

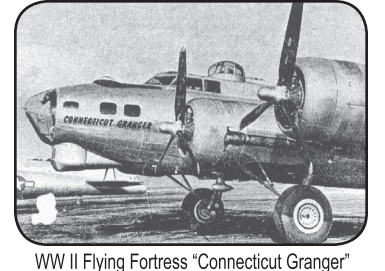
April is...

GRANGE MONTH

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Connecticut Granger



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

Vol. 58, No. 7

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

April 2018

State President



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

At the beginning of the Degrees the Master gives this charge "The ceremony you are about to witness is to introduce you to the ritualism of the Grange. There is far more to the Grange than ritualism. The underlying philosophy of the Grange is portrayed by the oldest and most successful method of communication known to man – the use of symbols. The staves carried by the Steward, Assistant Stewards and the Gatekeeper, the working tools of the Order and the capes and blindfolds to be worn by the marching candidates at the beginning of the First Degree, are all a part of that symbolism and will be fully explained at the appropriate time.

The chief objective of the Grange is to build a better and higher manhood and womanhood, and to develop a mutual respect and concern through Brotherhood. So welcome to the Grange, as its doors of friendship swing wide to receive you into its membership."

We old-timers remember this passage as we began our Grange journeys, but many new members have never heard this passage, or heard an explanation of the symbols of our Degrees. This charge is also in a Public TV show of two Community Granges in Vermont, that follow their service to the community, which will air in Vermont in April. These lessons bring the true meaning as to what the Grange is all about if we don't use or explain it to new members then they will be at a loss regarding what the Grange is all about. The

FFA uses symbols for their officers in their opening and closing ceremonies.

The first weekend of March Marcia and I attended the State Masters' Conference in Portland, Oregon. Because of a Nor'easter snowstorm, many Masters had missed flights. But we persevered and had a good conference.

The National Grange building's AC/heating system is almost complete. While removing the boilers they found the fire pumps were inoperable, and circulator motors were not working as well, these will be replaced during the upgrade. The system manager will also be reviewed as to servicing of these systems. National Grange is also working with outside organizations so Grange members can do more community service projects. The National Grange has become a recognized partner in the mission of Quilts of Valor Foundation as an official Under Our Wings Program. If you would like to sew quilts, quilt tops, presentation cases, or non-quilters can supply space in your halls for "sew days", resources of batting, fabric, longarm services, and funds.

WEATHER-READY NATION, 4 ways Grangers can become Citizen Scientists. **SKYWARN** storm spotters. The National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Program, taking observations where you live, work and play.

M P I N G t o report Precipitation, (Meteorological Phenomena Identification Near the Ground project).

Join the **CoCoRaHS Community** – the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network- observing and measuring precipitation from your backyard.

All these new programs are on the



Governor Malloy visited the Connecticut State Grange booth during Ag Day at the State Capitol. Pictured l to r: Gordon Gibson, State Grange Legislative Liaison; Noel Miller, State President; Alma Graham, Legislative Director and Governor Dannel Malloy.

National Grange website (www.NationalGrange.org). Check them out and see if your Grange is willing to take a chance at something new.

The National Grange is also selling chances for a queen size "Garden Path" quilt, and Spiderweb Star Quilted table runner, and a hand-painted Patriotic Saw. I have tickets for this raffle. The drawing is at the National Grange Convention in Stowe, Vermont.

April is Grange month, it is the time to open up our halls and invite the public in to Celebrate National Grange being 150 years old. National Grange has items that you can download, one being a Grange Banner. Check it out and show your Grange Pride. Congratulations to Greenfield Hill Grange on their 125th Anniversary.

We, as Grangers, need to help and support each other during these trying times, if there is a Grange in need help them out. That's the Grange Way.

Healthy Granges

Betsy Huber, National Master

The annual National Grange conference for State Masters took place in Oregon the first weekend of March. The theme that developed was Healthy Granges – both Community and State Granges.

The State Masters were given a list of signs of a healthy State Grange to assist them in setting goals for the year. They also reviewed the 2018 Subordinate Grange Survey that was part of the Grange Month materials on our website and was included in the last couple issues of Patron Chain (and available in the current issue of Patrons Chain). You can fill it out online at tiny.cc/GrangeHealth.

This is a survey for you to use to take a look at your Grange and measure some qualities and characteristics that make it healthy or show a need for intensive care.

Check out this survey, fill it out and send it to National Grange, 1616 H Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20006. Some State Granges have also said they will participate and wish to receive survey results as well to provide more direct assistance or feedback for Granges in their states. Any surveys sent to National Grange will automatically be forwarded to your State Granges as well.

After you send your survey to us, you will receive a response from us with ideas on how to improve those negatives to make your Grange healthier.

Nobody likes to be sick, and likewise nobody wants to belong to an organization that is ailing. Reviewing this survey, taking a fresh look at your Community Grange, may help you to take some small steps to improve and help you be more attractive to new members.

Some of the items may be obvious signs of health – taking in new members in the past few years, or not

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Articles Due
Apr. 15

Legislatively Speaking



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

In 2011 the U.S. Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) was signed into law. The task of administering this program was assigned to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. This was in response to multiple food borne disease outbreaks that occurred and were traced to food products such as lettuce and spinach.

This act now requires food product processors to develop written food safety plans to prevent contamination issues before the product enters into the marketplace.

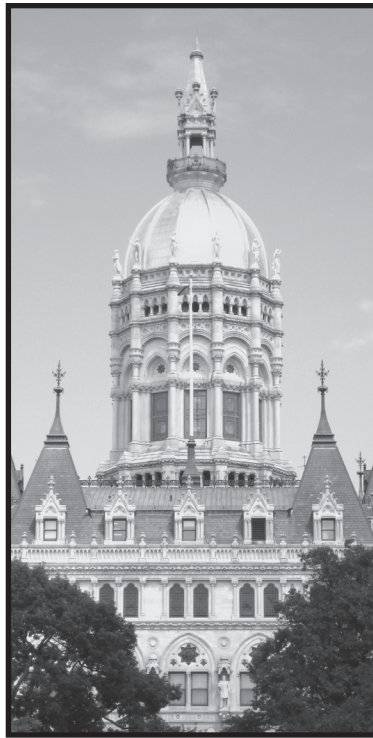
In Connecticut, the Governor has tasked the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) as the agency responsible for enforcing this program. The Department of Agriculture has been working with other agencies to develop the FSMA program in Connecticut. They have been meeting with other groups and agencies getting feedback to develop Produce Safety Rules for the FSMA. DoAg has also been in contact with other states while developing the Produce Safety Rules. These rules are only concerning products that are sold for human consumption and usually consumed raw.

As of January some of these new rules were placed in affect for larger food growers. They will be phasing in rules for smaller growers over the next three years.

A major portion of this program requires setting up education outreach programs and technical assistance for the industry. DoAg has entered into an agreement with the University of Connecticut's Extension Service to provide education, outreach, and technical services. Producers will be required to attend a Product Safety Alliance Growers Training Course. UConn will create a farm inventory of fruit and vegetable growers. Then this summer DoAg will offer On-Farm Readiness Reviews for any farm participating in the Growers Training Course. They will help prepare the farms for future regulatory inspections.

Small farms will not be required to participate in the program but they may have some issues selling products to some customers who may require food safety compliance verification. DoAG has offered to assist small farms if they request help. DoAg is encouraging all farms and food industries to participate in the training course.

A few years ago while at the Legislative Fly-In in Washington one of the topics that we were supporting was the Food Safety Act. This was one of Rep. DeLauro's major focuses at the time. It is nice to see the results of this act.



Testimony in Support of Raised Bill No. 102, AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE RELATED STATUTES – Feb. 23, 2018

I am Gordon Gibson of Vernon, Legislative Liaison for the Connecticut State Grange, speaking today in support of Raised Bill No. 102, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to Environmental Protection and Agriculture Related Statutes.

The Grange supports all of this bill and particularly supports Sections 5 and 6 which will give the Commissioner of Agriculture authority to incorporate Federal farmland protection clauses into State easements to preserve farmland when appropriate. When the Connecticut Department

Connecticut State Grange gives testimony in Hartford

of Agriculture first created their farmland preservation program I was working at the Department of Environmental Protection supervising the acquisition of land for state parks, forests, wildlife areas and flood control projects. The Department of Agriculture had no real estate expertise so I helped them develop their first program to preserve farmland. Since then a number of changes have been made in the farmland preservation laws and regulations to accommodate situations that were not anticipated in the early days of the program. There have also been situations where the statutes concerning the Department of Agriculture's authority could not be changed fast enough to accommodate particular situations so Connecticut Farmland Trust, Inc. stepped in to help solve the problem.

In one particular case Connecticut Farmland Trust acquired development rights easement to protect an entire farm subject to similar easements in favor of the United States Department of Agriculture because USDA could legally accept easements on only those portions of the farm where they had worked with the farmer to improve the pastures.

Last August when USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue made a brief stop at Prides Corner Farm in Lebanon, I had the opportunity to ask him about the possibility of giving the state offices of USDA authority to modify some of the federal programs to meet the needs of their state because agriculture is so diverse across the United States that different regulations are needed in different states and said that, "one size does not fit all." Secretary Purdue agreed with me and spoke about his desire to give more authority to the USDA state offices.

The proposed changes in Sections 5 and 6 of Raised Bill 102 would give the Commissioner of Agriculture latitude to adjust our Connecticut Farmland preservation programs so they could work with the USDA programs to preserve our diminishing farmland in Connecticut. Giving this authority to the Commissioner of Agriculture would show the US Department of Agriculture that we are ready to work with them and should make Connecticut qualify for more federal funding of programs to preserve our diminishing farmland base.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

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!

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Grange Affiliation: _____

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Healthy Granges

Continued from page one...

struggling to have a quorum of 7 present.

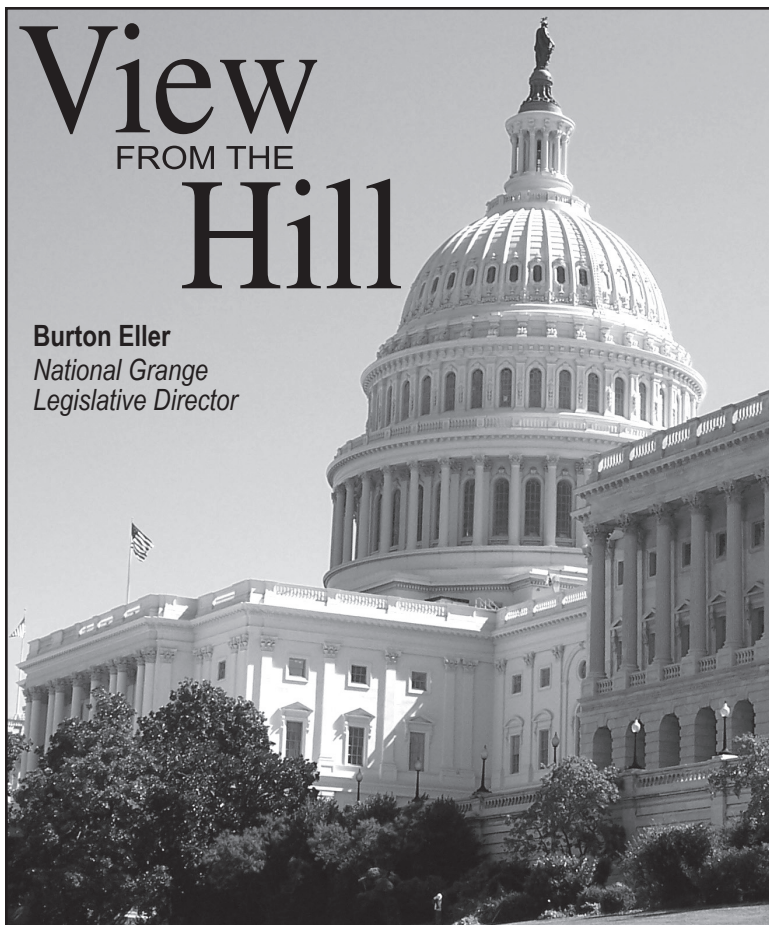
But others may not be as clear. Why do you need a regular change in leadership to be healthy? When a leader is in office for a long time it is a deterrent to others, making them doubt if they can do the job.

The same projects may be repeated every year even if they are less successful as time goes on. New leaders bring new ideas, a fresh outlook, excitement, and new connections to your Grange.

Sponsoring a Junior Grange is a sign of health – but so is a relationship with our local FFA, 4H, NJHA, Scouts or other youth service club. Families may be attracted to the Grange because they can participate together, rather than sending the kids off to a club on their own.

One thing to know is while there are certainly answers that are cause for concern, there are no wrong answers – only the trust as your Grange lives it. And answering the question like "do you have fewer than 13 members" affirmatively will not result in negative action to your Grange. Instead, it will allow us to start a dialogue about what we can provide (National and State Granges) to you and what you see as your biggest challenges and greatest potential.

With Grange month upon us, why not take a few minutes at your Grange meeting to review the survey with your fellow members and decide on one or two items to improve on to make your Grange healthier this year.



View FROM THE Hill

Burton Eller
National Grange
Legislative Director

Overview:

In Washington these days, everyone and everything appear to be completely off balance at times. On any given day and on any given issue, there are several competing forces in play. The liberal and conservative media report on the same topic from such differing perspectives that it's hard sometimes to believe they're talking about the same subject. Caucuses within political parties play the spoiler as much as competing parties once were. Every time a bipartisan solution begins to develop, there's a rush to discredit it no matter how good or bad it is. Unsubstantiated reporting seems to be rampant and every blogger tries to be an expert. Social media at times is as important as factual information in forming a large chunk of public opinion.

Heavy political attention and big campaign dollars are already turning toward midterm elections this fall. Primary campaigns are underway in many states for Senators and districts for Representatives. Close to 20 senior

House Republicans have announced their retirement, sparking excitement among Democrats about their possibility to recapture the House majority. Democrats may be unlikely to gain control of the Senate since 26 Democrats and just eight Republicans are up for reelection. Most incumbent Republican senators continue to be popular back home. Legislation has been slow to move and will get even slower now. Unfortunately, the legislative window is closing. By Memorial Day, any action on bills will be hard to come by. By Labor Day, campaigning takes over the legislative highway and most legislation goes into neutral.

Coalitions:

This is an especially active time for coalitions. The National Grange is an active member of several major coalitions in Washington concerned with health care (Medicare and Medicaid, drug availability, access to care, telecommunications (broadband, Lifeline, net neutrality), rural schools, farm bill, immigration, infrastructure, tax reform

and other coalitions on lesser issues.

Two new coalitions are depending upon the Grange to carry the message of rural and small town citizens to Congress, the media and the public. The Coalition for Paper Options was formed to assure citizens continue to have the option to receive government information, reports and questionnaires via paper if they so choose. The campaign by federal agencies to quietly force the public to go paperless before they're ready ignores the fact that over 23 million rural and small town folks lack broadband access. An op-ed by Burton Eller addressing government agencies forcing citizens to go paperless before they're ready appeared in Washington's The Hill Newsletter.

Connect Americans Now Coalition proposes to use available broadcast spectrum or "TV White Spaces" to deliver broadband to rural areas. Unassigned spectrum below 700MHz can carry communications over far greater distances and penetrate walls and other obstacles and supposedly can wave across and around hills and mountains. The Federal Communications Commission will have to approve reallocation of this unused spectrum. The only opposition may be the broadcasting industry.

Food & Agriculture: Budget & Farm Bill

The Senate and House Agriculture Committees heaved a huge sigh of relief when the two-year budget deal won approval in Congress. Contained therein were lynchpin "fixes" for dairy and cotton producers. Funding offsets for these farm policy revisions will not have to be accounted for in the 2018 Farm Bill baseline, thus removing a huge obstacle from upcoming farm bill negotiations. The National Grange supported

this action in line with policy adopted in Spokane.

Other Provisions included in the budget deal would:

- Include \$2.4 billion in aid to producers hurt by last year's hurricanes, fires and other natural disasters
- Lift the \$125,000 payment cap for producers who sold livestock at a reduced price due to natural disaster
- Remove the \$20 million cap on the Emergency Assistance Program for livestock, honey bees and farm-raised fish
- Double acreage eligible for the Tree Assistance Program from 500 to 1,000 acres
- Revive the dollar/gallon tax credit for biodiesel

Ranking minority member of the House Agriculture Committee Colin Peterson (D-MN) is also gathering support for an additional dairy policy change that would allow dairymen to insure margins (difference between milk prices and feed costs) up to \$9.50 from the current \$8 limit.

We expect committee actions on the 2018 Farm Bill to move right along once they start. Agriculture is one of the few areas where bipartisanship is still possible. The big unknown will be scheduling Senate and House floor time earlier rather than later in an election year.

Waivers for Agricultural Haulers

Producers continue asking the Department of Transportation to grant agricultural haulers a waiver and limited exemption from the electronic logging device mandate because of commodity perishability. The exemption excludes the transportation of all agricultural commodities within 150 miles of the source of the commodities. Further, longer-haul livestock truckers need hours of service waivers in order to rapidly and humanely move animals in challenging conditions. The National Grange supports these waivers and exemptions.

Health Care: IPAB

The National Grange was very active in the permanent repeal of the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) in the recent two year congressional budget package, IPAB, authorized

in the Affordable Care Act, was to be a board of Presidential appointees charged with recommending cuts to Medicare if spending growth reached an arbitrary level. The HHS Secretary would implement recommendations. Neither the recommendations nor the actions would be subject to administrative judicial review.

Medicare Part D Costs

Betsy Huber wrote Seema Vera, Director of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, supporting the Director's request for Information (RFI) on lowering Medicare Part D costs. A major objective is to drive down patient out-of-pocket costs at pharmacy counters. CMS hopes to identify ways to increase accountability for Pharmacy Benefit Managers and make it harder for them to pocket rebates and discounts intended for patients.

Rural Health Care

Congress' budget deal restored funding for two critical rural health programs. Community Health Centers were allocated \$3.8 billion for 2018 and \$4 billion for 2019. CHC's care for about 27 million patients worldwide. Congress extended the Children's Health Insurance Program for another ten years. CHIP serves as a safety net for about 8.6 million kids nationwide. The National Grange supported these initiatives.

Opioid Help

Congress is moving to take a second crack at opioid legislation as the crisis grows to more than 42,000 deaths per year. On the house side, Energy and Commerce Chairman Walden (R-OR) is pushing to have legislation out of the House by Memorial Day. Senators Portman (R-OH) and Whitehouse (D-R.I.) are crafting legislation in the Senate. Opioid recovery professionals stress the need to bolster the opioid addiction treatment system with infrastructure, treatment spots, more facilities and treatment professionals. The National Grange supports these initiatives.

340B Specialty Drugs

National Grange president Betsy joined 23 major patient advocacy

Continued on page 11

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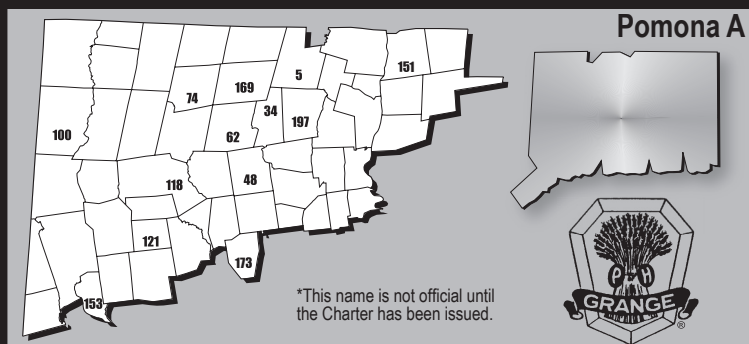
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President/Editor Todd Gelineau
Vice President
Secretary Treasurer. Edith Schoell

Mountain Laurel Pomona



Granby No. 5
Cawasa No. 34
Whigville 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

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

WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

Corr: Debbie Brown

May 5: Tag and Bake Sale

Whigville Grange will hold a Tag and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 5 from 9 to 2 at the Grange Hall located on South Main Street in the Whigville section of Burlington. Free parking and admission. If interested in renting a table, please call Debbie at 860-582-9863. Rental fees will benefit local animal shelters. Please share and support this event!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Apr. 10: First & Second Degrees

Apr. 24: Third & Fourth Degrees

May 8: Winchester Grange Music Night and Country Store, 7:00 P.M.

If there are candidates, Winchester Grange will confer all four degrees in the month of April. If your Grange has candidates and would like to participate, please contact us to find out if we are conferring. Our long-standing agreement with our degree team members has been to confer degrees when Winchester Grange has its own candidates and then making the degrees available to other Granges who may have candidates.

All are invited to come visit with us on May 8 for our annual "Music Night." Our Pianist, Mary Lou Keefe has been working long and hard on this one and we are looking forward to this night of music followed by a country store and the refreshments are in the charge of our newest members, Kim and Randy Carlson. Join us!

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Note that April through September are **8pm** meetings, our summer hours.

Apr. 12: Spring has Sprung by Ruth Schnell.

April 26: Spring Cleaning by All. If you plan to visit please call first as this meeting may be cancelled for lack of available members.

Members of Taghhannuck Grange have been looking for a new Community Service project for this year and we think we found a good one. It is called "The Jared Box Project" and is set up for children in hospitals but can easily be converted to nursing homes, schools and many other places in your community. Since we have a hospital in Sharon we have contacted them first to see if they think this would be helpful. I will keep you up to date on what we are doing. My hope is that some other Granges will embrace this idea for an easy way to help your communities. www.thejaredbox.com

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

Apr. 7: Flea Market

Apr. 23: Meeting

Thank you for your cards and calls while I was recovering from hip surgery.

The flea market was successful. Thank you to everyone who helped.

We collected and gave a complete ham dinner to First Church who gave it to a needy family in Bethlehem

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

May 12: Famous Mothers -CWA Program

June 16: Election of Officers.

Again our Meeting date

Mountain Laurel Open for Business



The new officers of Mountain Laurel Pomona pose for a group photo following their installation on March 3 at Winchester Grange.



Mountain Laurel Pomona was installed by the Cameron/Barnes Installing Team. Pictured left to right: Joan Perry, Jaimie Cameron (State Gatekeeper), Jody Cameron (Past Voting Delegate), Jeff Barnes (State Exec. Comm.), Pat Palmer and James Palmer. The installation meeting was held at Winchester Grange No. 74 in Winchester Center.

in June will be moved to the third week so there will be no conflict with "Celebrate" on June 9 at Cheshire Grange. We were delighted to see our littlest Grange visitor, 3 year-old Sawyer, at our March meeting. She keeps us on our toes and is a delight to chat with. In May we will have our baking contest of Cross Bones Cookies. With so many good cooks we're hoping to have a real challenge. Even though the date says Spring is here, old man winter doesn't seem to want to leave. That hasn't stopped our members from working out the dates they are able to work for the coming Farmer's Market starting on July 11, This year we will be on the Enfield Town Green in front of the Town Hall. Much nicer surroundings, and much better parking.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Apr. 7: Loaves and Fishes

Kitchen at Richmond Hall, New Milford, 3:30-6 P.M.

Apr. 11: Regular Meeting at St. Mark's Church, 7 P.M.

Apr. 27: Community Service Award at St. Mark's Church honoring Diane Kelly and the PTA

May 5: Loaves and Fishes Kitchen at Richmond Hall, New Milford, 3:30-6 P.M.

May 9: Regular Meeting at St. Mark's Church, 7 P.M.

May 12: Roast Beef Dinner (\$18 Donation - \$15 for Seniors and children - children under 6 are free).

May 19: Bake Sale at Bridgewater Garden Club Sale

June 2: Loaves and Fishes at Richmond Hall, New Milford, 3:30-6 P.M.

June 13: Regular Monthly Meeting at St. Mark's Church, 7 P.M.

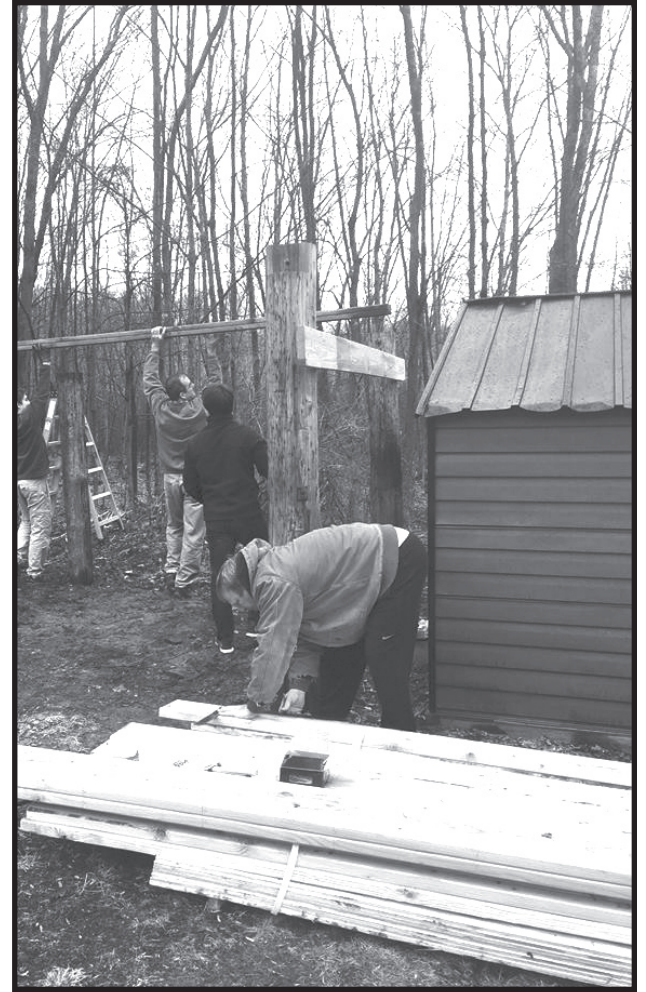
At the time of printing, a Town Meeting had been called for March 23 to discuss the fate of the Grange Hall in Bridgewater. For those

who may not be aware, this hall had been turned over to the Town of Bridgewater a number of years ago with the understanding the Grange would have continued use of the building. Recently, the town had determined that the building was insufficiently supported by a foundation of rock, rubble and dirt. The First Selectman presented a plan to replace the existing hall with a new modern one. This, of course, upset Grange members and town residents who would rather preserve the building than replace it. The March 23 meeting was to also feature a presentation by Grange Master Nancy Mascio on Bridgewater Grange and its importance to the community. We are sure they will have more on this meeting and the future of the building in coming issues.

Simsbury Grange Eagle Scout Project



Thanks to Eagle Scout Jack Donahue and his fellow scouts from Troop #76 for refurbishing our outdoor space with a new roof and gravel base. We can't wait to use it!



Connecticut Natural Gas Grant



Thanks to Connecticut Natural Gas for granting Simsbury Grange \$5000 towards the 2017 Neighborhood Assist. Act energy conservation project.

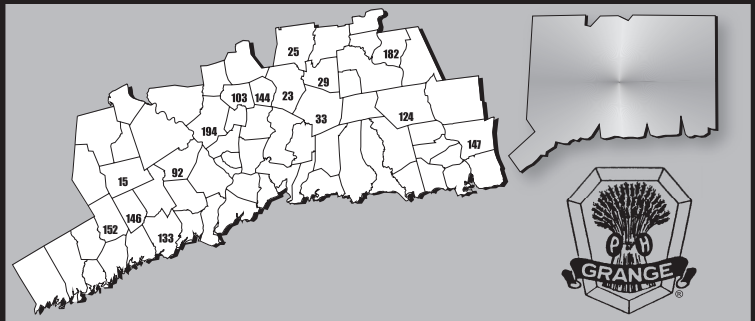
NOW Available from the State Grange Store



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.

This booklet can also be useful and informative for existing members!

NUTMEG POMONA



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	

HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: George Ward

Apr. 13: Refreshments at 6:30 P.M., Meeting 7:30. Lecturer's program to be announced later.

A Stipulation for Judgment has been received from our lawyer indicating that a final settlement had been reached for the property taken by the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation, in the construction of the roundabout at Routes 110 & 111. At the regular meeting on Feb. 12, 2018, the members present voted to accept the settlement.

Plans are in progress for our Spring Fair to be held in May. No date has been selected but it will be near Mother's Day and at the same time as other Fairs in the area. If the preparation is good, the Fair will be a success.

Our Master/President, Ronald Bunovsky, Gail Bunovsky and the writer attended the first meeting of the new Pomona Grange. The new name selected was Nutmeg Pomona Grange. It will be comprised of 15 Subordinate Granges. By-laws were approved and officers were elected. The writer was elected a member of the Executive Committee for a period of one year. Those present at the meeting will be Charter Members of Nutmeg Pomona Grange.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

As I write this our members wish to send thinking of you wishes to Victor Godin, member of our Executive Committee. Victor just had heart surgery and is in intensive

care with pneumonia.

Our Steward Ray Legg will have hip replacement surgery on March 20th.

Speaking from experience, I know cards help.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Jim and Lori Golias

Our Saint Valentine's dinner was a huge success and the weather cooperated -- NO snow!

A stuffed boneless breast of chicken dinner was served with cheesecake and strawberries for dessert. Door prizes were given to the lucky winners. Seven-year-old Danielle, Lori's daughter, told Valentine jokes and a short episode of the "Life of Riley" from 1949 with Jackie Gleason was shown.

The 125th anniversary committee is putting together celebration to be held on Sunday, April 29, 2018 from 2 to 4:30. Invitations are being sent to subordinate Granges. Please check the mailbox and make the announcement at your next meeting

A St. Patrick's Day dinner is in the works for March 17th. Corned Beef and Cabbage and all the fixings will be served. The Mulkerin Irish Dancers will provide the entertainment.

On April 21, 2018, Our annual Spring Flea Market is scheduled from 10am to 3 pm. Come and browse -- you might find a treasure. And don't forget to keep the date of April 29 open for the Greenfield Hill Grange 125th anniversary celebration. That's it for now. Hope to see at the Grange

In Memoriam -- The

members of the Greenfield Hill Grange# 133 would like to remember the Honorable Judge Daniel F. Caruso. He was a member of our Grange and served as the Judge of Probate for the Town of Fairfield. He was first elected to this position in 1995. He also served as Connecticut State Representative for the 134th House district from 1989 - 1995. Dan will be remembered for his kindness and his life-long dedication to service.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

Apr. 5: First & Second Degrees, Will the Deputy come?

May 3: Time to get your garden ready

May TBA: 8th Annual Plant & Food Sale.

June 7: Have your strawberries ripened yet? Memorial Service.

Oh, this weather on the first Thursday... rain, but freezing later. So many people sick. Our Master, Kathy Tefft and David and Riley all are very sick. Overseer Sandy Peterson led the meeting. It was happy and we laughed a lot. We entertained a new membership prospect.

Steven Evankow is in charge of the Lyme Farmers Market which opens in mid-June. He has a fabulous garden, grown prize-winning garlic and onions to mention a couple. He also shovels our walkways and plows out the Grange for us, spreading sand when necessary.

Amy is working hard on community service.

We are planning First & Second Degrees in April. It is National Grange month. What better a time to do them. Anyone who would like to witness them are all welcome. Bring candidates if you wish.

On a balmy March evening we held our March meeting. Nor'easter predicted, so I guess March will come in like a lion and we can hope it will go out like a lamb. We draped our charter in loving memory of John Tiffany. He was a representative in the State Legislature for 30 years. Being a farmer, he advocated for farmers. He said after

one hurricane "It may be romantic to eat dinner by candlelight, however, not when your automatic feeder in the barn does not work and you have 85 hungry cows to feed."

We set a date for rehearsal for the first and second degrees. We need practice on floor work.

Things are looking promising, snow drops are in bloom and the daffodils are peeking their little heads up from their long winter nap.

We're all looking forward to spring. "Can't wait!"

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Apr. 13: CWA Contests

Apr. 27: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled.

May 11: Election of Officers

May 25: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Robert Buck

Apr. 5: Permaculture Salon, film and discussion, 6:00 PM

Apr. 6: Welcoming Pollinators, 7:30 PM

Apr. 12: Permaculture Salon, film and discussion, 6:00 PM

Apr. 19: Permaculture Salon, film and discussion, 6:00 PM

Apr. 20: How smart are our avian friends?, 7:30 PM

Apr. 21: Chili Cook-off, 6:00 PM

Apr. 26: Permaculture Salon, film and discussion, 6:00 PM

Apr. 27: G.O.M.A.D. potluck, music, and dance party, 7:00 PM

Our handicapped ramp has once again been put on hold as Selectman Jeff Haney has been taken ill with cancer and we don't know if and how soon he will be able to continue what was begun. We do wish him the best for recovery. The Permaculture Salon series continues from March, through April, and into May, thanks to the efforts of Rich, Nancy, Randolph, and Raye. In February, our furnace got a new (refurbished) burner installed for labor costs only, thanks to our local oil company owner Tom Biondi. It is running better and keeping the hall warmer now. With Spring coming, landscaping continues as our garden grows around the hall. Water drainage issues have been corrected to minimize seepage into the hall basement. Another project involves replacing rails in the split rail fence around the hall. Come on out for the G.O.M.A.D. potluck and music program, one or more of the Permaculture Salon programs, and be sure to come to the chili cook-off on Saturday the 21st.



Be a part of National



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer
lecturer@ctstategrange.org

the Evening of Excellence. They will also be asked to perform at our State Session Banquet where they will be presented with a check from the Lecturers' Travel Fund to help defray their expenses. I know we have some great talent in Connecticut. The State Level Judging will be held on June 10th starting at 1:00 p.m. at Cheshire Grange Hall, 44 Wallingford Road, Cheshire. Please plan ahead and save that date.

The booklets prepared by your Northeast State Lecturers are all in the mail. If your Lecturer hasn't received theirs, please let me know. This booklet covers many topics – both serious and comical. We're trying to make presenting a good program that will bring out your membership as easy as possible.

Hopefully better weather is coming and I will be seeing you around the State.

Let's Be A Part of National Grange this November. As I am sure you know, National will be meeting in the Northeast this fall. The 152nd Annual National Grange Convention will be held November 13-17, 2018 at the Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Conference Center in Stowe, VT.

This is a great chance for Connecticut to show off their talents. I want to urge everyone with any type of talent to enter our Talent Contest. The winner (or runner-up if the winner can't make it) will represent us at

On to the future

This may be the last Pomona Update we print in the Granger! Why? Because all three of our new Pomonas have been organized, their Charter applications have been completed, officers elected and obligated/installed and all are getting down to the business of establishing their new organizations.

We congratulate:

MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA (formerly Pomona A)

NUTMEG POMONA (formerly Pomona B)

EASTERN CONNECTICUT POMONA (formerly Pomona C)

It's been said many times by the mentors during the organizational process but it bears repeating.... You are organizing NEW Pomonas. You are not re-constituting your old Pomonas. The phrase, "We have always done it that way" does not apply and is 100% false. What didn't work in your old Pomona may very well work in this one. Consider doing things differently, when possible.

Be inclusive. Each new Pomona contains as a core of Granges that were

previously together in a former Pomona. If the Granges entering these new Pomonas don't feel included/welcome, they will not participate and this venture will not succeed.

The State Grange is in the process of establishing legal identities for each Pomona. The IRS is in the process of assigning new EIN (Employer Identification Numbers). With these new numbers, each Pomona will be able to open bank accounts with the money being held for them by the State Grange.

Very few of us have been able to establish a brand new Grange and we know there will be questions and there will also be supplies and materials needed. Please feel free to contact me. The best way is via email: secretary@CTStateGrange.org or by cell: 860-307-1522. I work for you and will help you in any way I can.

It's an exciting time in the Connecticut State Grange. Let's use the enthusiasm and energy we have right now to propel our new Pomonas into a bright new future.

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.

This Month

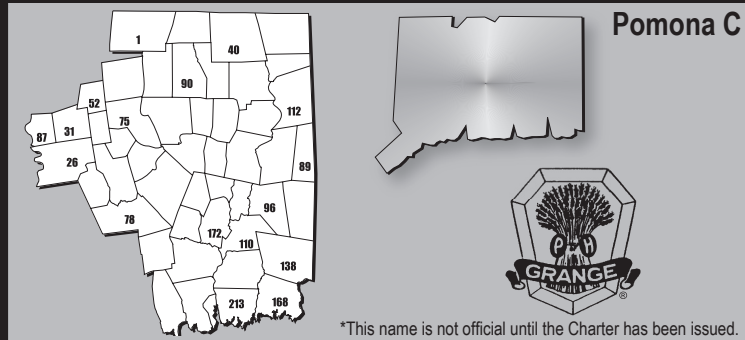


Last Month



There were no responses to last month's Window to the Past. Have any information on these photos? Let us know!

E. Connecticut Pomona



Stafford No. 1
Glastonbury No. 26
Manchester No. 31
Senexet No. 40
Vernon No. 52
Coventry No. 75
Colchester No. 78
Hillstown No. 87
Ekonk Community No. 89

Ashford No. 90
Pachaug No. 96
Preston City No. 110
Killingly No. 112
N. Stonington Comm. No. 138
Stonington No. 168
Norwich No. 172
Groton No. 213

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Apr. 5: April Showers - Skit Night

Apr. 21: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party 7:00 p.m.

May 1: Bakeless/Foodless Sale

Glastonbury found it necessary to change the date for our Whist Card Parties. They were always held on the 2nd Saturday. The new pomona, Eastern Connecticut Pomona, is meeting on the 2nd Saturdays, so we have moved our card parties to the 3rd Saturday beginning in March.

At our February meeting we decided to hold an Open Meeting at our April meeting. The secretary has asked members to send to her/or bring to her, at the March meeting some names of friends and/or relatives who might be interested in attending. The secretary will send them an invitation to attend and hopefully secure a few new members.

A reminder to all members, May 1st is our semi-annual Bakeless/Foodless Sale. Look forward to seeing you April 5th and April 21st.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Cherie Robinson

Vernon Grange has lost another 70 year Grange member. Sister Geraldine Strong passed away on March 1, 2018. Over the years she held many elected and appointed offices, most recently Treasurer. Grange family and friends came together from across the country to pay tribute to Sister Geraldine.

What a snowy end to our winter! In spite of the weather we were able to hold our meeting on March 16th. We plan to take that program "Looking In The Rear View Mirror" to Manchester Grange. It is always enjoyable to visit our neighboring Grange.

Our April meeting has been changed to April 13th. Container gardening will be our topic. (We are sure spring-like weather must

be right around the corner.) We are having a seedling exchange, so when you start your garden seeds, please grow some for the Grange!

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

Apr. 5: April Flowers

We are surviving this wacky weather we have been having. We will be cleaning out the Grange Hall and fixing up the saggy parts and maybe even slap some paint over this old house. Hope our snowbirds return safely and well rested. Happy Easter to all.

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Bonnie Trecarten

We welcomed guests Ted Beebe, Master, Norwich Grange, Steward Eastern CT Pomona, State Membership Comm. and Lois Evankow, Lecturer Lyme Grange, and Lecturer Nutmeg Pomona.

As always, we thank them for their contributions to our Grange.

We continue with our community service projects, volunteering at Apple Rehab with monthly Bingo, and cooking at Harrington Court. We are preparing items for the Easter Season for Veterans with the "Visions of Hope Project" in coordination with the Greek Orthodox Church in Norwich. Thank you to Cathy Russi and Eva O'Connell for their efforts to make this project a success.

Interesting news about happenings in Long Island Sound from our Ag Rep Chris Bourque. Proposals are in progress to create a kelp farm in the sound to increase nitrogen supplies, and market kelp for farming and health purposes. Always exciting to hear about innovations in agriculture.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Frank Forrest

Hillstown Grange is holding a Gardening Workshop, April 11. Doors open at 6:30 P.M. Bring your own dinner if you want and we will have coffee.

The workshop will start at 7:00 P.M. Topics will

Eastern Connecticut Pomona Celebrates



The newly-elected and obligated officers of Eastern Connecticut Pomona (formerly Pomona C) gather for a group photo following their Organizational Meeting in March.

be starting a garden; soil testing basics; spring tips and featured bug is 'aphids'. Garden workshops are free and open to the public and for experienced as well as new gardeners.

Workshops will continue on Wednesdays, April 25, May 9, 23 and June 6.

The Hillstown Grange is located at 617 Hills Street, East Hartford, CT. Located in the Hillstown corner of East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester, since 1888. For more information, call Frank at 860-690-2845 or email: hillstowngrange@aol.com.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Katie Molodich and Tom Sweet Jr. did an incredible presentation on their growing "Sweet's Maple LLC" business. They had pictures on our Grange screen, videos of their business, from the taps to the finished, delicious product! Many questions were expertly answered AND we all loved the vanilla ice cream at the end, topped with their luscious maple syrup and chopped walnuts! We wish them the best as they grow their labor intensive agricultural business!

By the time you read this, we will have been to Richmond with our musical/comedy program and they will have brought us their annual extravaganza of laughter and fun! Our March Corned Beef supper, Good Friday Chowder n' clam cake supper and first Square Dance are over. April will find us square dancing on the 21st (7:30 p.m.) and supporting the annual Sterling Family Day roast pork supper at our Grange (April 28th-5:00 p.m.). Ekonk's Past President, Mike Molodich, is Chairman of this all volunteer Sterling Committee and our current President, Link Cooper, is the Committee Vice President.

Sterling Family Day is always held on the 2nd Saturday in September and is not funded by the town-the committee raises all of the money to hold this event, which culminates with exceptional fireworks, lighting up the skies to the delight of several hundred folks as the wonderful day comes to a close!

Sunday, May 6th, we will hold our annual Membership Awards Luncheon and our Snowbird, Paulette Craig, will be back to join us in celebrating an even 500 years of amazing Grange membership (25 to an amazing 80 years)! Visit us anytime!

Our Juniors held a fun Indoor Fun Night/Baking contest; went on a hike through Molodich farm woods, sighting tracks of wild animals, enjoyed a "Artique" painting class and a program by the Dennison Pequot Nature Sepsis! They also were a great help with the Richmond program and their President, Lillian Sharpe, attends every Subordinate meeting, reporting for the Juniors and helping with a myriad of events! They meet every first Friday at 6:00 p.m.

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

Apr. 2: Meeting

Apr. 15: More Info Later

Apr. 18: Farmers Dinner - Locals Invited

Here we go again. It seems I'm always a month behind. Well at least everyone knows what we are doing or have done and that Killingly Grange is still active (but a little behind). Forgive us we are all "elderly" and doing the best we can.

Our special events so far are a corned beef and cabbage dinner held on March 14. On April 18th we are planning a spaghetti dinner for all local farmers. We know by "special invitation" so be on the lookout for one in your mailbox. But you must

RSVP for our cooks.

We are getting a new facelift. Our entry is being painted white and it certainly looks good so far and much brighter. More to be done on the trim and the floors.

We discussed having the hall used for outside activities or other parties. Just give one of our officers a call for arrangements for opening the hall, dates, etc. for a "donation."

There's an old saying "A day late and a dollar short"-guess that's where I fit in.

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Apr. 13: 'It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop'

Apr. 27: "Worry not that no one knows you; seek to be worth knowing."

Two of our favorite people have been "under the weather" in February. Debbie Barnes, our Ceres (and State Flora), and Flo Mullane, our LAS, are on the mend now and we send hopes and prayers for a speedy and complete recovery for them both.

Our one meeting in February sound us competing in "The Olympics." A slight glitch in interpreting the rules for "curling" found us trying to make the shortest curl from a length of ribbon; but the hockey teams were ferocious in their attack of the "puck" with their pool noodle "sticks", even upsetting a few chairs. Although a quiz found us to be sadly lacking in the finer points of the Olympics, we all enjoyed the program and the medals we won. Some of us ate them, others chose to put them on display.

Our first program in April will be a surprise. The second will honor our Community Citizen and long-time members. And if that flock of wild turkeys that always seems to be

Continued next page

E. Connecticut Pomona

Continued from page 8...

crossing the road when we approach will just change their schedule, next time we will tell you all about merry March.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

May 12: Famous Mothers -CWA Program

June 16: Election of Officers.

Again our Meeting date in June will be moved to the third week so there will be no conflict with "Celebrate" on June 9 at Cheshire Grange. We were delighted to see our littlest Grange visitor, 3 year-old Sawyer, at our March meeting. She keeps us on our toes and is a delight to chat with. In May we will have our baking contest of Cross Bones Cookies. With so many good cooks we're hoping to have a real challenge. Even though the

date says Spring is here, old man winter doesn't seem to want to leave. That hasn't stopped our members from working out the dates they are able to work for the coming Farmer's Market starting on July 11, This year we will be on the Enfield Town Green in front of the Town Hall. Much nicer surroundings, and much better parking.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Apr. 13: CWA Contests

Apr. 27: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

May 11: Election of Officers

May 25: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

State Secretary



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

By the time you are reading this, all Granges should have received packets from me including the publications mentioned in the last issue. The most important is the State Directory. We have been made aware of to important corrections you should note in your copies. First, the Camerons have eliminated the land-line phone at their house. As Jody said, we all have cell

phones, why pay for a home phone? To contact Jody Cameron, please use his cell: 860-759-2326.

Under Colchester Grange No. 78, there were to very unfortunate errors we need to correct. The Secretary and Lecturer's names are correct, however their contact info is not.

Lecturer, Bonnie Trecarten, 83 Westerly Terrace, Colchester, CT 06415; 860-537-0491.

Secretary, Kathleen Culhane, 23 Shugrue Road, Colchester, CT 06415; 860-537-5437.

Please make note of these changes in your copies of the State Directory. A note of reminder will be included with the Quarterly Reports returned to Granges as the close of this quarter.

We are giving each of the new Pomonas time to get their committees, meeting places and times in order before making the requests for complete lists of information for the State Directory. You will note the new State Directory does not include information on Pomonas. We will print a supplemental page and distribute copies to each of the Granges as soon as we can. We did not want to hold up the Directory any longer than necessary.

If your Grange has not received its packet, PLEASE let me know. This packet contains your confirmation for the 990N tax filing for your Grange. We are able to make new copies, if needed, but we want to make sure all Granges have a copy in their files. You may be called on from time to time to provide a copy of this by various agencies and your town.

We remind Secretaries to review your records for any and all members due to receive membership recognition this year. If you do not have the appropriate State and National Grange forms to place your orders, please let me know.

Until next time—enjoy spring and hopefully enjoy warmer weather! This winter has certainly been hard for everyone from beginning to the bitter end.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Coming soon to a Grange near you

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director The Latest from the PR Committee: New Packets are Coming Soon

The Public Relations Committee has been busy developing a new packet of goodies for each Grange. These will be mailed soon - so keep an eye on your mailboxes!

One of the items inside the packet is an information sheet on Grange email. Each Grange has their own email address as part of the Grange post office. We recently implemented some updates to the webmail program where the email is accessed. It now contains a cool new secure chat feature between accounts, and has also added the ability to create mailbox rules and filtering, among other new updates. We hope that each and every Grange, Committee, and Officer takes advantage of using their Grange email. It can be easily set-up on other devices, such as Smart Phones and Tablets (like iPads), or in mail programs such as Outlook or Mac Mail, and can also be forwarded to other email accounts as well. We can even easily trace email between Grange accounts in case messages gets held up or lost.

Other items inside the packets include samples of our new customizable brochures and promotional pieces, an informational flyer on the CT State Grange website program, informational flyers on various social media options available to Granges, and much more.

The PR Committee has set up 3 new websites and 3 new Facebook Pages - for each of the new Pomona Granges. We encourage everyone to visit these Facebook Pages and click the "Like" pages while

there, and to also visit the new Pomona websites to get the latest information.

Here's the links --

Mountain Laurel Pomona: www.MountainLaurelPomona.org

Nutmeg Pomona: www.NutmegPomona.org

Eastern Connecticut Pomona: www.EasternCTPomona.org

Once we get 30 likes on each of the Pomona Grange Facebook Pages, then Facebook will release the short names to us for links. In the meantime - just search for the Pomona Names on Facebook, or follow the links from the CT State Grange Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/ctstategrange)

Did you know that there are 30 Connecticut Granges with Facebook Pages? Would your Grange like a Facebook Page? Contact the PR Committee today and we will set it up for you the proper way in accordance to Facebook standards and CT State Grange Social Media guidelines, and then turn it over to you and your Grange to manage.

Did you know that 25 of Connecticut's Granges have had custom brochures designed and printed by the CT State Grange PR Committee? Would you like a custom brochure for your Grange? Contact the PR Committee and we can create custom promotional pieces for your Grange too.

Need help on your Grange's promotional and publicity needs? We can help! Email Terri at information@ctstategrange.org or Bob at publicrelations@ctstategrange.org today.



New Projects



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

I hope you are all working on an entrée in the craft contest and the "Door Decoration" contest. The craft contest theme is "Pirates and Treasure". There will be two categories, Needlework (any kind) and Other Medium. These entries will NOT

be returned as they go to the Big E for sale in the Country Store. The Door Decoration can be anything you would hang on an outside door. No size restrictions. These entries are returned to you after the judging except the winners which will be displayed at our State session. There is no subordinate judging on either contest.

It has been announced at National that the Grange is now Partners in a mission with Quilts of Valor Foundation. This program allows Grange members to create quilts and present

them to veterans in their community and teach the art of quilting to novices and young people. For guidelines and other important information on this project please contact the National Lectuer, Christine Hamp at 509-953-3533 or lecturer@nationalgrange.org or mail to 16418 N.Birdie Road, Nine Mile Falls, WA. 99029. If anyone in your Grange or community is not a quilter, you can donate your Hall for "sew days", give batting, fabric or longarm services, or raise money for purchase of supplies. This would be a wonderful Community service for your Grange.

Federal funding may help dairy farmers

By Katrina Koerting, Danbury News-Times, 3/10/18

About a year and a half ago Dan Weed had to sell his cows and focus on a different type of farming. "You can't make a living milking cows anymore," said Weed, a fourth-generation farmer in New Milford.

Farmers across the country are selling their dairy farms as production costs continue to outpace the actual price of milk. But the recent federal budget approved last month could offer much needed relief with more than \$1 billion included for dairy farmers.

The budget also restructures the Margin Protection Program, an insurance-style tool that allows farmers to pay into the system and then receive a benefit if a certain margin is hit with milk prices dropping below the production costs.

These changes and the additional funding are welcome news for many dairy farmers, who think there could be a better chance to receive a payment for milk production losses between January and August.

"It looks like it might be something worthwhile to sign up for now," said Ben Platt, a ninth-generation dairy farmer in Southbury.

A Struggling Industry

Platt said he doesn't want to rely on an insurance program, but this is the fourth straight year his family business has seen costs exceed milk prices.

"It will definitely help but it won't make up for the losses people are seeing on the farm," Platt said.

It costs the Platts about \$19 to \$20 to produce 100 pounds of milk and the U.S. Department of Agriculture has set the price of milk at about \$13 for that amount. Platt said the industry has fluctuated over the years but the price now is about the same as it was when Jimmy Carter was President in the late 1970s.

Fuel and feed costs have all gone up, contributing to the rising production costs. Supply and demand in the global market, meanwhile,

have driven prices down.

"I hope we can at least cover some of the losses," Platt said. "It's a help, but I wish we could get paid a fair price for our milk."

He said larger farms are expanding their production everywhere to help offset their costs. The dairy industry in general is oversaturated with product, which is making it difficult to get good prices.

Smaller operations tend to close or switch to another type of farming.

"There's dairy farms selling left and right all over the country," Weed said, noting there's only about 120 dairy farms in Connecticut.

He said it's gotten so bad that the dairy farming cooperative he belongs to sent its members phone numbers for suicide prevention. He said the suicide rate is high among dairy farmers who have to work long hours, 365 days a year and end up losing money.

It's very depressing and it shouldn't be that way," Weed said. "Any federal help will help."

"Everyone's optimistic it will turn around," he added.

Once that happens, Weed also plans to go back to dairy farming, selling his milk locally.

A Broken System

In the meantime, government programs were established to help close the operating gap.

But farmers have criticized the MPP as an ineffective tool where farmers paying into the system weren't actually seeing the benefits the program was created to give out, said Henry Talmage, the executive director at the Connecticut Farm Bureau.

"It fell short of what it was designed to do," he said, noting the changes included in last month's budget could help. "It's a move in the right direction."

Among the changes is a reduction of the premium costs by nearly 70 percent for small and medium sized farms and making more farms eligible for these lower premiums. It also



Rose Guerrette, of Bethlehem, bottle feeds a 7 day old calf.

Danbury News-Times Photo

changes the payment calculation from bimonthly to monthly to better reflect the market. The MPP's \$100 administrative fee is also waived for underserved producers, such as beginning farmers, veterans and socially disadvantaged farmers, according to a press release from U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., who advocated for changes to the program.

Shortly after the budget passed, Murphy touted the improvements, but also acknowledged more work was needed.

"The changes included in the budget deal are great news for Connecticut's dairy producers," Murphy said. "Falling milk prices have hit farmers in my state hard, and these policy reforms and financial investments will help them start to pick up the pieces."

Still, MPP revisions, while welcome, weren't needed as drastically in Connecticut where there is a state program to help dairy farmers.

That state program was established in 2005 with the passage of the Community Investment Act. The act uses funds collected through records fees to ensure there's money to reimburse dairy farmers for losses, as well as funding for open space, farmland preservation, historic preservation and affordable housing.

"That program has helped keep Connecticut farms in business better than some other states," Talmage said.

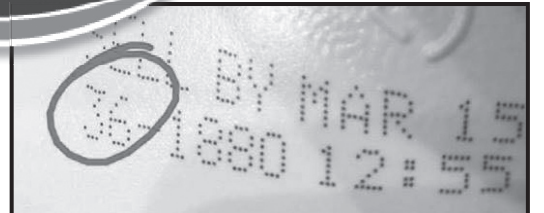
Connecticut's dairy producers contribute nearly \$1.3 billion and 4,286 jobs to the state annually, according to Murphy's release.

"However, farm milk prices are forecasted to drop

in 2018, and Connecticut's already struggling dairy farmers would be in dire straits without immediate federal action," Murphy's release stated.



From the Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions



State	Code	
Alabama01	New Jersey34
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Arizona04	New York36
Arkansas05	North Carolina37
California06	North Dakota38
Colorado . . . . .	.08	Ohio39
Connecticut . . . . .	.09	Oklahoma40
Delaware . . . . .	.10	Oregon41
District of Columbia . . . . .	.11	Pennsylvania42
Florida . . . . .	.12	Puerto Rico43
Georgia . . . . .	.13	Rhode Island44
Hawaii . . . . .	.15	South Carolina45
Idaho . . . . .	.16	South Dakota46
Illinois . . . . .	.17	Tennessee47
Indiana . . . . .	.18	Texas48
Iowa . . . . .	.19	Utah49
Kansas . . . . .	.20	Vermont50
Kentucky . . . . .	.21	Virginia51
Louisiana . . . . .	.22	Washington53
Maine . . . . .	.23	West Virginia54
Maryland . . . . .	.24	Wisconsin55
Massachusetts . . . . .	.25	Wyoming56
Michigan . . . . .	.26	
Minnesota . . . . .	.27	
Mississippi . . . . .	.28	
Missouri . . . . .	.29	
Montana . . . . .	.30	
Nebraska . . . . .	.31	
Nevada . . . . .	.32	
New Hampshire . . . . .	.33	

Sample Local Plant Codes in New York

- Byrne Dairy (Syrac.) 3661
- Hood (Oneida) . . . 5631
- Hood (Binghamton) 1781
- Stewart's (Saratoga) 2151
- Upst. Niagara-Roch 1880
- Upst. Niagara (Buff) 4739

View from the Hill

Continued from page 3...

groups to thank Senate and House sponsors of legislation to return the 340B specialty drug discount program to its original intent of helping vulnerable patients. Lack of program oversight and lax regulations have caused greater profits for hospitals and fewer discounts for vulnerable and uninsured patients. The legislation would require hospitals to disclose how they reinvest 340B revenue to increase charity care for patients.

Immigration: False Start

The Senate turned to open-ended immigration debate the week of February 12. Debate ended four days later with no immigration solutions in sight. The core objective was to see if Senators could somehow agree on a “four pillars” strategy that President Trump and a bipartisan group of lawmakers initially agreed to. The four pillars consisted of a fix for:

- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA or “Dreamers”)
- A border security package
- Family-based immigration (“Chain Migration”)
- The diversity lottery (Visas to immigrants from countries with historically low migration levels)

Ag Workers

Agriculture producers are still looking for a fix to the ag workforce crisis. Ag lobbyists (including the Grange) were hoping for an immigration package to pass the Senate so the House could include Goodlatte’s (R-VA) Ag Act creating a new and simpler H-2C two year work permit program for agriculture. Frankly, any chance now for an ag worker bill to pass Congress in this election year may be slim.

Complications

While most producers support Goodlatte’s proposed H-2C ag worker bill, the Western Growers (fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, tree nuts) are now opposing it. The Growers object to the requirement that long-time ag workers must return to their home countries to apply for a new H-2C visa. This split among Agriculture further dooms chances for ag worker legislation for a while.

Infrastructure

Debate on the Hill now moves to infrastructure. Rural infrastructure needs are a priority for both the Administration and Congress. President Trump still insists that 25 percent of any infrastructure funding package go to rural areas. The President and Congress say rural broadband expansion is a priority corner post within rural infrastructure as is rural health care. Keeping these two priorities at the forefront of the infrastructure agenda for the President and Congress will be a challenge for the Grange.

Telecommunications Lifeline

Lifeline is a government program, funded by the Universal Service Fund, to

provide low income, elderly, disabled and disadvantaged citizens with connectivity to the rest of the world. For most of Lifeline users, service is a nominal landline or wireless monthly plan. The majority of Lifeline customers get services from wireless resellers. A 2017 GAO report found cases of waste, fraud and abuse by some resellers. Subsequently, some members of Congress and the Federal Communications Commission are proposing to remove wireless resellers from the market. Betsy Huber has written the FCC and several legislators on the Hill to say that while the Grange strongly objects to waste, fraud and abuse, there are reputable resellers in the market and let’s not “throw the baby out with the bath water.”

Net Neutrality

Net Neutrality is a tough issue, principally because of its name. Net Neutrality defines broadband as a communications service that essentially makes it a public utility. Well, everyone doesn’t need the same service at the same price for the same priorities at the same speed. FCC Chairman Pai is proposing to classify broadband as an information service not subject to 1930’s telephone monopoly regulations. The Grange has supported Chairman Pai’s proposal at the FCC and to several members of Congress. The Grange’s mission is to connect rural and small town America’s schools, libraries, farms, hospitals, clinics, first -responders and entrepreneurial start-ups. Because of distance and sparse populations, the “pay-for” is not there under the utility-based system like Net Neutrality. New connectivity technology is evolving fast that can get through buildings, around hills and over mountains over longer distances. For rural America, it’s all about getting connected, not how fast or how cheaply Snapchat, video games, latest movies or other apps download

Broadband Via “TV White Spaces”?

White spaces refer to unused low frequencies that operate below 700MHz. This is unassigned spectrum that can be used to deliver broadband access, services, and applications. This available spectrum is suited for delivering broadband to rural areas because it can travel over great distances, penetrate buildings and leap over hills. The cost-effectiveness of white space connectivity is appealing. The National Grange is urging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to approve the use of unused TV white spaces spectrum for wireless broadband expansion.

Small Cells Are Big for Rural Internet

Small cell wireless transmitters operate 100 times faster than current wireless systems and deliver 5G broadband. Their antenna are about 3 cubic feet in volume, are unobtrusive, and can be placed on existing poles, buildings and other structures. They can be placed in existing rights-of-way without much impact. The National Grange is supporting efforts by the FCC to improve old Federal rules to expedite opening this gateway for rural internet.

Plan to take the 7th



Bruce Croucher, High Priest of Demeter

It’s not too early to think about National Grange Convention.

We will be meeting in Stowe, Vermont this year and would love to

have a nice class of candidates for the Seventh Degree.

As many of you are undoubtedly aware, restricted finances have made it necessary to reevaluate programs across the Grange, including the Seventh Degree. This is especially true as we’ve had a dwindling number of people attending or participating as candidates in the Degree in the past several years. While no decisions have yet been made, in the future we may have to go to a smaller venue for the degree work.

This year, we will be at a theatre in Vermont, so we will be able to use the standard staging. There may not be many opportunities for that in the future.

I would hope the Masters of State Granges would begin encouraging members to attend, especially those who have not received the degree. Perhaps having a special session or two in your state for the Sixth Degree might be an incentive for people to participate in this grand conferral.

A class of 1,000 would certainly help to defray the cost for the National Grange and New England is a great place to help reignite the passion for this wonderful tradition.

Agriculture

Theodore Powell, State Ag Comm.

It’s time to get your garden plan together and get started. The Agricultural Committee wants to remind you of the Fruit and Vegetable contests. As in the past, you have to keep track of the amount of fruit and vegetables you donate. You can give the food to a food bank, soup kitchen, people in need. This is a way to get your neighbor, friends, co-workers, to help and for you to tell them about the Grange. Contest ends Sept. 25 when all amounts have to be turned in. You can email me at nearing06415@yahoo.com or call me at 860-908-4906.

2018 National Digests Available

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.

Hank's Classic Deviled Eggs



Spring is here, and it's the perfect time for classic finger foods, such as deviled eggs. This recipe from McCormick is easy and delicious - perfect for any occasion.

Classic Deviled Eggs

INGREDIENTS:

- 6 hard-cooked eggs, peeled
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick® Mustard, Ground
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick® Parsley Flakes
- 1/4 teaspoon Lawry's® Seasoned Salt
- McCormick® Paprika

DIRECTIONS:

Slice eggs in half lengthwise. Remove yolks; place in small bowl. Mash yolks with fork or potato masher.

Stir in mayonnaise, mustard, parsley and seasoned salt until smooth and creamy. Spoon or pipe yolk mixture into egg white halves. Sprinkle with paprika.

Refrigerate 1 hour or until ready to serve.

SOURCE: <https://www.mccormick.com/recipes/appetizer/classic-deviled-eggs>.



By Hank the Burro

Hello to all of my Grange friends! Spring is finally here - but Mother Nature sure has been cranky this year. Hopefully the weather will be improving soon and snow will be a thing of the past until next year.

Welcome to all three new Pomona

Granges. I'm excited to go to their upcoming meetings and see my Grange friends. 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

Charle Smith
Granby Grange #5

Evelyn Bolt, G.S.
Wallingford Grange #33

Geraldine Risley Strong, G.S.
Vernon Grange #52

Ernest Bengston, G.S.
Winchester Grange #74

Philip Hurlbut, G.S.
Winchester Grange #74

Selah Palmer, G.S.
Colchester Grange #78

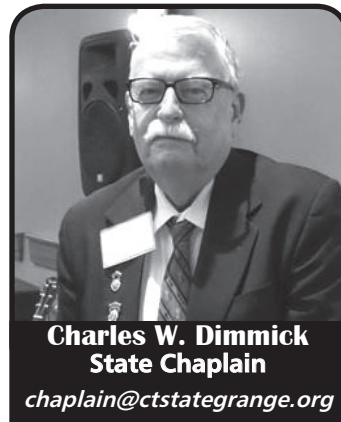
Walter Pieniadz
Colchester Grange #78

Jude Daniel F. Caruso
Greenfield Hill Grange #133

John Tiffany
Lyme Grange #147

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

Easter Joy



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From the death of
sin set free,
Souls reborn,
O Lord we'll be.
Alleluia!

We cannot be certain when the early Church first started celebrating Easter, but it seems to have been well established by the mid second century [circa 150 A.D.]. It was referred to as the Day of the Resurrection, and was celebrated on the Sunday closest to the time of the Jewish Passover feast, which in turn was determined by the first full moon on or after the first day of spring. Originally it was not called Easter, but bore the Greek name *Pascha*, close to the Hebrew *Pesach* [Passover in Hebrew]. The French call it *Paques*, and in Spanish it is *Pascua de Resurreccion*. Only in English and German is it called something that does not derive from *Pesach* [Easter in English; Ostern in German]. So why do we use the term Easter in English? We don't know; the word first appears in Old High German as *esostarum*, but there is no agreement as to the origin of that word.

The first written record of tying Jesus' resurrection to the Passover occurs in St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, where he says "For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed for us". In Hebrew history the first Passover occurred when they were still slaves in Egypt. God told the Hebrews that each Hebrew family should sacrifice a lamb and smear the blood on the doorposts of their homes. That evening He would slay all the firstborn in Egypt, but would "pass over" every home where the blood of the sacrificed lamb was smeared. After this, the yearly observance of the Passover signified the first month of the year and new life for the Hebrews. For us Christians, Easter, our own Passover, represents the beginning of new life in Christ.

Certainly there is no more joyous time in the Christian year than Easter. After the solemn 40 days of Lent, culminating in the passion of Good Friday, comes the Easter service. Whether the Great Vigil of Easter, practiced in some denominations, or an Easter Sunrise service, practiced in other denominations, or some other variations, at this Easter service we may proclaim with Christians everywhere "Christ is Risen; the Lord is Risen indeed!"