



152<sup>nd</sup> National Grange Convention

November 13-17, 2018

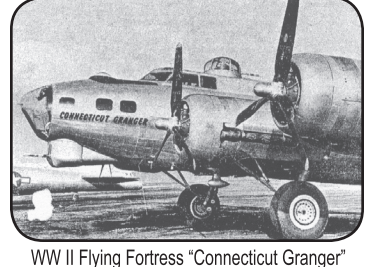
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# Connecticut Granger



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

Vol. 59, No. 2

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

NOVEMBER 2018

## State President



**George Russell**  
State Master/President  
president@ctstategrange.org

The 134th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange is in the books. This year was an election year and a new slate of officers was elected. I had the privilege of being elected as your new State Master/President. I would like to thank the Delegates of the Connecticut State Grange for having the confidence in me to lead your State Grange for the next two years. For those who do not know me, here is a short profile of my family and Grange, and organizations

I belong to.

I live in Canaan, Connecticut along with my wife, Sharon Russell. We have been married for 35 years. We have three children, two boys and one girl and six grandchildren. I retired this past summer after 55 years of being employed at Freund's Farm. I was the herdsman on the farm and had a small herd of cows that I milked at the farm.

I joined Laurel Grange #210 in 1971 and when it closed in 1997, I joined Riverton Grange #169. I've been a member of the Grange for 47 years. I'm a Past Master of Laurel Grange and a past Master of Mountain County Pomona No. 4. At the state level I was Agricultural Chairman, Deputy, General Deputy, Gatekeeper, Assistant Steward and Overseer. I was the dairy superintendent for the Connecticut Agricultural Fair sponsored by the Connecticut State Grange

for 30 years.

Other organizations that I have belonged to include the Housatonic Valley FFA Alumni. I helped to organize and was the first President of the FFA Alumni. I am also a member of Farm Bureau, Litchfield County Dairy Committee and Genex A.I. I was also an alternate delegate and delegate for many years. I presently belong to the National and New England Holstein Association.

With this short profile, you can see I am a strong supporter of agriculture, especially the dairy industry.

I am still looking for Grange members who would like to be on a committee for the State Grange. Please let me know if you are interested. It's a great way to support your Connecticut State Grange and get involved.

By the time you read this article my wife and I will be in Stowe, Vermont at the National Grange Session as your delegates. Let's hope we don't get snowed in!

## "Love for Lillian" Fund Established



Todd A. Gelineau, CSG Foundation Secretary

For those of you who do not know Lillian Sharpe, she is President of Ekonk Community Junior Grange #101 in Sterling. Her grandparents are Russell and Sue Gray, Past Master and First Lady of the Connecticut State Grange. Lillian was diagnosed with leukemia in September and is currently receiving treatment at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA.

To help her parents with the costs associated with shuttling between Connecticut and Massachusetts among other expenses, the Connecticut State Grange Foundation has established the "Love for Lillian" Fund. 100% of all donations will go directly to the Sharpe family.

You are welcome to make a donation of any amount. Checks may be made payable to the "Connecticut State Grange Foundation, Inc." with a note in the memo line... "Love for Lillian."

Donations may be mailed to: Connecticut State Grange Foundation, Inc. 43 Naubuc Ave., P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033.

If you wish to send a "Thinking of You" card or note to Lillian, you may do so by mailing to: Lillian Sharpe, c/o Russell & Sue Gray, 712 Ekonk Hill Rd., Moosup, CT 06354.

The Connecticut State Grange Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 charitable organization and all donations to the "Love for Lillian" Fund will be acknowledged with a letter from the Foundation.

Questions regarding donations may be emailed to: Secretary@CTStateGrange.org or mailed to the address above.

## Your Subscription is now FREE

Todd Gelineau, Editor

From the beginning, it has always been the goal of the Connecticut Granger to grow the Granger Trust Fund to the point where it would be able to sustain free subscriptions to all Connecticut Grange homes. It was especially the dream of our Past President Frank Prelli and Editor Sister Peggy Prelli. On Friday, October 19, that dream became reality when we were able to announce that effective January 1 all subscriptions to Connecticut Grange homes will be FREE. This means that all Grange families of the CT State Grange will no longer pay subscriptions to the paper (or their Granges if they were 100%). This also includes CT members who reside outside the State of Connecticut. Subscriptions outside of Connecticut not considered complimentary

will be charged \$5 each as will subscriptions to members of the CT General Assembly (paid by the State Grange Legislative Endowment Fund).

In January the customary Granger mailing lists will go out to all Granges as usual. Only this time, no money will be required. Granges are asked to review the lists and to add any and all Grange members/families that should now be receiving the Connecticut Granger and to make any necessary corrections to the existing list. We certainly expect the list to grow by a fair percentage with this change.

How is this possible? The Connecticut Granger's Trust Fund has grown considerably over the years to an amount just under \$1 million. The interest income on that principle is what makes free subscriptions

possible. The approximate \$30,000 of annual operating expenses have been offset in the past by subscriptions of only about \$3,000, an amount that can easily be covered by the interest income.

It is our hope that free subscriptions can be used to keep inactive members tuned in to the activities of their local Granges and keep new members connected as well. This will only work if all Granges make it a habit to report to the Granger on a monthly (or at least) or bi-monthly basis.

The decision is a result of a unanimous vote of the officers and directors of the

Continued next page



A part of the National Grange  
American Values,  
Hometown Roots

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**NEXT ISSUE ...**  
**Articles Due Nov. 15**



# WHY I LOVE GRANGE



At State Session we asked members present to fill out a form giving us at least one reason why they “Love the Grange.” Here are some of the answers we received:

- ♥ Because it is a family organization with high moral values.
- ♥ I am connected to people who are entrusted and work to keep alive the true spirit of good neighbors and good humans.
- ♥ Forever Friendships
- ♥ Grangers are good people who will help when you are in need of anything.
- ♥ Opportunities to develop personal and leadership skills in a friendly supportive group: officer roles, special committees, contests, conferences, special events and projects. The historic elements of the whole organization, local/state/national.
- ♥ The friendships.
- ♥ You can visit all around the state – see friends and I have made many, many friends throughout the years, and it’s reasonable.
- ♥ 1) Because it is a national organization so we get to meet people with common interests all over the country and we are allotted the opportunity to travel all over the country. 2) Because it is a family-friendly organization, meaning moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, and cousins can all attend all meetings together. 3) Because of the nature of the socialization, camaraderie and fellowship of the Grange family. 4) Because of the fun and variety of the various activities, contests and Grange programs.
- ♥ Because our cause is the community.
- ♥ You can be a full voting member at 14.
- ♥ 1) The history, 2) The opportunity to contribute to the community in an organization with an open mission.
- ♥ Because of all the great people I have met.
- ♥ It is non-partisan and non-denominational.
- ♥ Conferral of the Fifth and Sixth Degrees.
- ♥ Degree work in the Fifth and Sixth Degrees.
- ♥ I love the friendships, exchange of ideas and mostly the contests.

## Granger Now FREE

*Continued from page one...*

Connecticut Granger who were elected at the annual meeting held at State Session at 8:00 A.M. on Friday morning. The new officers of the Granger are as follows:

- Todd A. Gelineau, President & Editor
- Terri Fassio, Vice President
- Jody A. Cameron, Treasurer
- Noel T. Miller, Secretary

As per the by-laws of the Granger, the Masters of each of the three new Pomonas also serve as Directors to the corporation.

While a flat subscription rate will no longer be charged, donations to the Connecticut Granger operating fund or the trust fund will be happily accepted and appreciated. Let’s keep the fund growing!

We were pleased to receive a donation at State Session from the Connecticut State Grange Past Deputies Association in the amount of \$500 and donations from the Family Activities Committee in the amount of \$295. Thank you to all of the members and Granges who contributed their time and money to these donations.

We also say thank you to our predecessors who had the vision and determination to set up the Connecticut Granger Trust Fund and through smart investment have made the Granger one of the strongest Grange publications in the Nation.

# Mentorship equals Membership



**Faith Quinlan**  
Membership Director  
[membership@ctstategrange.org](mailto:membership@ctstategrange.org)

This year I was fortunate to attend State Session with my family. So many friends there and as usual I learned so much about our organization. I was able to report on the membership committee and was appointed the Director of Membership by our new Master George Russell. I would like to share parts of my report here.

“We can all admit that generations after our own seem to get a bad rap. My parents were sure kids my age would never get real jobs, own homes or be able to function as adults. Some of my generation still haven’t and never will but most of us found our way, albeit unconventionally in our parents eyes.

New members can mean a new face has to evolve from where we are now. This new face of the Grange must be allowed its uncoventionality. Respect of our history and who we already are as a membership within the Grange will be expected. We are out of time and changing to put a fresh face forward to attract a younger membership is critical to our success.

Recently, I was reminded that I once very passionately stated, “If we don’t make a change and attract new members, we will need to get used to seeing our community granges turned into Kwiky Marts and Nail Salons.” It hurts me to say those words because even as a new member myself I know the amazing things the Grange has done to help families, farmers, communities and states. I love passing a Grange building because it tells me so much good stuff about an area. But I suppose that If the buildings go but the membership grows then it will be sad but this powerful organization will - and - must live on.. for me, my children and their children.

The question is, “How do we make ourselves relevant in these times?” You and I know what makes the Grange great - so what about this organization do we need to see carried on so other Americans can enjoy and be blessed? I know you may be asking questions like this and I look forward to tracking those answers so I can share them with future members.

A big part of the change the membership committee will need to consider going forward is the way the message gets to new members. It needs to speak to them about how the Grange is relevant in 2018, the perks and the Why that will speak to their heart and the message has to reach them where they spend their time... yes, online.

I have no doubt that adding more young people to our group will mean:

- More opportunities to help our communities.
- More people responsible for the work and the leadership.
- More people to make crafts, cook or help with the heavy lifting.
- More ideas to make our lives full and lead by community.

I’m proud of all the hard working (very hard working) brothers and sisters I see making things happen week for our Granges and communities. The Membership Committee goal is to bring you all help with energized, passionate new members, team mates and friends who will help lift the load and keep the Grange strong for many generations to come.”

National Grange Communication Director, Amanda Brozana-Rios also spoke about membership and recruiting. She made a great suggestion about becoming mentors to our new recruits. They like to continue learning and we have the experience and knowlege to be fantastic mentors for them. I will be putting together some programs and ideas that can help you take a new approach to membership growth. Please keep in touch by phone or email.



**HOW ARE YOUR NEIGHBORS DOING?**

**6.9 MILLION RURAL AMERICANS LIVE BELOW THE POVERTY LINE**

**15% OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS STRUGGLE WITH FOOD SECURITY**

**GRANGE values**

This ad was produced by the National Grange as part of our public service announcement series. This ad may be replicated so long as the Grange Values logo appears.

(USPS 563-220)

**“Connecticut Granger”**  
is published monthly for \$5.00/yr. by:

Connecticut Granger, Inc..  
100 Newfield Road, Winchester Center, CT 06094  
*(DO NOT SEND MAIL/CORRECTIONS TO THIS ADDRESS)*  
Periodicals postage paid at Winsted, CT 06098

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
Connecticut Granger,  
P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033-1393

**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](mailto:Granger@CTStateGrange.org)

**Connecticut Granger Staff**  
President/Editor . . . . . Todd A. Gelineau  
Vice President . . . . . Terri Fassio  
Treasurer . . . . . Jody Cameron  
Secretary . . . . . Noel Miller



# Resolutions adopted at the 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Session

## Summary of Action

- 1) Sale of Grange Property . . . . . Adopted
- 2) Annual Reports . . . . . Rejected
- 3) Voting at State Session . . . . . Rejected
- 4) Resolution Writing . . . . . Rejected
- 5) The Sale of State Owned Real Estate . . . . . Rejected
- 6) Doubling the Fines When a Child is in the Vehicle . . . . . Adopted
- 7) Accounting Procedures . . . . . Rejected
- 8) Delegate Compensation . . . . . Rejected
- 9) License Plate Visibility . . . . . Rejected
- 10) Legible Directions on Food Preparation Products . . . . . Adopted
- 11) Gun-Free Grange Meetings & Event Venues . . . . . Rejected
- 12) Banning of Round Up Products. . . . . Postponed  
(Resolution sent to State Grange Ag. Committee and will become Res. #1 at 2019 State Session)
- 13) Kayak Safety Training . . . . . Rejected
- 14) Bear Hunting Season . . . . . Rejected
- 15) Preventing, Containing & Removing Invasive Species. . . . . Rejected
- 16) Declaration of Support for Public Forests . . . . . Adopted
- 17) Public Notice & Public Hearing for Public Land . . . . . Rejected
- 18) Support for Our Veterans . . . . . Rejected
- 19) Grange Accounting . . . . . Withdrawn
- 20) The Hastert Rule . . . . . Rejected
- 21) Medicare Coverage in Conv. Homes . . . . . Adopted
- 22) Annual Dues . . . . . Rejected
- 23) Waiver of Dues for Active Military Members . . . . . Rejected
- 24) The Definition of Agritourism . . . . . Adopted
- 25) Acceptance of the Master's Address . . . . . Adopted
- 26) Sale of State Owned Real Estate . . . . . Adopted
- 27) License Plate Visibility . . . . . Adopted
- 28) Grange Youth Department . . . . . Adopted
- 29) Junior & Youth Budget . . . . . Adopted
- 30) Keep the Jr. Grange Badge Program . . . . . Adopted
- 31) Duties of the Membership Director . . . . . Rejected
- 32) Preventing, Containing & Removing Invasive Species . . . . . Adopted

### 1) RE: SALE OF GRANGE PROPERTY

WHEREAS the by-laws of the National Grange Sec. 4.11.1 (G) limits the amount a Grange may retain after the sale of property to \$1,000 with the remainder to be kept in trust by the State Grange, and

WHEREAS this section has not been updated in several years and value of property has risen dramatically over those years.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the first sentence of Sec. 4.11.1 (G) be changed to read:

“When a sale of real property is concluded, the selling Subordinate or Pomona Grange shall account for the net proceeds of the sale received at the time of settlement and shall remit all but the sum of 10% of such net proceeds or \$1,000 of such net proceeds whichever is greater to the State Grange having

jurisdiction to be held in trust for the said Subordinate or Pomona Grange.”

### 6) RE: DOUBLING THE FINES WHEN A CHILD IS IN THE VEHICLE

WHEREAS presently Connecticut has established laws and fines concerning driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs or while texting, and

WHEREAS there was a recent study showing that many parents are still texting while driving even when there is a child in the car, and

WHEREAS there has also been occurrences of adults who have been drinking or under the influence of drugs and driving while a child in the car.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange urge the Connecticut General Assembly to double the fines of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs or texting

while driving when there is a minor child under the age of 16 in the vehicle at the time of the arrest or infraction.

### 10) RE: LEGIBLE DIRECTIONS ON FOOD PREPARATION PRODUCTS

WHEREAS consumers may purchase packaged products for cooking and baking at home, and

WHEREAS food preparation instructions typically include important information such as ingredients to measure, sequence of preparation, and recommendations for cooking and timing, and

WHEREAS packaged products may be sold in a variety of containers, including cardboard, plastic and glass, and

WHEREAS directions or instructions may be printed directly on a package or upon an affixed label, and

WHEREAS directions or instructions are often difficult to read due to the small print/font and/or low contrast of print upon background color (for example black print on a dark blue background surface).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a representative of the National Grange contact the Food and Drug Administration to recommend that the FDA mandate consumer-friendly, easy to read labeling of food preparation instructions on packaged products for home cooking and baking.

### 16) RE: DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC FORESTS

WHEREAS a forest is a self-sustaining ecosystem, and New England’s natural landscape is predominantly forested, and

WHEREAS public forests are held in the public trust, and for the benefit of current and future generations, and

WHEREAS an intact forest ecosystem is biodiverse, allows for and even thrives on natural disturbances, and is the most resource-efficient approach to stewardship and conservation, and

WHEREAS intact unmanaged forests provide the highest level of ecosystem services such as flood and erosion control, and carbon storage and absorption, and

WHEREAS trees can live for hundreds of years, natural old forests are treasured by the public and valued highly by scientists, and are now extremely rare- less than 1% of the landscape in Southern New England, and

WHEREAS tax dollars are

used to log public forests.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CT State Grange urge State policies regarding public forests prioritize and maximize:

1. Public health and safety, quiet reflection, enjoyment of nature, and a sense of wildness;

2. Long-term ecosystem integrity and economic services such as carbon storage, flood control and compatible recreation;

3. Restoration and protection of natural old forests and old growth ecological characteristics, and;

4. Periodic long-term monitoring by a team of scientific professionals (including a forest ecologist, climate scientist, plant and wildlife biologist, recreation specialist) to begin to accumulate knowledge of natural forests during relevant timescales (hundreds of years).

### 21) RE: MEDICARE COVERAGE IN CONVALESCENT HOMES

WHEREAS the hospitalization of Medicare patients, mostly elderly, occur on a daily basis, and

WHEREAS in many of these hospital visits the doctors require these patients to stay in the hospital for a period of time, and

WHEREAS at the end of this in-hospital time many need to be transferred to a facility for extended care, and

WHEREAS when the patient is transferred to these convalescent care facilities many are discovering that Medicare is denying payment for these facilities due to the patient never being ‘admitted’ to the hospital even though they had been in the hospital for multiple days and receiving the same care as admitted patients thus creating financial hardships for the patients whom are primarily seniors and their families, and

WHEREAS the denial of Medicare payments as a result of the hospital never officially admitting the patient but listing them as in ‘observation status’, and

WHEREAS this Medicare loophole has been brought forward to multiple national legislatures and as a result a bill, HR 1421- Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act of 2017, has been presented in Congress and has bi-partisan support but has not been moved by the leadership to the floor of the House or Senate for a vote.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Granges in the state as well as the Connecticut State Grange, contact their National Representatives and Senators to request that HR 1421- Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act of 2017 or similar legislation be brought forward for a vote so as to ease the financial burdens on Medicare patients, primarily seniors, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the next session of the National Grange for consideration and action in closing this financial burden for our seniors.

### 24) RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF AGRITOURISM

WHEREAS, many towns in Connecticut have not addressed a definition of “agritourism” in their zoning regulations, and

WHEREAS, many farmers have had activities on their farms shut down by their towns because of lack of understanding and regulations in the field of “agritourism”, and

WHEREAS, having the public visit farms and partake of farm activities brings and awareness of farming and the public’s connection to their food source while also bringing economic benefits to both the community and State, and

WHEREAS, the National Agricultural Law Center states that any definition of “agritourism” should include that it combines elements of the tourism and agricultural industries; attracts members of the public to visit agricultural operations; provides recreation, entertainment, and/or educational experiences for visitors; and many increase farm income,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut State Grange work to have legislation passed that defines “agritourism” which includes all the elements stated in the National Agricultural Law Center’s definition requirements.

### 25) RESOLUTION CONCERNING ACCEPTANCE OF THE MASTER’S ADDRESS OF NOEL T. MILLER

WHEREAS the Mater of the Connecticut State Grange has put much thought and feeling, and some direction for the future of the organization into his Master’s Address for

Continued next page...



# Resolutions Adopted at Session

*Continued from prev. page*  
the 2018 session,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegate body commends his efforts on producing a fine Master's Address and that this address will be adopted and printed in the Journal of Proceedings for this session. Source: Credentials and Master's Address

## 26 ) RE: THE SALE OF STATE OWNED REAL ESTATE

**WHEREAS** there have been several proposals in recent years to sell real estate owned by the State of Connecticut which were opposed by the general public, and

**WHEREAS** there were no public hearings or other official means for the public to express their opposition to these proposed sales, and

**WHEREAS** there will be a question on the ballots in the general election this fall which, if passed, will require the State to hold a public hearing on the proposed sale or transfer of any State owned real estate, and

**WHEREAS** the Grange has taken positions to preserve parks, forests and agricultural land in Connecticut.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Connecticut State Grange support the passage of the referendum question Number 2 on the ballot this November to amend the State Constitution to mandate that public hearings be held on the proposed sale, swap or disposal of any State owned real estate, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all Granges and Grange members be encouraged to advocate for the passage of question 2.

## 27 ) RE: LICENSE PLATE VISIBILITY

**WHEREAS** vehicles require a license plate for identification purposes, and

**WHEREAS** ability to read a license plate number is essential in many situations, including the reporting of accidents, emergency or criminal actions, and

**WHEREAS** some people place decorative frames around their license plate, or a dark tinted cover, and

**WHEREAS** these optional additions may serve as an obstruction to easy visibility when attempting to read a license plate, and

**WHEREAS** an obstruction to reading a license plate may be detrimental to law enforcement officers or fellow

drivers who wish to report and accident, emergency or unsafe driving, and

**WHEREAS** a statute does exist identifying license plate obstruction as illegal.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Connecticut State Grange ask the Department of Motor Vehicles to explore the possibility of increasing the fines for and promoting methods to enforce the existing law regulating license plate obstructions.

## 28 ) GRANGE YOUTH DEPARTMENT

**WHEREAS** the current age of the Grange Youth program spans from 14 to 35, and

**WHEREAS** that 22-year age range means often there is a segment of the members in it lost with no programming left to take part in for the first time or with no age-appropriate programming available at events, and

**WHEREAS** Young Adults (23-35) are looking for skills-building opportunities that can help them advance in their careers and life skills that are different than those important to Youth (14-22), and

**WHEREAS** the quality of educational opportunities offered by Grange in relation to those offered by other organizations is often significantly less because the program is very broad by age and focus areas;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the current Grange Youth Department be split into two – a Grange Youth (14-22) and Grange Young Adult (23-35) – to offer more age-appropriate programming with budgets and directors focused on providing equitable opportunities for each group.

## 29) JUNIOR AND YOUTH BUDGET

**WHEREAS** the Grange relies almost entirely on donations to fund Junior Grange and Grange Youth, and

**WHEREAS** the National Grange completely funds the Seventh Degree and other endeavors that don't make better Grangers or better citizens, and

**WHEREAS** this discrepancy shows the organization prioritizes things that are often seen as out of date or irrelevant in terms of life skills, achievement and advancement to young members;

**THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED** that the Grange Youth and Junior Grange departments receive at least equal amount of funding from the National Grange budget as the Seventh Degree beginning in 2020.

## 30) KEEP THE JUNIOR GRANGE BADGE PROGRAM

**WHEREAS** Junior Grange is the root system of the Grange, and

**WHEREAS** Junior Grangers need our support and encouragement, and

**WHEREAS** serious consideration is being given to phasing out the badge program and replacing it with a "passport" program as seen on page 70 of "Good Day" Fall 2018 issue, and

**WHEREAS** Junior Grangers, like Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are proud of each badge that they earn and proudly adorn their sash or vest with each as earned

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that National Grange maintain badges that are sewn on, as well as pins or passports, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that each Junior Grange continue to pay for the badges their members earn.

## 32) RE: PREVENTING, CONTAINING AND REMOVING INVASIVE SPECIES

**WHEREAS** invasive species crowd out native species, and

**WHEREAS** invasive plants species provide inferior support for native wildlife, and

**WHEREAS** invasive species can harbor threats to human health, such as Lyme disease, and

**WHEREAS** some invasive species are damaging vistas and recreational opportunities, and

**WHEREAS** invasive species are spread quickly by equipment and by significant disturbances such as construction, logging, mowing, and erosion, and

**WHEREAS** invasive species incur environmental and economic impacts that worsen over time.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Connecticut State Grange urge the Connecticut General Assembly to enact and support comprehensive policies throughout relevant State agencies that educate the public on invasive species and prevent, contain and remove invasive species.

# State Secretary



Todd A. Gelineau  
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

I hope all of the members who attended State Session this year had a great time. The hotel was great, as usual, and the food was excellent. Attendance ended up better than expected but we would love to see more members coming out to see what State Session is all about. It's fun, it's educational and it's a great opportunity to meet and spend time with fellow members.

Our congratulations to new State Master George Russell and his team of officers and committees. Please read his first column in this issue and let him know if you would like to take a leadership role in the new administration.

With the "changing of the guard" there's a great deal of work to be done in preparing the new State Directory, Journal of Proceedings and the Blue Book. Also, the many things we use at the State Grange with the Master's name and/or signature on them have to be re-printed.

New Directors-- please get your Blue Book

information to me as soon as possible. Remember, we switched to a two year format in 2016/17 and will continue with that in the new year. This means all information should cover the 2018/19 & 2019/2020 Grange years. Supplemental information and updates can always be printed separately or published in the Granger, if necessary.

There are a number of Granges who have not submitted their Directory information listing all officers and committees for 2018/2019. If your Grange has not done so, PLEASE get it to me immediately. We may have no other choice but to print without the latest info. and that would be a shame considering the cost and time required to put together the State Directory.

We expect to receive the Bonding information for the new year very soon and will have that out to all Granges as soon as possible.

On the front page of this issue we have printed an article about Lillian Sharpe, a Junior from Ekonk Community Grange. Please read the article and send in a donation or a "thinking of you" card if you can. I know it will be greatly appreciated by Lillian and her family.

Until next time, have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

## 94 years ago in Vermont



International Newsreel Photo - 1924

*When she grows up she can tell her children that she shook the hand of a President.*

PLYMOUTH, VT .... National Grange members from eleven states made the pilgrimage to the Summer White House to assure the President that they would cast their votes for him. The photo shows little Anna Briggs of Kansas shaking hands with the President (Calvin Coolidge). (August 26, 1924)



# 2019 Officers & Committees

Master . . . . .	George Russell . . . . .	Riverton #169
Overseer . . . . .	Noel Miller . . . . .	Coventry #75
Lecturer . . . . .	Marge Bernhardt . . . . .	Cheshire #23
Steward . . . . .	Robert Buck . . . . .	Bethlehem #121
A. Steward . . . . .	Ted Powell . . . . .	Coventry #75
L.A. Steward . . . . .	Eloise Osuch . . . . .	Bethlehem #121
Chaplain . . . . .	Charles Dimmick . . . . .	Cheshire #23
Treasurer . . . . .	Jody A. Cameron . . . . .	Ekonk #89
Secretary . . . . .	Todd A. Gelineau . . . . .	Winchester #74
Gatekeeper . . . . .	Jaimie Cameron . . . . .	Ekonk #89
Ceres . . . . .	Cynthia Finch . . . . .	Bethlehem #121
Pomona . . . . .	Carol Hnath . . . . .	Ekonk #89
Flora . . . . .	Michelle DeDominicis . . . . .	Hillstown #89
Pianist . . . . .	Mary Lou Keefe . . . . .	Winchester #74

## Executive Committee

2019 . . . . .	Robert Sendewicz . . . . .	Redding #15
2019 . . . . .	A. Ruel Miller . . . . .	Cheshire #23
2020 . . . . .	Jeffrey Barnes . . . . .	N. Stonington #138
2021 . . . . .	F. Philip Prelli . . . . .	Riverton #169
2021 . . . . .	Alma Graham . . . . .	Coventry #75

## Deputies

General . . . . .	Peter Keefe . . . . .	Winchester #74
Pomona . . . . .	Cynthia Charbonneau . . . . .	Meriden #29
Subordinate . . . . .	Geno Piacentini . . . . .	Redding #15
Subordinate . . . . .	Sandra Phillips . . . . .	Winchester #74
Subordinate . . . . .	Earl Phillips . . . . .	Eureka #62

## Family Activities (CWA)

Cindy Legg (Director)	Beacon Valley #103
Anne-Marie Knochenhauer . . . . .	Groton Comm. #213
Claudia Sopstyle . . . . .	Enfield #151
Patricia Tarca . . . . .	Cawasa #34

## Membership Development & Retention

Faith Quinlan (Director) . . . . .	Winchester #74
Theodore Beebe . . . . .	Norwich #172
Barbara Prindle . . . . .	Taghannuck #100

## Youth

Dawn Anstett (Director) . . . . .	Riverton #169
Ronald Gunther . . . . .	Redding #15
Marianne Nielsen . . . . .	Redding #15

## Junior

Michelle DeDominicis (Co-Director) . . . . .	Hillstown #87
Kathy Tefft (Co-Director) . . . . .	Lyme #147
David Sanford . . . . .	Lyme #147

## Legislative

Alma Graham (Director) . . . . .	Coventry #75
Charles Dimmick . . . . .	Cheshire #23
Gordon Gibson . . . . .	Vernon #52
Noel Miller . . . . .	Coventry #75
Susan Masino . . . . .	Simsbury #197

## Agriculture

J. Allen Cameron (Director) . . . . .	Ekonk Comm. #89
Dennis Jasmine . . . . .	Riverton #169
Nancy Mascio . . . . .	Bridgewater #153
Irene Percoski . . . . .	Enfield

## Public Relations

Terri Fassio (Co-Director) . . . . .	Winchester #74
Robert Charbonneau (Co-Director) . . . . .	Meriden #29
Martha Trask . . . . .	Cheshire #23
Frank Forrest . . . . .	Hillstown #87
Barbara Chapman . . . . .	Simsbury #197

## Ritual (Code Reading)

Donald Lanoue (Director) . . . . .	Cheshire #23
Peter Keefe . . . . .	Winchester #74

## Community Service

Noel & Marcia Miller . . . . .	Coventry #75
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## Education

Nancy Weissmuller (Director) . . . . .	N. Stonington #138
Dawn Percoski . . . . .	Enfield #151
Nancy Strong . . . . .	Vernon #52

## Connecticut Granger

Todd A. Gelineau . . . . .	President/Editor
Terri Fassio . . . . .	Vice President
Noel Miller . . . . .	Secretary
Jody A. Cameron . . . . .	Treasurer



# Public Relations Contest Winners

Terri Fassio, P.R. Co-Director Library.

The Public Relations committee offered three contests for 2018. Sadly, the Video Contest did not have any entries.

The winner of the Best Cooperative Partnership Contest was Simsbury Grange. Their entry detailed their partnership presenting a concert series with the Simsbury

The Social Media Participation Contest was the third Public Relations Contest for 2018. Granges were automatically entered into this contest by effectively and actively managing a proper Facebook and/or Twitter Page. The winners are as follows:

**Facebook Winners:**  
1st: Cheshire Grange  
2nd: Ekonk Community Grange  
3rd: Winchester Grange

**Twitter Winners:**  
1st: Winchester Grange  
2nd: Cannon Grange

Winning certificates will be mailed to each Grange. The Public Relations Committee will be meeting soon to develop our program for the next two years, which we will report on in the next issue.

# Invasive lanternfly found in Connecticut

New Haven, CT- The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) in cooperation with USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) announce that a single dead adult spotted lanternfly, *Lycoma delicatula*, has been detected and confirmed from a private residence in Farmington, CT.



The insect appears to have been a hitch hiker that was likely transported on a vehicle from Pennsylvania. No other spotted lanternflies were found upon visiting the property. However, some additional survey in the area is planned to confirm that no other spotted lanternflies are present.

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive sap-feeding planthopper that was discovered in Berks County, Pennsylvania in 2014. It is native to China, India, and Vietnam. It attacks many hosts and has the potential to severely impact Connecticut's farm crops, particularly apples, grapes, and hops, as well as a number of tree species. In the fall, adults can often be found congregating on tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus*), willows and other trees. They will lay egg masses on trees and almost any nearby surface. Early detection is important for the protection of Connecticut businesses and agriculture. The public is urged to report potential sightings of this invasive pest to CAES.StateEntomologist@ct.gov. Submission of a photograph with any report is encouraged.



Hank poses for a couple photos by Amanda Brozana-Rios at State Session in October.

By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange friends! It was so much fun to see all of my Grange friends at State Session! It was great to see Amanda Brozana-Rios and her family again too. She was my original caretaker back in 2013! I have now been passed along to my new caretakers - George and Sharon Russell, and am looking forward to all of our new Grange adventures. Many thanks to Noel and Marcia Miller for the past 4 fabulous years. We sure made a lot of great memories!! The Russells will be headed off to National Grange Session in Vermont soon - and it will be my chance to reunite with the rest of the Herd.

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>



# Address of State Master Noel T. Miller

*Brothers and Sisters of the Connecticut State Grange,*

Friends, it is hard to believe that this is my fourth year as your State Master. In the first year the Board of Directors developed values for the Connecticut State Grange. Honesty, Community, Charity, Integrity, Friendship and Citizenship were the important values that we placed on Grangers in Connecticut and we have succeeded in this charge. We are constantly seeking ideas to improve Leadership, Membership, and Social Skills needed to improve our Grange meetings and gain new members. We have survived 150 years and we seem to struggle to gain new members, and keep older members involved with our Community Granges.

## MEMBERSHIP

This year our membership has taken a hit with more losses than gains. We have become an older membership organization. This proved that to live longer you need to join the Grange, but it also means we need to change our approach to younger prospective members. We are not alone in getting new members as other organizations in our communities are having problems seeking new members. The last few articles in the Granger have addressed these findings and I hope to see a new way of thinking on how to gain in membership. Our family base is a great selling point for new members, but some families are taking over the Grange and shutting out new ideas and new members. This is not the way for a Grange to operate as we have seen in the past these Grangers become stagnant and will close in the near future. It may be time to have a part-time Membership Director who can oversee new programs and out of the box thinking. The phrase "this is how we have always done it" needs to be rejected, trashed and be a dirty word in the Grange membership vocabulary. We have given out more membership packages this year but not everyone has gotten on board. This year we had to close Echo Grange #180, Litchfield Grange #107 and Wolf Den Grange #61. This has always been a difficult task to be done as your State Master.

## NATIONAL GRANGE

The National Grange has had some issues with the air conditioning and heating system at the National Grange Building in Washington, D.C. The entire system needed replacement. During the demolition phase, they found other systems needing repairs. The new system was installed and the contractor requested more money, thus a new contractor finished the project. As of September, the AC is up and running and now it's time for heat. Other upgrades to the electrical and plumbing systems were made and new paint is in some of the offices and the building is now at 100% occupancy.

The legal issues with the California State Grange are winding down. Both the National Grange and California State Grange have

won their legal battles between them and the California Guild. State Grange property has been returned to the State Grange and Granges are returning to the California State Grange. Monies are the last hurdle that is now in the courts. Some funds have been reimbursed but some illegal payments are in court now. Hopefully this event is over and lessons are learned by everyone that the Digest is the rule for all Granges.

Ekonk Community Grange #89, Ekonk Community Junior #101, Hillstown #87 and Winchester #74 Grange members assisted with the Farm Aid pre-concert education center. Thanks to all that helped out with Farm Aid.

National Master Betsy Huber was present at Grange Day at the Big E on September 23, 2018. She marched in the parade with other Grangers and enjoyed the new Grange float that we had for members to ride in the parade. She also worked at the New England Grange Building with sales and janitorial duties. Great job, Betsy.

National Grange Convention will be in Stowe, Vermont this year November 4-11, 2018. The Seventh Degree will be on Saturday, November 10 at 1:00 P.M. This is the closest to Connecticut it will be for a while so go if you can.

## POMONA GRANGES

This year was the year of reorganization of the Pomona Granges in Connecticut. I welcome Eastern Connecticut Pomona #14, Mountain Laurel Pomona #15 and Nutmeg Pomona #16 to Connecticut. This was a difficult task for the State Executive Committee to undertake and the results are the best possible chance for the Pomona Granges to survive in Connecticut. We have already seen Pomona members not attending the new Pomona Granges. If this is the trend then the new Pomonas will fail. Every Fourth Degree member should belong to a Pomona Grange. It gives you a chance to meet different people, get new ideas as to what other Granges are doing and it allows you to get the 6th and 7th Degrees. The Fifth Degree is the prettiest degree and is part of the pathway to the future. Check the new Pomonas out and be part of the future.

## EDUCATION

Education is a part of the Grange that we have supported since the beginning of the Connecticut State Grange. Community Granges rallied the legislators to make the Storrs Agricultural School to become this state's land grant college in 1881, taking it away from Yale University. Thus, UConn was born. We all know the importance of a good



Noel & Marcia Miller received a Certificate of Appreciation from the New England Grange Building, presented by Claire & Steve Logan.

education. We have supported adequate funding for public schools, vocational agricultural schools, technical schools, community colleges and affordable universities. With the fast growth of technology our towns are burdened with increased taxes to give our students the tools needed to succeed in the future. Yet towns are in competition for magnet schools, which puts strains and drains on local boards of education to transport and pay enrollments to the private classrooms. How times have changed.

The FFA is still a fast growing educational program with 20 chapters in Connecticut and over 3,300 members with 100 teachers in agricultural education. We have supported this group from its infancy and I hope you have invited them to your meetings for a program, farm experience or a Grange function. I know this is a hard group to get to join because they either go to college or go into farming after high school. We should try harder for they are hard workers, public speakers and Parliamentary trained members. Give them a chance and listen to what they have to offer.

## AGRICULTURE

Connecticut Agriculture is a 3.4 billion dollar business that fuels our economy and provides 28,000 local jobs in our state. We need to have increased trade efforts and repeal tariffs that endanger the delicate pricing of agricultural products. This year we have lost four family dairy farms due to the crashing milk prices and lock-outs of markets that are needed for the success of the future. Other farm products are being undermined by tariffs that will have grave impacts on farmers across the United States. Lending institutions are already tightening requests for 2019 farm loans. The 2018 Farm Bill needs to be passed now as delays are having an impact on markets and family farms. We must close loopholes that non-farmers are getting aid for farm products. We need an immigration program that allows migrant workers to come to Connecticut to work our farms because the local workforce declines doing farm work. When I was in high school my guidance counselor wanted me to take a language class. I told her I wanted to be a dairy farmer and cows didn't speak Spanish. But now many dairy farms are hiring Mexicans to milk cows. If I knew then what I know now, I probably could speak Spanish.

Technology is expanding

over leaps and bounds on today's farms. Satellite guided tractors, self-driving tractors, GPS planting, robotic milking stations, are the future of farming. You will be able to run your operation with your cell phone,

scary to me. Therefore, we need improvements in internet and cellular coverage to assist rural America in meeting the needs for today's farming. The National Grange is on the FCC committee to improve rural broadband internet for rural America. Soon you will have to go to a heritage farm in order to have a hands on experience in farming. Our future is meeting the challenge every year but weather has had a strong impact on our farmers with fires, floods, hurricanes, snowstorms, and tornadoes that have impacted everyone this year. Is this the course for the future?

## CAMP MAUD ISBELL BERGER

This is the gem of the Connecticut State Grange. Chris and Lyn Kimberly have continued to improve the camp with work done on the dining hall floor and a new stove. New fencing and regrading of the driveway and tree removal have greatly improved the looks of the Camp. This year newer sailboats, kayaks and paddle boards were purchased for the camping season. We had an increase in campership this year, but we still have a need for better communication between the Kimberly's and the State Grange so bills and needs can be handled quickly. We are looking forward to another camping season. Thank you Chris and Lyn for all the work you do for the Camp.

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

I wish to thank all of the Directors that helped promote the State Grange. Our CWA continues to shine at Let's Celebrate and for having items for the Big E sewing contest. Our Social Committee always has a fun and entertaining program as well as great food. I thank the youth that went to Brooks, Maine for the New England Youth Conference. I hear that it is coming to Connecticut in 2019. I thank your Junior Leaders for the work that our Junior Granges are doing for the community. I hope that our future programs will excite more participation in Grange activities.

To the Officers, I wish to thank you for the work that you have done this year. You are the eyes and ears for the State Grange and can report concerns to the State Master before things get out of hand. Your friendship will always be appreciated by me and I hope you continue to support the next State Master.

The Board of Directors is always watching my back from

informing me when I am wrong but also thanking me for doing right. This year we were in the real estate business and this is not what we should be in. Although we think our halls are worth millions, they are real headaches to get rid of. We still have furniture available for your Grange halls. Let's hope this is not the future for our Community Granges.

The Secretary and Treasurer are the real heroes for the work they do behind the scenes to keep this State Grange ever facing the light. They make the best out of a bad situation and always keep me out of trouble. I thank you all for the excellent work that you do for this Grange.

## CLOSING COMMENTS

I have enjoyed being your State Master. Many Granges have celebrated 125 and 130 years of Grange service and I have enjoyed celebrating with you. Marcia and I have enjoyed visiting Granges although I did miss my goal to visit every Grange. This year the Northeast Connection is trying to combine Leaders' Conference with the Youth and Lecturer's Conferences to improve attendance and reduce costs for Grangers. We will see in 2019 what happens to these events.

The years of the "G" bills were very good to the State Grange assessment fund but these "C" bills were even harder to find. I thank all those who collected these bills and we will not do this again.

The New England Grange Building had a great year at the Big E. 1.5 million people attended the fair with September 15th and the 22nd having the highest attendance. Three days were wash-outs but the parade was well attended and I thank Clucky T Chicken for riding the float.

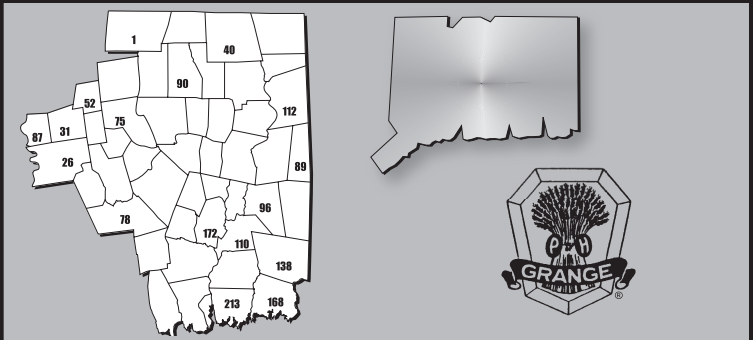
Let us remember that the State Grange does not want to take your money, we are here to assist you in business decisions that your Grange may not have to ever encounter, and give you the best advice we can offer. The National Grange Digest is the Law for all Grangers. You need to read them and follow them. If you don't the National Grange can revoke your Charter and you will lose everything your Grange owns. The California State Grange has proven this. So please contact the State Master or the Executive Committee for the sale of property and turning in charters because we can guide you in the proper way to handle this.

As I conclude I wish to thank all the Grangers in Connecticut for allowing me to be your State Master for the last four years. I will never forget the FRIENDSHIP and CHARITY you have shown me. I also congratulate the Granges for the COMMUNITY and awarding CITIZENSHIP and for helping me with my HONESTY and INTEGRITY for "That is the Grange way." Marcia and I thank you all for the honor of representing the Connecticut State Grange and will look forward to serving in the future where I can assist. Good luck and God Bless the Connecticut State Grange.

Respectfully yours,  
Noel T. Miller, State Master



## E. Connecticut Pomona No. 14



- |                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 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 |                             |

### VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Cherie Robinson

**Nov. 2:** Grange Ritual: Grange Implements; Writing Cards to Veterans

Refreshments: Cherie

**Nov. 9:** Craft Night

**Dec. 7:** Christmas Party  
Refreshments: Amy and John

Starting off our Grange year, we learned about our history: of inspired men and woman who started the National Grange, then in October history of CT State Grange and Vernon Grange. Even some of our long time Grangers learned a few new facts! We are trying something new. On Craft Nights, we will be making holiday decorations for nursing homes.

Our December meeting will be our Christmas party with an exchange of funny gifts. You are welcome to join us at our Grange meetings and also at our Craft Nights. We welcome visitors, but please be sure

to check with us in case of any schedule changes.

### EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Celebrate AG is over for year number two of our Granges serving breakfasts and lunches to many hundreds of hungry folks, many farmers and you must know how they can eat! We did add a healthy profit to our treasury and once again donated \$500.00 back to the Celebrate AG all volunteer committee! We sadly accepted the resignation of Sue Griffiths as our Greeter but new youth member, Evelyn Dexter was elected and installed to fill that position. We voted to let Joyce Jordan use our facilities for a fundraising supper for the Sterling United Protestant Church, which is struggling to maintain its historic Church with an aging congregation (sadly, this sounds like too many Granges). We ended up

donating a total of \$297.00 in "C" and "G" bills to the State Grange. Thanks to all who contributed! Paulette Craig gave us an update on her granddaughter who was born with cystic fibrosis. Specialists in Pittsburg, PA determined that she remains strong enough to not yet need a lung transplant. She is now 24 years old and has 33% lung capacity. Nov. 1st we have a special program, "Raptor ReHAB". Richmond Grange has been invited to join us for a soup and sandwich supper, followed by the program and then our regular Grange meeting. Several Subordinate and Juniors will be attending part or all of National Grange session. We are extremely proud of Junior President, Lillian Sharpe, who is representing CT as Junior Ambassador and vying for the National title. Nov. 17th will be our annual Turkey Supper and December 1st our Christmas Bazaar!

### N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

**Nov. 9:** "Horsepower"

**Nov. 23:** No Meeting, Happy Thanksgiving

The Barnes/Cameron Team installed Robert Miner and his slate of officers on Sept. 14. Cheree Miner was guest pianist and Nancy Weissmuller was guest soloist. All officers with the exception of Chaplain returned to office. Dot Gurney, our longtime Chaplain decided to retire and Mike Riley Sr.

was elected to the office. We thank Dot for her many years of dedicated service and we miss her.

Sue's programs this year all have something to do with "Motion." Our Sept. 28 program dealt with bi-pedal motion. With the Yankee-Red Sox game on Jason's laptop during refreshments we all used our bi-pedal motion to race downstairs to watch the game after the

meeting.

Dues are due. Hopefully the Secretary will have the dues notices sent out by the time this paper hits the streets. A list of the year's programs will be sent with your paid dues receipts. And if all this rain will just go away and not come another day for along time, next time we'll tell you all about optimistic October.



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

## CT Winners at the Big E

The following are the Connecticut winners at the New England Grange Building Needlework Contest at the Big E.

**Doilies** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Carol Nelson, Vernon #52

**Embroidery** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Claudia Sopstyle, Enfield #151

**Three Piece Baby Set** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Margaret Easton

**Counted Cross Stitch** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Mariellen Baxter, Vernon #52

**Adult Garment** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Pat Margelony – Vernon #52

**Latch Hook** – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Dorothy Joselovitz – Redding #15

**Quilted Wall Hanging** – Karen Macdonald – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Redding #15

## S. CT Past Masters

The November meeting of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters will be held at the Bethlehem Memorial Hall on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Supper time is 6:30 P.M.

The program is in the charge of Vice President Cindy Legg and is entitled "Gobble, Gobble, Gobble."

Robert Buck, President will preside over the meeting which starts as soon as the dishes are done.

As always we will have a country store. Visitors are always welcome.

# WINDOW TO THE PAST

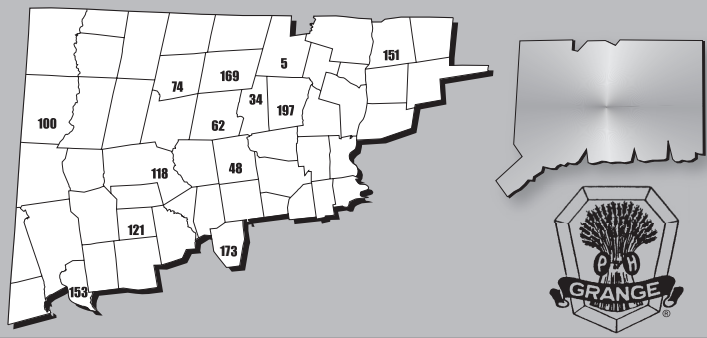
Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a history to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of faces and places as we look through the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



There were no answers to last month's picture.



## Mountain Laurel Pomona No. 15



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

### WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

*Corr: Todd A. Gelineau*

**Nov. 2:** Holiday Super Prize Party & Bake Sale, Doors open at 6, Drawing at 7

**Nov. 13:** Remember, Potluck (6 P.M.)

**Nov. 27:** Turkey Stew, Ref. Bill & Betty Ahrens

**Dec. 11:** Noel (\$5 Grab Bag), Ref. Women

By the time you are reading this, the annual Holiday Super Prize Party & Bake Sale may have already passed. If not, why not come up to Winchester Center and join in on the fun? The date is Nov. 2 with the doors opening at 6 and the drawing of tickets starts at 7. It's always a fun time.

Winchester Grange congratulates Master Peter Keefe on his appointment as General Deputy of the State Grange, Mary Lou Keefe was re-appointed as Pianist as was Terri Fassio as PR Co-Director, and Faith Quinlan was appointed Membership Director. This correspondent was re-elected State Secretary.

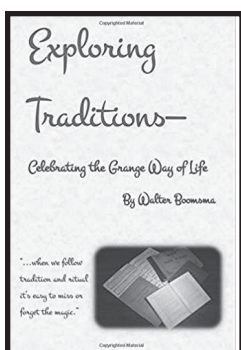
### TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

*Corr: Barbara Prindle*

## Exploring Traditions

These essays by Walter Boomsma unpack the teachings of the Grange and relate them to today's world and our everyday lives," writes National Master Betsy Huber. Many people, including Grange members themselves seem to be wondering about the relevance of this 150 year old organization in modern society. They may find some answers in Exploring Traditions—Celebrating the Grange Way of Life, a series of essays encouraging readers to understand the basis of Grange ritual and tradition. This is not a "guide to the Grange," it truly is an exploration of some of the words and actions found in the Grange ritual and tradition. Included are the Grange Mission Statement and Declaration of purposes, allowing readers to take away from the book a new and deeper understanding of the Grange—not merely as an historical organization, but also an organization that teaches a way of life that aligns us with nature and creates community.

The book is \$14.95 plus shipping & handling and is available by visiting NationalGrange.org and clicking on the Grange Store section of the website.



Taghhannuck Grange is now meeting only once a month for business meetings. Special meetings are scheduled as needed. Our Nov. 8 meeting has the Graces presenting the program and the CWA in charge of refreshments. This will be the first full meeting with our four new officers officiating.

We are giving out dictionaries this month to the third grades in the grammar schools in the towns of Kent (22), Warren (10), Cornwall (11), and Sharon (9). This is our 15<sup>th</sup> year doing the Dictionary Project. It is a joy to see the students get so excited when they put their names in the dictionary and are told they can take them home.

The Sharon Volunteer Fire Department celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ellsworth Station, which is attached to our Grange Hall, with a dedication ceremony on Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>. The building of the firehouse was initiated by our Grange members who helped raise money and supplied the labor. There were many smiles in reminiscence.

## Taghhannuck & Sharon Vol. Fire Dept.



The Sharon Volunteer Fire Department celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ellsworth Station, which is attached to Taghhannuck Grange Hall in Sharon, CT. A dedication ceremony was held on October 13<sup>th</sup>. The building of the firehouse was initiated by our Grange members who helped raise money and supplied labor. There were many smiles in reminiscence. Pictured starting from the right is Tommy Lovell (not a Grange member) then Vince Johnson, Ralph Dunbar, and Alice Morgan (all Grangers). The man standing 1<sup>st</sup> on the left inside the firehouse is believed to be Ellsworth "Bud" Beecher (later State Master) representing the State Grange.

## Ekonk Juniors earn badges



Ekonk Juniors who earned badges. The Juniors earned 62 badges this past year.

## Lecturer's Department Awards



Marge Bernhardt  
State Lecturer

[lecturer@ctstategrange.org](mailto:lecturer@ctstategrange.org)

It was nice to see so many of you at State Session. To most of us the Grange is Family and we get to gather together once a year for our reunion. And, this year we had some good news in the Lecturers Department. We had more entries in both the Essay Contest and the Complete Program Contest than we have had recently. We also had more Honor Lecturers and more Lecturer's Appreciation Awards to give out. The recipients and their Grange are ...

### COMPLETE PROGRAMS...

1<sup>st</sup> Susan Pianka, No. Stonington  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cherie Robinson, Vernon  
3<sup>rd</sup> Emily Alexander, Cheshire

### ESSAY CONTEST...

1<sup>st</sup> Lois Evankow, Lyme  
2<sup>nd</sup> Nancy Weissmuller, No. Stonington  
3<sup>rd</sup> Susan Pianka, No. Stonington  
HM Cherie Robinson, Vernon

### HONOR LECTURERS...

Barbara Kulisch, Cheshire  
Cherie Robinson, Vernon  
Susan Pianka, No. Stonington  
Lois Evankow, Lyme

### LECTURER APPREC. AWARDS

Kevin Parker, Redding  
Barbara Kulisch, Cheshire  
Ann Gilnack, Glastonbury  
Linea Erickson, Cawasa  
Helena Schwalm, Whigville  
Cherie Robinson, Vernon  
Jon Hykes, Hillstown  
Robert Buck, Bethlehem  
Geno Piacentini, Greenfield Hill  
Susan Pianka, No. Stonington  
Tina Meehan, Prospect  
Lois Evankow, Lyme  
Lila Cleveland, Stonington  
Raine Pederson, Riverton  
Nancy Swanson, Hemlock  
Manchester Grange  
Taghhannuck Grange  
Enfield Grange  
Oxford Grange

### SHOULD AULD ACQUAINTANCE

Cheshire  
Glastonbury  
Vernon  
Killingly  
No. Stonington  
Lyme

### A WORD FROM HOME

Cheshire  
Glastonbury  
Vernon  
No. Stonington  
Lyme  
Hemlock

My thanks to everyone who participated. Why don't you offer to help or enter one of the contests next year?





November and December wouldn't be the same without good old-fashioned pumpkin pie. Here's a recipe from Good Housekeeping that makes it easy to make and serve for a crowd.

## Pumpkin Slab Pie

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 recipe pie crust (you can make this yourself, or purchase the type you can roll out from the refrigerated section of the grocery store)
- 2 cans pure pumpkin (15 oz. each)
- 1 tsp. fresh ginger, peeled and grated
- 1 1/4 c. heavy cream
- 1 1/4 c. whole milk
- 4 large eggs
- 1 c. dark brown sugar
- 1/2 c. granulated sugar
- 2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1 tsp. salt
- Whipped cream, for serving (optional)



### DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat oven to 400°F.
- Place pie crust on lightly floured work surface. Lightly flour dough and roll into 12 x 10-inch rectangle, flouring and scraping as needed to prevent sticking.
- Gently wrap dough around rolling pin and transfer to half of 15-1/2 x 10-1/2-inch rimmed baking sheet, placing 10-inch side of dough along longest side of pan and allowing dough to hang over 3 sides.
- Roll remaining piece of dough; place on other half of baking sheet, overlapping slightly with first piece. Press seam together to seal.
- Trim any excess dough, leaving 1/2-inch overhang if possible. Crimp and press edges of crust to create even rim, using any trimmed dough to seal cracks or gaps.
- Cover with large sheet parchment paper and pie weights or dried beans. Bake 14 minutes.
- Remove paper and weights. Bake another 8 to 10 minutes, or until golden.
- Meanwhile, in 4-quart saucepan, cook pumpkin and ginger on medium-high 10 minutes, stirring often. Remove from heat and let cool slightly.
- In medium bowl, whisk cream, milk, eggs, brown sugar, granulated sugar, pumpkin pie spice, and salt until smooth. Add pumpkin mixture, whisking again until smooth.
- Pour mixture into pre-baked pie crust. Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until set.
- Cool completely before cutting into 12 to 16 pieces. Serve with whipped cream, if desired.

**TIPS:** Don't stress over an imperfect pie crust. Any tears and thin spots that appear when you're transferring your dough to the pan can be patched with a drop or two of cold water or the extra dough you trim off of the edges.

Make sure you have a bag of dried beans on hand. Or, if you're feeling fancy, invest in some pie weights: The extra weight prevents your pie crust from bubbling and shrinking as it bakes.

Cook up canned pumpkin before adding it to your filling. This both dries out excess moisture and intensifies the pumpkin's flavor (especially when you add in grated ginger).

Prep easy-to-serve toppings ahead of time. This entire recipe can be made up to a day in advance, right down to the toppings: Just pipe out little dollops of whipped cream onto a piece of parchment paper and freeze them. Then, when it's time to serve up dessert, you can slide one onto each slice. Easy as pie!

**SOURCE:** [www.goodhousekeeping.com/food-recipes/dessert/a41084/pumpkin-slab-pie-recipe/](http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/food-recipes/dessert/a41084/pumpkin-slab-pie-recipe/)

## Timely resolutions adopted at Session



**Alma Graham**  
Legislative Director  
[Legislative@ctstategrange.org](mailto:Legislative@ctstategrange.org)

Thank you everyone who submitted resolutions to the Connecticut State Grange Annual Session. We had a nice variety of topics to discuss. We ended up with 32 resolutions covering topics including environmental concerns, Grange processes and safety concerns.

One resolution topic, which is time sensitive, was resolution number 5, Sale of State-Owned Real Estate and resolution number 17, Public Notice and Public Hearing for Public Land. Both of these resolutions covered the subject of the Referendum Question 2 which is appearing on the upcoming November election ballot. Referendum Question 2 concerns state owned lands being sold, swapped, or given away without public input. If Referendum Question 2 passes, the State would be required to hold public hearings before any state-owned public land such as state parks, forests and agricultural lands can be sold or transferred. Presently the State can sell or transfer lands without any public notification. The committee combined the two resolutions into resolution number 26 which was then supported by the delegate body.

We had one resolution concerning banning the use of Round-Up products which contain the active ingredient glyphosate. It was felt that the delegate body did not have an adequate understanding of glyphosate to act on this resolution. They voted to postpone it until next year and asked the State Grange Agricultural Committee to research this and bring a report back to the next State Grange session.

Resolutions passed by the delegate body concerning state issues will be incorporated into the State Grange Legislative Guide.

This guide will be handed out to all of the Connecticut General Assembly members as well as the Governor and Lt. Governor.

As we now have a new State Grange President, there are many changes to the state committees. Some members of the State Legislative Committee are remaining. I (Alma Graham) will continue as the Director, Gordon Gibson and Charles Dimmock will also continue as members of the committee. I would like to welcome Noel Miller from Coventry Grange and Sue Masino from Simsbury Grange to the Legislative Committee. I am looking forward to working with them.

I would like to thank George Ward and Russell Gray for all of their hard work and dedication to the Legislative Committee. I know that they are both very dedicated Grange members and we all appreciate all they have done for the Grange. Thank you, George and Russell.

## Hillstown hosts Equip. Workshop

The Hillstown Grange is holding a small equipment workshop on Saturday, November 10th from 9 to 11 am. We are hoping to make this a series with a different device each time. The workshop will feature 'snow blowers'. What to do if it won't start, how to change the spark plug, oil basics, how to keep your fingers when cleaning the snow and slush jams and more.

We will have free hot coffee inside but this is an outside event so dress accordingly. A \$5 donation is asked of all attendees.

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 on this event: Frank at 860-690-2945 or e-mail [hillstowngrange@aol.com](mailto:hillstowngrange@aol.com).

For more information on Hillstown Grange, visit the Grange's website at [www.HillstownGrange.org](http://www.HillstownGrange.org). More information on the Granges across Connecticut can be found at [www.CTStateGrange.org](http://www.CTStateGrange.org)

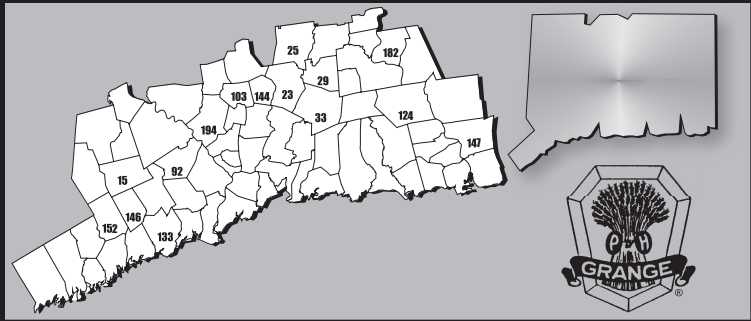
## Vernon Grange volunteers at Farm Aid



Vernon Grange Volunteers with Strong Family Farm at Farm Aid 2018: Front SFF Theona Wheelock, Claudia Steele. Back VG #52 John Kinabrew, Amy DeBaun, Nancy Strong, and SFF Chris Caldwell. Missing VG Lecturer Cheri Robinson



## NUTMEG POMONA No. 16



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	

### NUTMEG POMONA #16

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

The next meeting will be on Sunday, Dec. 2 at Beacon Valley Grange Hall in Naugatuck at 2:00. Lecturer Lois Evankow will present a program entitled "Will Santa Come by Sleigh or Car?" Good question. For those who would like to participate there will be a \$5 grab bag. We will also have a Toys for Tots collection.

Refreshments will be served by the members of Beacon Valley Grange. We will have a country store.

At the last meeting the Fifth Degree was conferred on Stephanie Thompson and Cornelia Olsen from Greenfield Hill Grange and Richard Lachnicki from Mountain Laurel Pomona.

We were happy to have present State Master Noel Miller and Marcia, Lady Assistant Steward Eloise Osuch, Deputy West Peter Keefe, and Pianist Mary Lou Keefe and Barbara Robert from Social Connection. Pomona officers from Mountain Laurel were Pomona Lecturer Lin Erickson, Secretary Carol Swanson, Flora Joanne Ritchiel and Gatekeeper Paul Forte. We hope they will come and visit again.

### CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

*Corr: Ruel Miller*

Nov 7: Youth Night

Nov 21: Meeting Cancelled. Happy Thanksgiving!

Our fall activities are getting going. Monday craft nights continue. We will have a fall fund raiser in conjunction with the Cheshire Historical Society and their "Spirits Alive" cemetery tours on October 19th and 20th. We will serve refreshments for the

people taking the tours on both nights. This gives us good visibility in the town as well as working with another town group. We will be donating food items for the Cheshire Food Dive which we do each year. As noted above, our Nov 21st meeting is cancelled as it is Thanksgiving Eve.

Several of us are planning to attend the State Grange Session in Norwich.

### BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

Our members are still busy. September 15<sup>th</sup> we had a tag sale and open mic the weekend of September 28-30. We had a clothing drive at the hall which netted us a nice profit while other members were manning a table at Naugatuck's Fall Festival. On October 7 we will have a bake sale at WalMart.

On November 3 we will have a craft, bake and tag sale. So far we have 10 vendors. Could use a couple more. Grangers will be given a special rate.

To relax we had two card nights. These are fun – come and join us.

Our November meeting is on the 9<sup>th</sup>- program in charge of Lecturer Judi Reynolds is entitled "Veteran's Day – Thanksgiving". Joanne Cipriano is in charge of refreshments. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> we will be decorating the hall for the holidays.

We will have an open mic on Saturday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 5.

Our Grange was saddened by the death of Past Lecturer Barbara Paonessa. Barbara and husband Roger were very active members until they moved to New Hampshire.

### GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

*Corr: Jim and Lori Golias*

The Greenfield Hill Grange held its 1st ever End of Summer Lobster Bake in the porch. The fundraiser was sold out and featured Lobster and Shrimp Cocktail and Baked BBQ chicken for the land lovers.

Thank you to all the neighboring Granges that joined us to support our Grange.

A Holiday Boutique is planned for Saturday November 10th. Vendors will be selling antiques, home made crafts and gifts. 10-3.

### LYME GRANGE #147

*Corr: Lois Evankow*

**Dec. 6:** Sleigh Bells Ringing, Potluck Supper at 6:30

**Jan. 3:** So what do you have to show us? Hobbies – Show & Tell

Finally the heat has subsided and our hall is tolerable again.

We voted \$100 to Warm the Children, an organization that helps families buy warm clothing at WalMart.

We also voted to assist Social Services in Lyme & Old Lyme to provide food for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The Charter was draped in loving memory of Terry Firgeleski.

Our member, Mary, announced she graduated from UConn with a Master

Gardening degree.

Many members, along with Nancy Beebe, worked the Grange Grill at the Hamburg Fair, cooking 32 dozen eggs, serving pie and coffee. What a wonderful pair of ladies, we are lucky to have them.

Hopefully four of our members will go to Vermont to National Grange, weather permitting. Two will take the Seventh Degree.

### HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

*Corr: Maureen Sanborn*

**Nov. 09:** Congressional and State Elections

**Nov. 23:** Omitted for Thanksgiving

**Dec. 14:** Poinsettias

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meetings.

## Stoweflake Resort Sold Out

### Alternate Hotel Choices Available

Brothers and Sisters,

Hotel accommodations at the Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Spa are currently sold out. If you are planning to attend the 152nd Annual National Grange Convention this year, we are suggesting the below hotel options in the immediate area.



### Sun & Ski Inn and Suites

1613 Mountain Road  
Stowe, VT  
802-253-7159

0.2 miles from Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Spa



### Stowe Motel & Snowdrift

2043 Mountain Road  
Stowe, VT  
802-253-7629

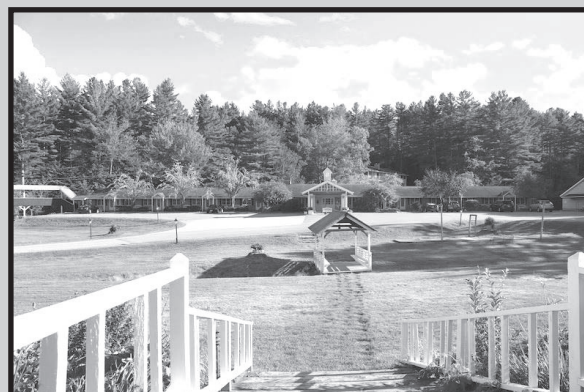
0.3 miles from Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Spa



### The Mountain Road Resort

1007 Mountain Road  
Stowe, VT  
802-253-4566

0.8 miles from Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Spa



### Golden Eagle Resort

511 Mountain Road  
Stowe, VT  
802-253-4811

1.2 miles from Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Spa



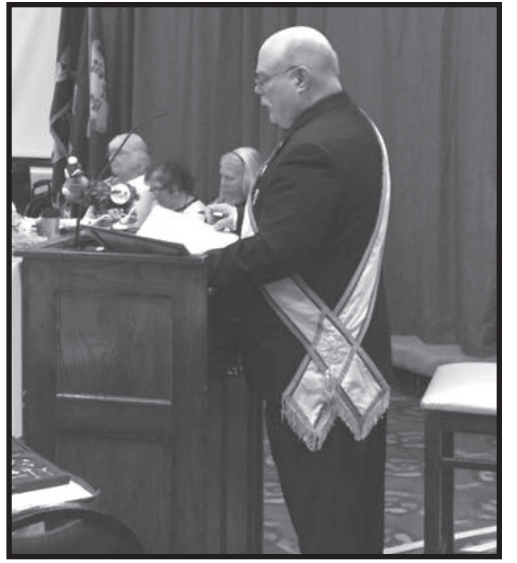
# 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange



Amanda Brozana-Rios addresses Session.



Flora's Court



Noel Miller gives his final Master's address



Amanda receives a UConn gift - Roll Tide!



All three new Pomonas receive their charters on Saturday afternoon.



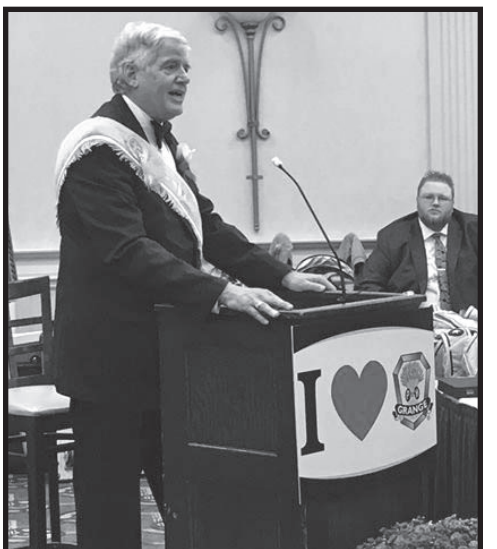
Hank sits in at the Executive Committee.



The officers of the Connecticut State Grange march in for the opening on Thursday.



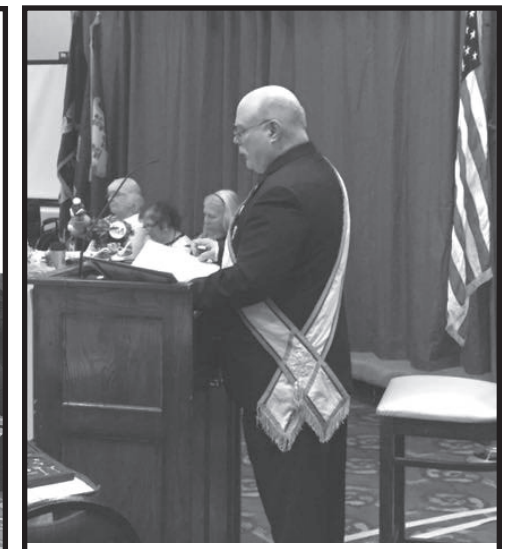
Junior Directors Michelle DeDominicis (microphone) & Laurie Michaud (to her right)



Phil Prelli opens the Installation ceremony.



George Russell installed Master by Gail Prelli.



Noel Miller presents his Master's Address




Past Voting Delegate recognition on Friday afternoon.



The Chaplain's Memorial Service on Saturday morning.





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1. Publication Title: Connecticut Granger  
2. Publication Number: 563-220  
3. Filing Date: October 1, 2018  
4. Issue Frequency: Monthly  
5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 12  
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$3.00  
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®): P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069  
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): 100 Newfield Rd., Winchester Center, CT 06094  
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):  
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address): Todd A. Gelineau, P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069  
Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Todd A. Gelineau, P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069  
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Todd A. Gelineau, P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069  
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.):  
Full Name: Connecticut Granger, Inc. Complete Mailing Address: 100 Newfield Rd., Winchester Center, CT 06094  
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box:  None  
Full Name: Complete Mailing Address:  
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)  
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months  
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)


13. Publication Title: Connecticut Granger  
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: October 2018  
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: Connecticut State Grange  
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run): 2,500  
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail):  
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies): 1,861  
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies): 218  
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®: 0  
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®): 0  
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4)): 2,079  
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail):  
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 0  
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 0  
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail): 0  
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means): 0  
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4)): 0  
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e): 2,079  
g. Copies not Distributed (See instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3)): 421  
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g): 2,500  
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100): 100  
These statements filed with the USPS  
October 1, 2018

**In Memoriam**

Barbara Paonessa  
Beacon Valley Grange #103

Terry Firgeleski  
Lyme Grange #147

**God's Husbandry**



**Charles W. Dimmick**  
State Chaplain  
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." 1 Corinthians 3:6-9

This is the only place the word Husbandry appears in the New Testament, and only in the King James Version. Every other English translation of this passage translates the word as "farm" or "garden" or "field". Even the word translated, "georgion", appears only here in the Greek New Testament. So, how should one translate "georgion", and what does it mean in the context of Paul's letter to the Corinthians? The best translation is "plowed field", with the connotation of a field which has been tilled ready for planting. And this is how Paul means the term.

In Paul's day, while there were some farm owners who did the actual farm labor, it was far more common for someone who owned a farm [or in many cases several farms] to either hire laborers or own slaves who did the actual planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting. It was this model that Paul had in mind. We are God's people, his creation, his plowed field, and God wants each of us to work with him and for him in serving our brothers and sisters. God provides the field; we are asked to provide the labor. In Paul's case the "planting of the seed" was his spreading of the gospel message. This was followed at Corinth by the preaching of Apollos, who thus "watered" the seed that Paul hand planted.

But in the end, our planting of the seed, our watering of the tender plants which arise, would all be in vain were it not for the hand of God, which causes the seed to sprout and the tender young plants to grow. Thus Paul says it is "God that giveth the increase".

**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)**

16. Electronic Copy Circulation:  
a. Paid Electronic Copies: 0  
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a): 2,079  
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a): 2,079  
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 15c x 100): 100  
 I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.  
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership:  
 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the November issue of this publication.  Publication not required.  
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Todd A. Gelineau, Date: Oct 1, 2018  
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).  
Publication in the issue immediately following the filing required by USPS.