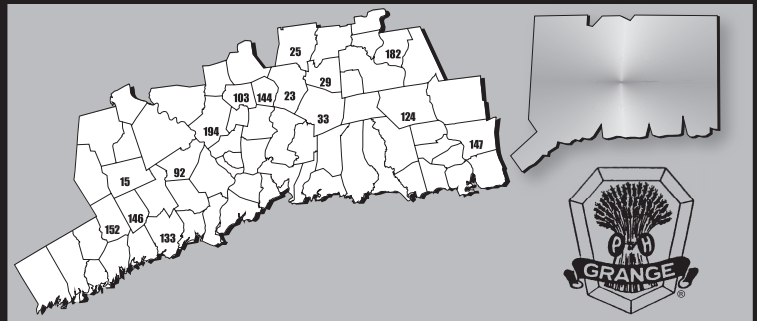
Social Connection... where it all started

Joanne Cipriano, Social Connection Director

Plans are in progress for our annual dinner to be held at Cheshire Grange on Saturday, April 28. Tickets are available around the State or you can call me or Barbara. Price \$10.00 We started the dinners with a mystery theme and we are ending it with a mystery theme. To help us in making plans, please purchase your ticket early.

We will have a country store. Please put your donations in a paper bag.

POMONA B



Redding No. 15	Greenfield Hill No. 133
Cheshire No. 23	Prospect No. 144
Southington No. 25	Norfield No. 146
Meriden No. 29	Lyme No. 147
Wallingford No. 33	Cannon No. 152
Harmony No. 92	Hemlock No. 182
Beacon Valley No. 103	Oxford No. 194
Higganum No. 124	

MERIDEN GRANGE #29

Corr: Robert Charbonneau

Mar 9: Business Meeting, 7:30 PM

Mar 23: Business Meeting, 7:30 PM

Mar 24: Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

After our regular business meetings, we hold a Social with hot coffee and snacks. Our Literary Programs are announced at each meeting.

Meriden Grange No. 29 of 540 Broad Street, Meriden, will hold a Family Style Corned Beef & Cabbage Supper on Saturday, March 24, 2018 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.

For 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@meridengrange.org, or visit <http://www.MeridenGrange.org>.

HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: George Ward

March 9: Regular Meeting at 7:30 P.M., Ref. at 6:30 P.M. Lecturer's Program to be announced later.

Harmony Grange had a very, very successful Christmas Fair on Dec. 2 at the Grange hall. Although the hall cannot be reached directly from Route 110

because of the construction of the roundabout, the attendees found the hall, thanks to the placement of signs, directing them to the hall. The success of the Fair can be contributed to the many hours spent in the preparation for the fair. The better the preparation, the better the success of the fair.

At our December meeting, those responsible for the Fair were honored with a cake. At the same meeting, our newest Past Master, George Ward, was honored for his long service to Harmony Grange and part of the cake was decorated to him.

Harmony Grange is still negotiating with the State of Connecticut for the taking of the Grange property in the construction of the roundabout. We have legal counsel and expect the final payment to be made soon.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our March meeting will be held on the 9th. Lecturer Judi Reynolds will present her program entitled "St. Patrick's - St. Joseph - Easter." Carole Mancini will be the host for the social hour. Have your appetite ready for some delicious Irish soda bread.

Plans will be made for our next tag sale. To our stay-at-home members, if you have any treasurers we could use them.

Ron Fischer will hold the next Open Mic on Saturday, March 17th. Time 2 to 5. As usual we invite everyone to come and enjoy the music or participate. Snack food will be available - As always everything free of charge.

Thanks to everyone who have been keeping our

Grange active. My sister Pat and I spent the whole month of December and the beginning of January home with bronchitis. We missed all the Christmas and New Year festivities. Now that we are raring to go it's too cold to go anywhere. This too will change.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: James and Lori Golias

With January upon us, the frigid cold is playing havoc with our heating oil and bills -- Pray for Spring!

Our 125th anniversary plans are underway. A banner was purchased and now decorates the Grange exterior stating the years 1893 to 2018 -- 125 years and still going strong. A Committee was formed and a date was chosen for our celebration. Please SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, April 29, 2018. Join us from 2:00pm until 4:30pm the Greenfield Hill Grange. 1873 Hillside Road in Fairfield. Access: two small steps. If you need information about the celebration please contact Geno 203-371-1909.

A Valentine's day dinner is planned for February 10, Saturday at 6 PM. The menu: Stuffed Boneless Breast of Chicken and all the fixings, Donation: of \$20. Call Jim for reservation: 203-259-8023.

Our annual Spring Flea Market will be held on April 21 from 10 to 3. Some people's junk is another person's treasure. Come and check it out. Also, vendor tables are available. Call Steve 203-367-4373.

The Groundhog saw his shadow, but we can Still HOPE for an EARLY Spring! Best wishes to all.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

March 1: Lion or Lamb? CWA Contest for 2018

Apr. 5: 1st & 2nd Degrees. Will the Deputy come?

May 3: Time to get your garden ready.

That old man winter is sending us some very cold weather and on top of that some snow. So-o-o we postponed our meeting from the first Thursday to the second Thursday and am hoping the weather pattern will change.

New CWA pamphlets

will be passed out and since one of our new members is a prolific knitter- hopefully she will enter something.

The Scouts used our building and yard to sell Christmas trees and wreaths. They usually do very well.

Our very accomplished computer expert has been at it again. Norman Stitham has compiled a wonderful calendar for us. Each page, not only has colored photos of local places but pictures of recent events. Pictures of people receiving certificates for years of membership, along with photos of our six new members. Events at our Grange hall are noted on the appropriate day to remind us (in case we forget). It is easy to forget sometimes.

Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and will enjoy a very happy, healthy new 2018.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

March 1: Program: Raising Backyard Chickens

March 15: Business Meeting

March 24: Silent Movie Night

April 19: Program: Wine-Making at Home

The bitter cold weather in the early new year brought problems with our well pump at our historic Grange Hall. With our pump service vendor and two of our members' assistance, Doug Shepherd and Don Offinger, we were able to overcome the problems with heat and water.

We extend our condolences to BillieSue & Dale Hollingsworth on the recent passing of BillieSue's mom.

In a few weeks time, we will be hosting several informative programs in our Healthy Living series of topics. Back by popular demand and in conjunction with the Ridgefield Discovery Center, we will be co-hosting the program on raising backyard chickens. Bil Mikulewicz will lead the audience in a lively and interactive discussion of his journey with raising and nurturing chickens at his home.

Our annual evening of silent movies with live piano music takes place on Saturday evening, March

24th. Tickets are \$5 per person. The evening will be four features of Laurel & Hardy with promises of hilarity and a very good time. John Mucci will be at the piano. Doors open at 7 PM, and the first film rolls at 7:30 PM.

Mid-April will present John Kriz with a fascinating program on making wine at home. John has produced wine from not only grapes, but also fruit such as elderberry.

One of our local Brownie troops meets at our Hall once a month, and we are glad for them to call our Hall their home.

Visiting Patrons are always welcome, won't you join us?

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Rob Buck

March 2: Ready for Spring? 7:30 PM

March 16: Spring at Last! Pizza and Planning Party, 7:00 PM


March 30: G.O.M.A.D. Music and Dance, 7:00 PM

As winter continues, I have seen signs of work on the handicapped ramp progressing as Selectman Jeff Haney has the time to give to the project. Over the winter, we have had furnace tune-up work done and plan to have installed a refurbished burner for the cost of the installation only thanks to Tom at Oxford Oil Co.

Come spring, work on the outside Graces Garden will continue thanks to Rays Hodgson. This space is really shaping up nicely. As this is written back in the closing days of January, plans are underway for "Green Gold 2.0," a lecture and discussion series to occur from February into March. It follows last years program, and should be fascinating. Raye Hodgson and husband Randolph Brown, as well as Nancy Prior and husband Rich Wilber are planning this as I write. Nancy is studying currently for Master Gardener certification. Come on out and learn about plant growing!

Keep in mind April 21st, 6:00 PM for the Chili Cook-Off, and June 2, 6:00 PM for the Pizza Tasting and Judging Contest.

MARCH 1ST
7PM




THE CANNON GRANGE
25 CANNON ROAD
WILTON CT

THE CANNON GRANGE AND DISCOVERY CENTER AT RIDGEFIELD
PRESENT


**BACKYARD CHICKENS
OR
ONE MAN'S JOURNEY WITH A BUNCH
OF
DUMB CLUCKS**

Bil Mikulewicz, a three year veteran in keeping chickens, will walk you through all the steps getting and establishing a home for these fascinating and occasionally frustrating creatures. Bil will relate bits of history, humor, and draw on his experience to relate which matters are really important, perhaps even egg you on to start your own journey with these very interesting and unique animals



THE CANNON GRANGE
25 CANNON ROAD
WILTON CT

FREE
ADMITTANCE



“Down on the Farm”



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer
lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Your Northeast Grange Lecturers have been hard at work. I have just returned from a meeting with what I consider good news. We are in the midst of putting a Program Help book together which will be mailed to all Lecturers in the Northeast as soon as all the information is in and gets printed. You may even have received it already. If not, watch your mailbox for it.

As you probably know, it was announced that there would not be a Northeast Lecturers' Conference in 2018. This is still the case. However one is being planned for 2019. It will be held in Massachusetts.

This should be a shorter, more convenient travel for us here in Connecticut. The Title of the conference will be “Down on the Farm”. Don't be fooled by this title. Do you eat? Do you knit or crochet with wool yarn? Do you sleep between cotton sheets? None of these things would be possible without the farmer. The conference will take on a new look with things being done differently. Suggestions that people have made have been incorporated into the schedule. As I get more information I will get it out to everyone.

As the March winds blow, our Grange activities escalate. It has been a bad winter for lots of Granges as the weather just didn't seem to want to cooperate with us. Meetings have been cancelled with just special meetings held to pay the bills and act on other important matters.

It still seems strange not to have been holding Pomona meetings this

winter. As our new Pomona get started we all need to be on hand to give them the help needed. I know who two of the Lecturers are and know that they will give their all. This will be a new experience for all three Pomona Lecturers. They will want to keep all the Granges in their Pomona involved, but won't be that familiar with the people in some of their Granges. PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP THEM!

Don't forget that the “A Number” and Talent Contest entries go directly to State for judging. Every Grange should be able to do an “A Number”. The title should have something to do with a Vacation. It can be a good vacation, a bad vacation, a funny one or a serious one. Any number that can be used for a Grange program is eligible. This years' contests will be held at Cheshire Grange Hall on Sunday, June 10, beginning at 1:00 p.m. sharp. I will be asking everyone to give me the names of their entries.

See you around the State.

Greenfield Hill Grange #133
Celebrating 125 years!
1873 Hillside Road
Fairfield, CT




St. Patrick's Day

Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

6:00 pm
(Doors open 5:30)
March 17, 2018
(snow date: March 18th)



Entertainment:
The Mulkerin Irish Dancers
7:30pm

For reservations call
Jim at 203-259-8023
Steve at 203-367-4373

Reservations by March 10th
No tickets sold at the door
Donation \$20.00 per person

 Follow us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/Greenfield.Hill.Grange>

BYOB

Camp Berger Hockey



The 3rd Annual Berger Pond Hockey Tournament held on Saturday, January 27th was a huge success. No worries about ice this year there was plenty with it being at least 16” thick! 34 kids teams ages 6-16 played hockey on 10 rinks on top of the Pond. The smiles and laughter were contagious and a great time was had by all! All tournament players and attendees filled their bellies with delicious food - breakfast, lunch & drinks by the famous “Ted's Steamed Cheeseburgers” of Meriden, CT and Recently Named Top 10 Burgers in the Country! Please Save the Date for next year: Sat., Jan. 26th, 2019 come out and cheer on the teams.

SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us on
April 29, 2018
2 - 4:30 pm

As we celebrate the
125th Anniversary
of the
Greenfield Hill Grange #133

Greenfield Hill Grange # 133
1873 Hillside Road, Fairfield, CT



**Meriden Grange
Family Style
Corned Beef &
Cabbage Dinner
March 24**

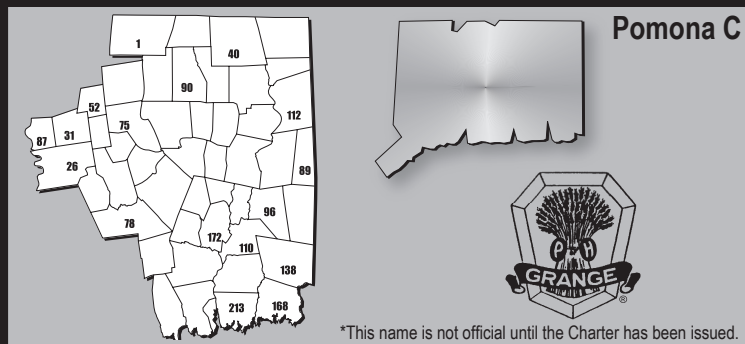
5 to 6:30 PM

540 Broad
Street,
Meriden, CT



\$12 Adults, \$6 Children
Takeouts Available
Open To The Public
540 Broad Street, Meriden, CT

E. Connecticut Pomona



*This name is not official until the Charter has been issued.

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	Stonington No. 168
Colchester No. 78	Norwich No. 172
Hillstown No. 87	Groton No. 213
Ekonk Community No. 89	

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

March 1: March Winds Ref. Robert and Doris Nordstrom

March 10: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party 7:00 p.m.

Apr. 5: April Showers - Skit Night

Apr. 14: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party 7:00 p.m.

Glastonbury members decided at our February 1st meeting to hold an OPEN MEETING/Open House at our April 5th meeting.

A letter has gone out to all our members asking for "HELP" from all. The secretary is asking all members to furnish names and addresses from "friends and/or relatives (prospective members) that an invitation can be sent out to inviting them to the April meeting. Hopefully we can gain at least 6 new members. Hopefully I am not thinking to high.

Our new banner that we received from National Grange, hopefully can be put up on the outside of the hall. Dan, our Master, is going to ask permission from the Masons' to put it up.

Now to think of some more ideas to add fun and interest to the evenings events.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

March 1: Spring

Surviving through this wacky winter, most Grangers are healthy and have listened to our health and wellness comments,

awaiting the return of our snow birds. Hope they have an early spring.

We had the sad duty of draping our charter for Sister Alice Williams, a great baker, mentor and friend. She was 104 years old dying on her birthday. She was granted the wish to beat her sister who died at 103 years young. She will be deeply missed.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

As I write this, we are practicing weekly for the annual program we enjoy taking to our friends in Richmond, RI. Lots of fun, Juniors showcasing their talents as well as songs and jokes! We voted to hold a cupcake contest at our April 2nd meeting, when Richmond brings us their FUN program! Rules are on our Facebook page, sent via Paulette's vast e-mail list or you can contact me.

The Juniors received 10 ski passes at the local R.I. winter ski area, courtesy of our member, Jim Thevenet, who volunteers there throughout the ski season! As of this writing about 15 plan to enjoy the winter fun! The Juniors enjoyed an "Artique Painting" class as well as a visit from the Dennison Pequot Nature Sepsis. The transfer of land, currently used by our Grange, from the Gray's to the Grange is now complete. Thanks to Andrea Truppa-Gagas (our LAS) for lending her expertise to the legal documents!

March 7th, we will serve

a luncheon for farmers associated with the local company "V-Town". March 17th will be our Corned Beef and Cabbage Supper at 5:00 p.m. as well as the first in our Spring series of Square and Round Dances, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

March 25th, Tom Sweet Jr. and his fiancé, Katie Molodich, will be putting on an all you can eat Pancake Breakfast from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m. featuring their own maple syrup!

March 30th we will hold our annual Good Friday Chowder n' clam cake supper, which also includes corn chowder. We have begun our spring activities so we are a busy crew! Congratulations to our member, David Griffiths, who as an affiliate member of Killingly Grange, has taken the helm as their Master!

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

Mar. 5: Reg. Meeting or Call

Mar. 19: Reg. Meeting or Call

Apr. 2: Reg. Meeting

Killingly Grange #112 held their Jan. meeting on Sat. the 27th at 2 P.M. As we will be doing in Feb. during the winter months for the convenience of our elderly members. It was also a busy day as we had to drape the Charter for our Past Master and Golden Sheaf member Eleanor Davis who passed away earlier in the month. Her church held a lovely service, if you call a funeral service lovely. I'm sure Eleanor is at peace in that glorious Grange above.

Installation of our new Master David Griffiths was also held on Jan. 27. This is a "first" for us at Killingly Grange in many years – as he is the first male Master since Mervin Whipple. Best of luck, David. The Grange members will help you as much as possible. Just ask!

Our Blue Grass Show in the evening was well attended preceded by a chili dinner put on by Bruce Kohl and Committee. Mildred Briggs provided the lovely apple pies for dessert.

David Griffith and wife Sue and Glenna Bruno attended the new Eastern Connecticut Pomona meeting held at Ekonk Community Grange. More on that in the Granger. Our St. Pauly collection of "good clothes" is still going on. We do receive a monetary stipend from that and we Grangers don't have to work to earn it.

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

March 9: "A Superior Man is Modest in His Speech, but Exceeds in his Actions."

March 23: "Success Depends on Previous Preparation, and Without Such Preparation there is Sure to be Failure."

Our January meeting was a bit thin of company, it being a very cold, very rainy evening.

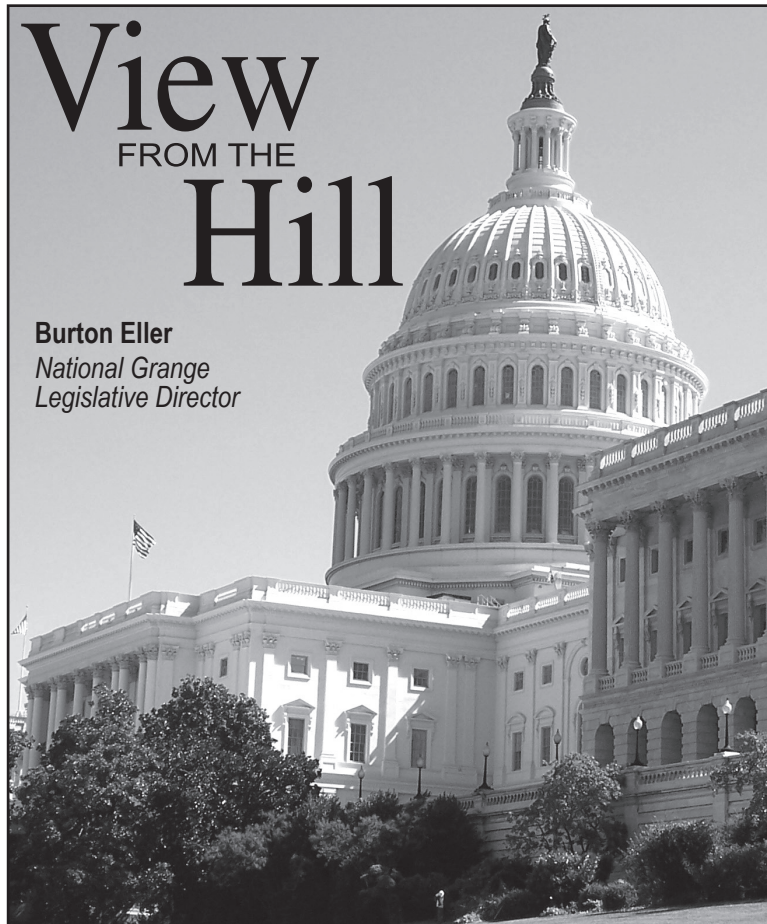
Our Gatekeeper and his mom were in Hartford because he had been chosen to sing in the all-state chorus. Way to go, Jason! We are so proud of you! At the meeting Mike Riley, President of the North Stonington Agricultural Fair (and our newest member) explained the changes and updates to the water system on the grounds and other repairs and improvements needed. The Grange voted to agree to the implementation of these changes. The Ag. and Conservation Committee was in charge of the program and provided us with some interesting facts about natural foods and some humor from the Old Farmer's Almanac.

Our March 9 meeting is Ritual and Officer exchange night. On March 23 we will be treated to Sue's entry in the State Lecturer's contest. And if that cayenne pepper will just keep those pesky squirrels away from my bird's suet, next time I'll tell you about fabulous February.

Vernon's 90 Year Member



Vernon Grange #52 was saddened by the loss of its oldest member, Faith Lyman, on February 8. Faith was a faithful member all her life and held many offices in the Grange. She joined Vernon Grange on March 3rd, 1928, which would have made her a 90-year member next month. "Well done good and faithful servant." (Picture - Master Nancy Strong presenting Faith with her 80th-year recognition letter from National Grange)



Burton Eller
National Grange
Legislative Director

SOME GOOD NEWS

The U.S. economy is off to a good start this year according to the major professional services and accounting from CliftonLarsonAllen. Here are several factors that will influence the 2018 economy:

Positives:

- Employment is strong
- Housing market is firm
- Risk of recession appears low
- Consumer and small business confidence is high
- U.S. corporate earnings are positive

Negatives:

- Stocks and bonds 7-10 year returns are expected to be lower than historical averages
- Geopolitical risks (terrorism) are present
- U.S. policy uncertainty (trade, health care, immigration, etc.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP SPEAKS TO RURAL AMERICA

In April, 2017, President Trump established the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity chaired by Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. On January 8, 2018, the President and Secretary Perdue traveled to Nashville where the President delivered his Rebuilding Rural America address, his first major speech targeted toward agriculture and rural areas. The President and Secretary Perdue took this opportunity to unveil the task force recommendations to the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau. While there, the President also signed

two executive orders making rural Broadband connectivity a priority of the Administration. Burton Eller was invited to represent the National Grange as a VIP guest of the White House for the President's speech and signing of the executive orders.

The major Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity recommendations are:

- Achieving e-Connectivity for Rural America (fundamental catalyst to transform rural America)
- Improving Quality of Life (education, health services, rural housing, infrastructure, community resiliency)
- Supporting a Rural Workforce (available, reliable, trained, skilled, educated)
- Harnessing Technological Innovation (sound science, biotechnology, research, development, productivity)
- Developing the Rural Economy (access to capital, natural resources, regulatory reform, global market, infrastructure, tax reform)

FARM BILL

Work Officially Begins

The House Agriculture Committee plans to officially begin work February 14 on the 2018 Farm Bill. Unofficial work on the bill has been ongoing for months at the staff and leadership levels at both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees. As Grangers know, farm bill legislation covers much more than farms and farmers; it also includes conservation, trade, forestry, energy, credit for beginning farmers,

infrastructure, jobs, research, and nutrition. In fact, 80 percent of farm bill spending is for food assistance and feeding programs. The more traditional role of the farm bill protects against farm losses due to natural disasters through disaster assistance and crop insurance. It also provides a cushion for the individual producer who suffers a poor yield or low prices through a series of farm payment programs tied to specific commodities.

Dairy and Cotton "Fixes"

The safety net /loss protection programs for dairy and cotton in the last farm bill have not worked as envisioned. As a result, dairy and cotton producers have suffered disproportionate price loss compared to other commodities. Lawmakers hope to address stronger provisions for dairy and cotton in a disaster relief bill or an omnibus spending bill to get these costly provisions out of the way before the farm bill debate heats up. Should that not happen, dairy and cotton could become stumbling blocks in farm bill negotiations later on.

Food Stamps and Crop Insurance in Play

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or food stamps, continues to consume the lion's share of farm bill expenditures with 42 million people receiving SNAP benefits. USDA and some Republican members of Congress are looking at work requirements for able-bodied SNAP recipients. Another large farm bill expense item is crop insurance where USDA subsidizes premium costs to the producer. Several groups and some Democratic members of Congress are calling for an annual subsidy cap of \$50,000. With calls from constituents to fund new farm bill programs and expand crop insurance for beginning farmers, vegetable growers and organic producers amid tough budget constraints, Congress will be challenged to find savings wherever they can. SNAP and crop insurance will be major hurdles for farm bill negotiations. The \$1.5 trillion tax cut passed by Congress last month could make passing a farm bill more difficult by starving programs of funds.

HEALTH CARE

ObamaCare Becomes

More Acceptable

Congress has steadily been taking the sting out of ObamaCare. In the last two months, they have repealed the law's insurance mandate and delayed a slew of controversial taxes including the so-called Cadillac tax on high-cost private health plans. More popular provisions of the law, including subsidies to help people buy coverage, expansion of Medicaid, and protections for people with pre-existing conditions, remain in place. People who qualify for the subsidies can find affordable coverage but those who do not qualify face much higher premium costs.

CHIP Agreement Passed

With strong bipartisan support, Congress has extended the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) through 2023. The \$124 billion federal expenditure will provide six years coverage to nearly 9 million children and 275,000 pregnant women.

Work Requirements for Medicaid?

Guidelines could be released soon by the Trump Administration to require Medicaid recipients to work in order to receive coverage. Work requirements would only take effect if a state chooses to apply for a waiver from the federal government to impose work requirements. Currently nine states are applying to impose work requirements.

IMMIGRATION

Immigration Shuttles the Government

While not readily apparent to the public, the three day government shutdown in mid-January was more about immigration than funding the government. The bottom line was that Senate minority Leader Schumer (R-NY) and President Trump reached an impasse on an immigration deal. Schumer wanted to protect 700,000 so-called Dreamer/DACA immigrants from deportation and offered the President a \$25 billion border wall. We're not sure what the President's counter offer was, but it caused Schumer to pull back his border wall offer and the federal government closed down for three days.

Congress Looks for Agreement

Behind the scenes, lawmakers from both parties

continue to look for common agreement ground. A bipartisan group of Senators, Flake (R-AZ), Durbin (D-IL), and Graham (R-SC), are working on a deal that includes legal protection for Dreamers, border security, and restrictions on family migration also known as "chain migration." On the House side, a group of 150 representatives are supporting a bill by Goodlatte, (R-VA), Labrador, (R-ID), McSally (R-AZ) and McCaul, (R-TX).

Their package would allow DACA recipients a three-year renewal of legal status, but with no special pathway to citizenship (though they could apply for citizenship through normal legal pathways). It would also reduce legal immigration by 25 percent, add border control agents, and deny certain funding to so-called "sanctuary cities". The big question is whether Congress will attempt major comprehensive immigration reform or settle for a few targeted reforms like Dreamers and border wall.

Ag Workers Included

The House bill also includes the AG Act that was reported out of the House Judiciary Committee in October and strongly supported by the agriculture and food communities. The AG Act creates a new H-2C program that authorizes a 2-year work permit for work in agriculture, establishes an E-Verify system, caps worker numbers at 450,000 and requires health insurance coverage. The National Grange is a member of the Agriculture Workforce Coalition and is working to include the AG Act in any immigration legislation considered by Congress.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Legislation to upgrade our nation's neglected highways, bridges, broadband, locks, dams, water systems and other public assets may have a good chance to garner bipartisan support from Congress. The tax bill is done. Next come the budget (the continuing resolution expires February 8) and immigration battles. Infrastructure brings up the rear of major legislative initiatives for 2018 and is far less partisan than taxes, budgets and immigrants. Every congressional district has serious infrastructure concerns.

President Trump pushed his \$1.5 trillion

...continued on page 11

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 Elizabeth Roman about the December Window photo — “I’m the the second person in the back row (lady with glasses) on the December picture. It is from Grange #147. Don’t know what it’s all about.”

We also heard from Janet Haller about the October issue photo. She identified Bob and May Mitchell in the center, and J. Vlasto Visny on the right. She believes the woman on the left is Norma Gleason, who was Lady Assistant. The photo is from Pohtatuck Grange, in the Spring of 1976.

Janet also thinks that in the December photo, the woman to the right of Virginia LaPutz may be her mother.

We didn’t have any responses regarding the photo in the February issue.



View from the Hill

Continued from page 9...

infrastructure plan in his State of The Union address. His plan calls for 25 percent of infrastructure funding to be devoted to rural areas defined as areas with less than 50,000 population. A key question is how much funding would come from the federal government and how much would need to be funded by public-private partnerships. The National Grange is a member of the Rebuild Rural Coalition which is pushing for several rural infrastructure priorities including rural Broadband deployment.

A TOUCH OF COMMON SENSE

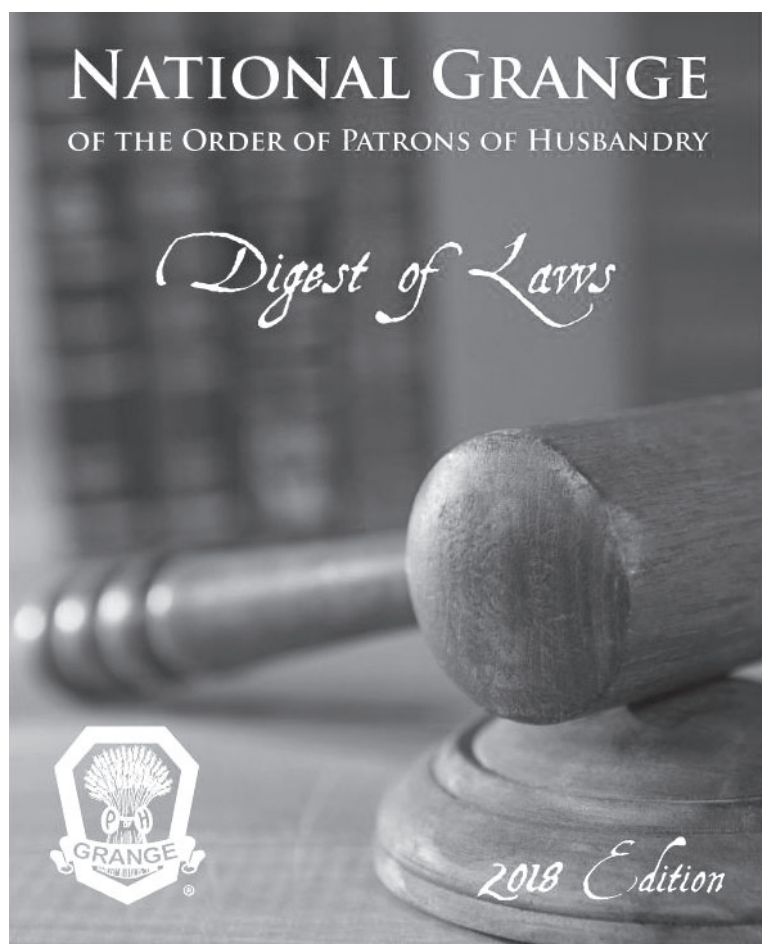
“Common sense is not so common.” *Voltaire*

“It is the ability to take a joke, not make one, that proves you have a sense of humor.” *Max Eastman*

“Good health and good sense are two of life’s greatest blessings.” *Pubilius Syrus*

“The three great essentials to achieve anything worthwhile are hard work, stick-to-itiveness and common sense.” *Thomas Edison*

“Horse sense is the thing a horse has which keeps it from betting on people.” *W.C. Fields*



The revised National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry Digest of Laws, 2018 Edition, that applies to all Granges of the Order, including Junior, Subordinate, State and Pomonas, is available for free download on the National Grange website: www.NationalGrange.org.

You may also order a printed copy of the Digest through the Grange Supply Store for \$20 plus shipping. It includes all 112 pages with cover, three hole punched and bound in a three-ring binder that allows you to quickly slip in updated pages as they become available each year.

There were a few changes in 2018, mainly regarding language about trusts, now referred to as custodial accounts. Please do take time to familiarize yourself with the Digest.

Norfield Barn Dance



The 5th Annual Barn Dance & Chili Dinner held on Sat., Jan. 20th was well attended by a group of all ages from Weston & beyond. All enjoyed a fun filled evening of delicious food, dancing called by the renowned Billy Fischer accompanied by live music - Bill Walach playing mandolin & David Howard on guitar. Simultaneously there was a roaring bonfire on the side lawn where dancers cooled off while roasting marshmallows.

“Paperless” Washington

Burton Eller, National Leg. Director

It’s not shocking that politics in Washington, D.C. are often detached from the real-world needs of Americans outside the Beltway. There’s a campaign by federal agencies to quietly force citizens to go paperless before they’re ready. Never mind that the digital divide is real. Never mind that 40 percent of seniors do not even use a computer, or that over 23 million rural and small town citizens lack Broadband access.

The Social Security Administration stopped mailing earnings statements forcing workers to enter sensitive data online to see their earnings, all the while hoping they’re on the right site. Now the Securities and Exchange Commission wants

to allow mutual funds to force e-delivery of fund performance reports, potentially exposing unsuspecting shareholders to scammers. These examples run on and on.

The digital transition of our economy will not be reversed, yet we need to ensure that government facilitates it without forcing it on millions of Americans who may not be equipped to manage it. Citizens should be able to retain the choice of managing their affairs in a way that makes sense to them. That means allowing folks to automatically keep their paper preferences and opt-in to electronic delivery if they want to, not the other way around. That’s the Grange message in Washington.

15 St. Patrick Fun Facts

St. Patrick’s Day is a cultural and religious celebration that happens annually on March 17 to mark the death date of the most commonly recognized patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick. The website MentalFloss.com shared this list of “fun facts” about the holiday a few years ago:

1. We Should Really Wear Blue

St. Patrick himself would have to deal with pinching on his feast day. His color was “Saint Patrick’s blue,” a light shade. The color green only became associated with the big day after it was linked to the Irish independence movement in the late 18th century.

2. Saint Patrick was British

Although he made his mark by introducing Christianity to Ireland in the year 432, Patrick wasn’t Irish himself. He was born to Roman parents in Scotland or Wales in the late fourth century.

3. The Irish take Saint Patrick’s Day seriously

As you might expect, Saint Patrick’s Day is a huge deal in his old stomping grounds. It’s a national holiday in both Ireland and Northern Ireland.

4. So do New Yorkers

New York City’s Saint Patrick’s Day Parade is one of the world’s largest parades. Since 1762, 250,000 marchers have traipsed up Fifth Avenue on foot- the parade still doesn’t allow floats, cars, or other modern trappings.

5. Chicago feels lucky, too

New York may have more manpower, but Chicago has a spectacle all its own. The city has been celebrating St. Patrick by dumping green dye into the Chicago River since 1962. It takes 40 tons of dye to get the river to a suitably festive shade!

6. It used to be a dry holiday

For most of the 20th century, Saint Patrick’s Day was considered a strictly religious holiday in Ireland, which meant that the nation’s pubs were closed for business on March 17. (The one exception went to beer vendors at the big national do show, which was always held on Saint Patrick’s Day.) In 1970, the day was converted to a national holiday, and the stout resumed flowing.

7. It’s the thought that counts

Not every city goes all-out in its celebratory efforts. From 1999 to 2007, the Irish village of Dripsey proudly touted that it hosted the Shortest Saint Patrick’s Day Parade in the World. The route ran for 26 yards between two pubs. Today, Hot Springs, Arkansas claims the title for brevity – its brief parade runs for 98 feet.

8. There’s a reason for the shamrocks

How did the shamrock become associated with Saint Patrick? According to Irish legend, the saint used the three-leafed plant as a metaphor for the Holy Trinity when he was first introducing Christianity to Ireland.



9. Cold Weather helped Saint Patrick’s legend

In Irish lore, Saint Patrick gets credit for driving all the snakes out of Ireland. Modern scientists suggest that the job might not have been so hard – according to the fossil record, Ireland never has been home to any snakes. Through the Ice Age, Ireland was too cold to host any reptiles, and the surrounding seas have staved off serpentine invaders ever since. Modern scholars think the “snakes” Saint Patrick drove away were likely metaphorical.

10. There’s no corn in that beef

Corned beef and cabbage, a traditional Saint Patrick’s Day staple, doesn’t have anything to do with the grain corn. Instead, it’s a nod to the large grains of salt were historically used to cure meats, which were also known as “corns.”

11. The world runs up quite a bar tab

All of the Saint Patrick’s Day revelry around the globe is great news for brewers. A 2012 estimate pegged the total amount spent on beer for St. Patrick’s Day celebrations at \$245 million. And that’s before tips to pubs’ bartenders.

12. It could have been Saint Maewyn’s Day

According to Irish legend, Saint Patrick wasn’t originally called Patrick. His birth name was Maewyn Succat, but he changed his name to Patricius after becoming a priest.

13. There are no female leprechauns

Don’t be fooled by any holiday decorations showing lady leprechauns. In traditional Irish folk tales, there are no female leprechauns, only nattily attired little guys.

14. But the Leprechaun economy is thriving

Another little-known fact from Irish lore: Leprechauns earned that gold they’re guarding. According to legend, Leprechauns spend their days making and mending shoes. It’s hard work, so you can’t blame them for being territorial about their pots of gold.

15. The lingo makes sense

You can’t attend a Saint Patrick’s Day event without hearing a cry of “Erin go Bragh.” What’s the phrase mean? It’s a corruption of the Irish Éirinn go Brách, which means roughly “Ireland Forever”.

Bring out the green desserts!



St. Patrick's Day brings out the wearin' of the green - and brings out the green in festive desserts too! This easy no bake dessert lasagna recipe from Inspiring Cooks is perfect for St. Patrick's Day themed Grange refreshments or potlucks.

Mint Chocolate No Bake Lasagna

INGREDIENTS:

1 Package Mint Oreos	8 Ounce Container Cool Whip
1/4 Cup Butter (1/2 stick)	3.9 Ounce Package Instant Chocolate Pudding
8 Ounce Package Cream Cheese	2 Cups Cold Milk
1/4 Cup Sugar	1 tsp Mint Extract
2 Tbl Heavy Cream	2-3 Drops Green Food Coloring

DIRECTIONS:

Prepare chocolate pudding according to directions on the box. Set aside in the fridge until ready to use. Put Oreos in a food processor and pulse into fine crumbs. In a medium sized bowl, combine melted butter and Oreo crumbs and mix well. Grease the bottom of an 8x8 baking dish. Press the Oreo crumbs into the bottom of the baking dish and place in the fridge to chill for 5 minutes. In a separate medium sized bowl mix cream cheese, sugar and cream until light and fluffy. Stir in 1 cup of cool whip, 1/2 tsp mint extract and 2-3 drops of green food coloring. Spread this mixture over the crust. Spread pudding over the cream cheese layer. Mix remaining cool whip, 1/2 tsp mint extract and 2-3 drops food coloring together. Spread over the pudding layer. Top with mini chocolate chips. Refrigerate for 30 minutes before serving

SOURCE: <https://inspiringcooks.com/recipe/no-bake-mint-chocolate-lasagna-dessert-recipe/>



by Hank the Burro

Hello to all of my Grange friends! We are more than half-way through this winter - and anxiously awaiting Spring's arrival. I can't wait to attend all the new Pomona meetings across the State. It's been a tough winter - but as the weather improves, I'll hopefully be out and about! Please say Hello if you see me around.

Don't forget 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>

In Memoriam

Faith Lyman, G.S.
Vernon Grange #52

Alice Williams, G.S.
Coventry Grange #75

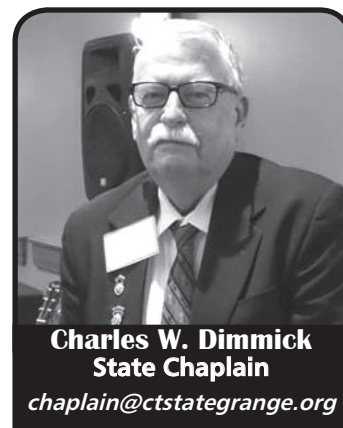
Eleanor Davis, G.S.
Killingly #112

Donald Wheeler
Bethlehem #121

Arba Roberts, G.S.
Riverton #169

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

Repentance



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

"Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity." Joel 2:13

Time and again in the Bible we are told to repent and turn back to the Lord. The words "repent" and "repented" occur more than 100 times in the King James Version of the Bible. In many other passages

the concept of repentance is given, using different words, as in the passage from Joel at the beginning of this column. If repentance is too awkward a word to use in our everyday conversation, one could as easily say "being sorry", for that in essence is what repentance is.

Just as we as parents teach our children to say they are sorry when they do something they shouldn't do, or forget to do something they were supposed to do (like put their dirty clothes in the hamper or feed the dog), so also God wants us to say we are sorry for our own sins. Further, it is important that we not only say we are sorry but also mean it.

The Episcopal service of daily Morning Prayer starts with a confession of sin and pledge of repentance. In part it reads "we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent." Similar confessions of sin and asking for God's merciful forgiveness exist in all three of the Abrahamic religions: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.

In the first letter of John we read: "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

We all sin; we can't help it. But God, in His great mercy, is willing to forgive us time after time if only we will confess our sins, say from our hearts that we are sorry for what we have done or neglected to do, and sincerely try to do better. Praise be to God.

The Grange and You

Welcome to the Grange

NOW Available from the State Grange Store

The CT State Grange has just received a fresh supply of "The Grange and You." This booklet is designed to give new members (especially those not immediately receiving Degrees) important background information about the Grange. Contact the State Secretary for more information.