

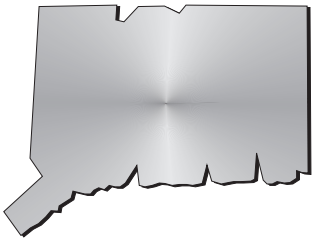


Happy New Year!

Address Service Requested, Periodicals Postage Paid in Winsted, CT 06098



Connecticut Granger



Vol. 49, No. 4

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

January 2009

State President



Robert Sendewicz
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

Robert Sendewicz
President
Connecticut State Grange

All the hard work of the Northeast Region paid off in the fantastic 142nd National Grange Convention in Cromwell. I have received much praise from those who attended as to the way the session was held. I was but a small part of the entire show and the number of persons who truly deserve the praise are all of you who helped out. I believe all who attended really enjoyed themselves. We put our best foot forward.

Now that it's over we enjoyed a short breather. Very short. On the 22nd

of November I held the Pink Sash meeting. All the committees met and planned their programs for the coming year. I met with the Deputies and we worked out our plans for the year. Grange evaluations and Pomona inspections will be the same as last year. The Deputies are planning for the schools of instruction for the early part of 2009. They will be informational and problems and concerns will be discussed.

Many of you asked to have the floor work demonstrated and it will be done at the request of each Pomona. I do hope that many more will attend one of the schools because they are informational and important procedures are discussed. Your Deputy will be contacting your Grange with information on the school for your Pomona.

Those of you that did not get the word will find a list of the schools that were set up in time to

make this edition.

The second weekend in January Sister Marge and I along with all of the committee directors will be off to Fitchburg, Mass. for the Northeast Leader's Conference. There we will meet with the leaders of the other six states in our region to discuss plans and programs to grow the Grange in our region. We will also attend workshops to develop our leadership skills. All of this training along with the schools of instruction are for the benefit of all the members and hopefully will produce new leaders in our Order.

I know that over the holidays many of us were very busy but now that we are into the new year, I hope you will do your part to improve the Grange by visiting other Granges in your area and lending a hand at those Granges that need a little help. It's time to be neighborly.

I know that now, we are facing uncertain times but I truly hope that this New Year will be prosperous for all of us.

Happy New Year!

National considers options

Over the years your National Grange office has spent considerable time and money defending the "Grange" trademark from unlicensed use by others. Now the Grange faces probably the biggest challenge ever to its mark. Tyson Foods, the giant international food conglomerate, has applied to register for exclusive use the name "Grange" on a line of "natural" chicken, beef, and pork. This is a play-off of the wholesome image and good will built by local Granges over the last 140-plus years through fundraising potluck suppers for local needs and other community support activities. Tyson Foods is one of the largest meat suppliers in the world, with operations in more than 80 countries. They are arguing that the National Grange does not have a presence in the food industry, and thus no case against them.

The National Grange has decided we must challenge Tyson Foods use of our name. In early September we contacted many Granges requesting information

to show that Granges have used our registered name in food-related ways. Many thanks to all those Granges who sent information to us. Please keep any additional or follow-up facts and figures coming to us. If your Grange has not sent any information, please contact your State Grange Master for details of what we need and forward it as soon as possible. It is our hope that every Grange will respond with some information.

If Tyson continues to fight us we will have only a few options, as the estimated cost is up to \$400,000 to your National Grange. This is money that is not recoverable by countersuit. The Executive Committee is in complete agreement that we cannot surrender to Tyson Foods; we must protect our organization at all levels.

Option 1: We can spend the \$180,000 we have in invested funds.

Option 2: We can cut the services

...continued on page 2

Happy New Year

To leave the old with a burst of song;
To recall the right and forgive the wrong;
To forget the things that bind you fast
To the vain regrets of the year that's past;
To have the strength to let go your hold
Of the not worth while of the days grown old;
To dare go forth with a purpose true,
To the unknown task of the year that's new;
To help your brother along the road,
To do his work and lift his load;
To add your gift to the world's good cheer,
Is to have and to give a Happy New Year.

Author Unknown

2009



2009 Schools of Instruction

East Central #3 & North Central #13

Sunday, January 18, 1:00 P.M., Good Will Grange Hall

Mountain County #4

Friday, January 23, 7:00 P.M., Litchfield Grange Hall

New London County #6

Sunday, January 25, 2:00 P.M., Norwich Grange Hall

Excelsior #7

Saturday, February 28, 2:00 P.M., Beacon Valley Grange Hall

Fairfield County #9

Wednesday, January 7, 7:30 P.M., Redding Grange Hall

Farmington Valley #11

Monday, January 5, 7:30 P.M., Simsbury Grange Hall

To Be Determined


Central #1; Quinebaug #2; New Haven County #5

INSIDE

Central Pomona No. 1	7
Quinebaug Pomona No. 2	8
East Central Pomona No. 3	9
Mountain County Pomona No. 4	10
New Haven County Pomona No. 5	11
New London County Pomona No. 6	2
Excelsior Pomona No. 7	3
Fairfield County Pomona No. 9	4
Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11	5
North Central Pomona No. 13	6

Deadline for the DECEMBER Issue: JANUARY 5

New London County Pomona No. 6



Lebanon No. 21
Colchester No. 78
Pachaug No. 96
Preston City No. 110
✓ N. Stonington No. 138
✓ Lyme No. 147
✓ Stonington No. 168
✓ Norwich No. 172

NEW LONDON COUNTY #6
Corr: Nancy Weissmuller
Jan. 25: School of Instructions, Norwich Grange, 2:00
Feb. 7: Potluck & Movie Night, 6:30 P.M., Norwich Grange
Feb. 8: Snow Date for above 1:30 P.M.

Pomona Deputy Debbie Barnes has announced a School of Instruction date and place. Please don't miss this vital meeting when the State Master will give us important information and fill us in on the coming year. See you at Norwich Grange at 2:00 on Jan. 25.

Our Movie Night, preceded by a potluck dinner, is a new addition to our calendar year. It is a chance for all of us to get together between our December and March meetings. As it is November when we are writing this article, we are not sure yet what the movie will be. If anyone has a great DVD to share, call Lecturer Debbie Barnes. We do know the food will be good, though. Everyone says the best food is found at a Grange potluck dinner.

So come to the movie, There might be popcorn too.
It won't be any fun, you see,
If there's an absent YOU!

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138
Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
Jan. 9: "The Music Man"-Kenny Huebner Piano Concert
Jan. 23; The Wizard of Oz

It is with sorrow that I must report that LeRoy Moran, a Golden Sheaf member of our Grange, has joined the membership of the Great Grange Above. He will be missed.

We welcomed members of Lyme and Old Lyme Granges to our neighbor's night on November 7. Barbara Kulisch kept

us laughing with her reflections on days gone by. Andy Rauch and Jason Miner built towers of Ritz crackers and Marguerite and Fritz Rauch "Put on the Ritz" on stage. The Delegates report from State Session was read. We were proud that Sue Pianka participated in the Lecturer's program, and Cindy Anderson's Sixth Degree Rose Drill was a smash hit!! Congratulations, Cindy and all the girls on the team. Cindy would love to have a larger team next year. Any volunteers?

November 23 found Thurlow Coats and Nancy Weissmuller on stage portraying characters from Man of LaMancha singing "The Impossible Dream"; and Jeff Barnes, Cheree Ann Miner, Fritz and Marguerite were well dressed Pilgrims telling of their adventures of long ago.

If you have not heard Ken Huebner play, you have missed a rare treat. We had a preview earlier this year and look forward eagerly to his concert in January. As for our January 23 program, it is sure to be another winner. How can you miss with "The Wizard of Oz" as a title? And if that black and white cat who keeps sulking under my bird feeder will just stay home, next time I'll tell you all about delicious December.

LYME GRANGE #147
Corr: Dick Chapman
Jan. 8: The Lighthouses of Maine, C.S.&E. Committee program, Show & Tell

Feb. 5: College in Vermont, CWA Program
January 7, 1826: Birth Anniversary of Oliver Hudson Kelley in Boston-forty-one years later he would establish the Patrons of Husbandry in Washington, D.C. In his memory we will again renew our "Friends" membership with the

friends of the Kelley Farm in Minnesota.

We're "tickled pink" that on November 22, a pink sash landed in Lyme Grange! We're sure Daniel Mutchler is pleased as well to now be on the State Grange Agriculture, Conservation Committee and congratulations are in order. He happens also to be the second youngest known Pomona Master for New London County Pomona going back to at least through the 1940's- perhaps earlier.

Our year long collecting of dimes were recently delivered to Andrew and his family to help with his medical expenses. A new community service project will be launched at the January meeting.

On January 23, we **STRONGLY** urge all to perform "random acts of pienes"- it's National Pie Day!

A Cat's Meow quote: There are two means of refuge from the miseries of life, music and cats. Albert Schweitzer.

STONINGTON GRANGE #168
Corr: Jeff Barnes

As we start out the New Year we find ourselves saying good-bye for the winter to our Snow birds. Although they will be gone the rest of us will be busy planning our new Community service project of the year and selecting our Community Service person for the year. I have heard that several members have potential members to help us carry on our work.

We want to Thank Jim & Sandra Wright for opening up their Inn for us and sharing the wonders of open hearth cooking. Our next meeting on January 8 will be our snowball picnic. It should be a great deal of fun.

NORWICH GRANGE #172

It is a new year and I hope everybody had a nice holiday. In December our Grange had a Victorian Christmas Tea Party. We sang carols and exchanged

Christmas cards.

On Jan. 14 the program is going to be a Japanese Tea Ceremony to celebrate the Japanese New Year.

National options

Continued from page one...

to our Granges and members to reduce costs.

Option 3: We can take out a mortgage on your National Grange building, which is owned free and clear by the Grange.

Option 4: Our Granges and members can help us out by donating to our legal defense.

If the costs run as high as we fear they may, we may end up using all four options if all of our Granges do not help in this fight. We understand that each Grange has different finances and some have little resources while others have substantial savings. We are asking you to help as much as you can to save our Grange name and our right to serve food in our Grange halls.

If your Grange or members wish to make a contribution to our efforts to protect our Grange name, please send a check to the National Grange, attention Amber (our controller) and note that the donation is for this purpose. We can also accept credit card donations if that is more convenient for your members.

In addition to the legal battle, the Grange has decided to mount a supportive, parallel public relations campaign to counter Tyson Foods efforts to usurp the "Grange" mark. If you would like to help in this public relations campaign, please contact your State Master for information on how you can get involved. This campaign must be carefully conducted and coordinated by the National Grange. Our campaign must not harm our legal efforts and we need coordination between our trademark attorneys and the National, State, Pomona and Community Granges.

If you have questions, please call Jennifer at 1-888-447-2643, ext. 102. Thank you for your help. We will keep you informed of our progress.

Fraternally yours,
Ed Luttrell
National Master

Youth News



Donald Lanoue
Youth Director
youth@ctstategrange.org

Hi everyone I hope that you all enjoyed your holidays. Even though winter is upon us does not mean that we should stop doing grange activities. This is the perfect time to be working on speeches or a sign a song. There are many new and changed contests for the National Grange please look at

their website if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

(USPS 563-220)
"Connecticut Granger"
is published monthly except
combined July-August issue for \$3.00/yr. by:

Connecticut Granger, Inc..
100 Newfield Road, Winchester Center, CT 06094
(Do not send mail to this address)

Second Class postage paid at Winsted, CT 06098

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Connecticut Granger,
P.O. Box 127, Winsted, CT 06098-0127


DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the **5th Day** of each month except July and should be sent to:
Connecticut State Grange
P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033
or
Todd Gelineau, Editor
170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790

Connecticut Granger Staff

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

Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 107
- ✓ Watertown No. 122
- ✓ Prospect No. 144
- ✓ Bridgewater No. 153
- ✓ Wolcott No. 173
- ✓ Oxford No. 194

EXCELSIOR POMONA #7
Corr: Mary Dubay
Jan. 25: Meeting
Happy New Year from Excelsior Pomona.

The first meeting of the new year will be held at Bethlehem Grange in Memorial Hall on Sunday, January 25, 2009. There will be a potluck dinner at 1:00 P.M. followed by the regular meeting at 2:00 P.M.

Lecturer Jean’s program is called “A Ride in the Country.”
Visiting Pomona members are always welcome.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103
Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Now that the holidays are over it’s time to get back to work. I hope your holidays were enjoyable as I expect mine to be.

Our program for Jan. 9 is “White.” Lou Godin will take over as Master and Pearl Godin, Lecturer, as I will be at the Leader’s Conference. They will also provide the refreshments for the meeting.

Plans are in progress for the celebration of our 120th Anniversary to be held on May 29th.

In conjunction with our anniversary, we are sponsoring an Alphabet Book Contest.

This contest is open to anyone except professional photographers. Each entry should be a scrapbook containing photographs and/or pictures of different places in Naugatuck which are of interest, color, beauty and/or historic significance.

Each page (26 of them) should be dedicated to just one letter of the alphabet, starting with “A”. A page may have from one to three photos/pictures on it. Each page should be accompanied by a short explanation or description of the picture/pictures.

One rule is that the letter B- for Beacon Valley Grange or G- for Grange

must be used. This we hope will get more people to learn about our Grange.

The winners will be announced at our anniversary celebration. So save the date and plan to join us.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121
Corr: Linda Coad

As I’m writing this, last night was our Annual Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner. It is always a wonderful evening with friends and great food. Being secretary I couldn’t keep up with Worthy Master Skip calling up all the CT State Grange Officers, Committee members and Pomona Officers. What a great evening!

Bethlehem has it’s share of Pink Sashes. Re-elected this year at State Session, were Cindy Finch, LAS, and Eloise Osuch, Ceres. Plus, Rob Buck is our General Deputy. Newly appointed this year is Ernie Finch, Chairman of the Agriculture, Conservation Committee and Linda Coad, a Trustee of Camp Berger.

Eloise Osuch is also Master of Excelsior Pomona. Now, if this isn’t incentive to all Bethlehem members to step up to work with your Grange, I don’t know what will.

January 25, 2009 1:00pm Sunday Pot Luck Lunch, Pomona Meeting followed by a short Bethlehem Meeting to conduct business.

February 22nd 2:00pm Sunday meeting: Hearts and Presidents, Refreshments Cindy & Ernie Finch.

WATERTOWN GRANGE #122
Corr: Mary Dubay

Jan. 2: The Month of Capricorn
Jan. 16: Huskies and St. Bernard Dogs
Happy New Year!
May your year be filled

with happiness and good cheer.

Our first program for the new year is called, “The Month of Capricorn.” Birthstone Garnet, Flower Carnation.

The program for the second meeting is Huskies and St. Bernard Dogs.

It is a new year so that means the Ways and Means Committee has to meet to talk about our fundraisers for the year that keeps us going. We find that tag sales are our best bet, but we do ned to broaden our horizons.

At our next meeting our CWA Chairman Malinda will be explaining the new programs for the year. Wintertime is a good time to start on the many projects.

Three of our members took the Seventh Degree at the National Convention held at the Bushnell in Hartford. Eleven of our members attended to show our support. We congratulate the three, Sharon, Carol and Ray.

Come and join us when you can, we love company!

PROSPECT GRANGE #144
Corr: Jean Meehan

Prospect Grange is proud to say we have received an application for another youth Rebeka Mitchell. We have 5 of our officers that we considered youth. We are working to get more during this coming year.

We are happy to have had two visitors Dottie Bock and Dolly Stevens from the Grafton Grange in Vermont visited us at our last meeting. We hope they will come again.

Five of our members were very proud to be part of the Rose Drill at the Connecticut State Grange Session and the 142nd Annual National Session held in Cromwell. We are proud to be able to be a part of this drill under the supervision of Cindy Anderson, is looking for more grange women of all ages to join.

I would like to thank all our Prospect Grange members for their help with the Community Service projects. Prospect Grange received a First Place award for small granges. We look forward to your help again this

coming year. Our CWA members are hard at work on Projects for this holiday season. If you would like to help, please contact Jean Meehan. We are still collection alumumn tabs and Campbell soup labels and the box tops for education coupons.

The winners of our raffle are: Cecile Fortier won the Anniversary clock and the ceramic doll. Elaine Graveline won the 6 cup tea pot, Robert Colby won the book of stamps and Ruby DeCosta won the alarm clock.

We weren’t able to raise as much money as we have in the past, but will be able to purchase some of the dictionaries needed for our Dictionary Project in September 2009.

We will hold another fundraiser later this year to purchase the rest of the dictionaries needed for the 2009-2010 school year. We hope we can count on your support again.

We were able to donate gift bags filled with hats, scarves and gloves, plus personal products and candy to 10 adults and 5 children’s stockings with gifts of books and toys and goodies to a local shelter for Christmas.

We were able to donate a bag of groceries for the Thanksgiving Holiday to a needy family. Several cards and letters have been sent to our our service men and women serving in the middle east, thanking them for their service and for helping to keep our country free.

We wish them a speedy and safe trip home. Prospect Grange members all would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe holiday Season, especially our shut ins.

We meet the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm downstairs in the Prospect Senior Center. Our January 8th meeting is in charge of our Program Director, Frances Maxwell entitled Snow Fall. She always has something interesting.

If you need a ride, please contact Jean Meehan at the 203-758-5653 contact Jean Meehan and she will see that you get one.

Visitors are always welcome to come visit us.

WOLCOTT GRANGE #173

Corr: Cindy Legg
Jan. 5: “Happy New Year”, Ref. Assistant Steward, Country Store
Jan. 19: Omitted unless Jan. 5 is canceled.

Our first meeting in January will be held on the 5th, we will have a New Year’s Eve Party to celebrate 2009. We will only be having our second meeting on the 15th if the one on the 5th is cancelled.

Sunday, March 15th we will be celebrating our 100th anniversary. Come join us at 2:00 P.M. for our “100th Year Anniversary Jubilee”. It is hard to believe that we have been a Grange for 100 years. We hope you will all keep open the date and come help us celebrate. (More to follow next month).

We at Wolcott Grange would like to wish everyone a very safe and healthy New Year. You don’t have to wait till our anniversary to come and visit us. Visit us anytime. We meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays of most months at our Grange Hall near the center of Wolcott.

OXFORD GRANGE #194
Corr: Phil Rowland

Jan. 2: CWA Program and Contests
Jan. 16: Alternate date for January meeting in event of inclement weather on Jan. 2

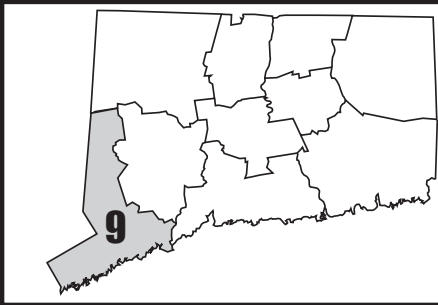
We’ve missed Lecturer Jeanne Vaill- and her fine programs- at recent meetings. We wish her a speedy convalescence from her shoulder surgery.

A sincere “thank you” is extended to Troop 1 Eagle Scout candidate Andre Contois and his crew for their excellent work restoring the downstairs front rooms in the hall. The area truly looks better than new! Troop 1 Scouts have benefited the Grange greatly in recent years.

At Thanksgiving our potluck supper was enjoyed by all. It wasn’t quite “potluck” in that CWA Chair Loretta knew beforehand what dish everyone planned to furnish. More certain to have a nice variety that way. And yes, the main course was a delicious roast turkey.

Happy new year to all!

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



- ✓ Redding No. 15
- Harmony No. 92
- Greenfield Hill No. 133
- ✓ Trumbull No. 134
- ✓ Norfield No. 146
- Cannon No. 152

FAIRFIELD CTY. POMONA #9

Corr: Karen Macdonald

Happy New Year to all, and best wishes for all good things in your homes and Granges as we enjoy a New England winter. Got a new Grange cookbook at National, will have to try a nice soup recipe! Best wishes to all and keep well and warm!

REDDING GRANGE #15

Corr: Marge Sendewicz

Jan. 12: A new Year

Jan. 26: Agriculture & Legislative

Feb. 9: Be My Valentine-6:30 Supper

We are starting the new year off with a bang. It may be cold in January but it's warm at Redding Grange. We have some interesting programs lined up for January, so if any of them catch your eye drop in and pay us a visit. Our door is always open for visitors.

On Feb.9, we will have a 6:30 P.M. supper followed by our Valentine program and party. We hope the snow won't be too high that night. If you are suffering from cabin fever and need to get out this is a good reason to do it.

We at Redding Grange wish all of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

TRUMBULL GRANGE #134

Corr: Susan Carol Sulier

Hi fellow Grangers and welcome to 2009. I have a story to tell you about my most memorable January. For the first 5 years of my life I was an only child and yearned for a baby brother. My prayers were answered on a wintry Friday night in January 50 years ago.

When Dad took Mom to the hospital, I was shuffled off next door to my Aunt (affectionately called Me Me) and Uncle Joe's (my Dad's brother) house.

Hours later, Dad returned beaming from ear to ear and announced

we had a baby boy and Mom was fine.

Dad and Uncle Joe cried tears of joy and danced around singing and hugging. Then they had a toast (a shot and beer) to celebrate the joyous occasion. MeMe and Uncle Joe never had children, so I was the center of attention in both households. Now with a new baby, I thought my life as I knew it was over, as they say, "be careful what you wish for, because you just might get it." MeMe and I went to pick up her Mom (Mrs. Pidluski) so she could share in our joy.

She never had grandchildren, so my brother and I filled that void in her life. When we returned, Dad and Uncle Joe were still carousing, but this time they pulled me in and I was part of it. I knew then that even though we had anew baby, there was still plenty of love left for me!

When I first saw my brother, I fixated on every inch of his tiny little body. He was perfect! I put my finger out and he grabbed it. From that moment on, he was my baby and I felt an overpowering love for him, a love so powerful that I didn't experience anything like it until many years later when I gave birth to my own son.

Tragically, a few weeks ago, my precious brother suffered a heart attack, but thanks to the power of prayer and excellent medical care he is expected to make a full recovery.

Now on to the Grange stuff- Val B. and Mary B. who both suffered fractures are recovering nicely. We extend our deepest sympathy to Yvonne Wannop on the recent loss of her beloved brother and as of this writing she is recuperating from a bout of bronchitis. Val, Mary B., and Yvonne are in our thoughts and prayers.

On a much happier note, in November, Pat Gerckens and her

crew delighted us with their annual "Soup and Sandwich Night", something we Trumbull Grangers look forward to every year. As always, a good time and great food was enjoyed by all. Congratulations go to Scherryl Fairchild, who accompanied by Barbara and Nancy Standley, received her 7th Degree at the National Grange Convention in Cromwell, CT this past November. It was said to have been very well orchestrated and memorable event and we have our own State Master Bob S. and his special wife Marge to thank for everything along with the National Hosting Committee.

In closing, I wish you all a "happy, healthy and prosperous New Year."

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

Jan. 13: Martin Luther King Day

Feb. 10: Valentine's Day; CWA Baking Contest

There will be a School of Instruction at Redding Grange (for Fairfield County Pomona Granges) on Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 7:30 P.M.

As for housekeeping, we have installed plexiglass over the attic windows, and the problem windows in the downstairs have been covered with plexiglass and plastic. Our new ceiling fans are working beautifully.

We're sad to report that Robin Springborn is moving to Rhode Island. We will miss her! Is there anyone out there who would like to be the new Secretary? As for other jobs, Cathy Romano has stepped forward to handle Treasurer Peg McCullough's day-to-day Grange expenses. Peg will still be in charge of scheduling rentals. We thank Peg for her years of handling both difficult jobs, and thank Cathy for her assistance.

Which makes it the perfect time to remind you that a new year of Grange dues is here! Cathy will be glad to accept your \$15.00 checks.

Finally, we are exploring the possibility of holding a winter's Farmer's Market in the hall.

We'll keep you posted.

Friends & Fellowship

We are in the first quarter of a new year. State Session and the National Session is a thing of the past. We no longer have them as an excuse that we have no time to think about getting new members. The excitement of the National Session here in Connecticut should have us all charge up to go out and get new members.

To steal a paragraph from the National Grange Membership Tip of the Month - If we are excited about what our Grange is doing others will start looking into what the Grange is about. We are the reason people join. Friends and fellowship is the No. 1 reason people join. Excitement can be expressed in different ways. You can "show" it and you can "tell" it.

We all need to "tell" people what we are doing and to "show" by our actions that we really mean what we are saying. We not only need to get new members, we need to get those good members back who no longer come to meetings. Whatever you do - do it with a smile. It contagious.

State Lecturer



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Happy New Year! It's 2009! Wow! Remember when we use to look at pictures taken at the turn of the century (1800 to 1900) and everyone looked so funny. Remember those guys standing in front of a huge pile of snow with their shovels looking so proud of the fact that they had shoveled the street out

in the center of town or of everyone posing in front of the first trolley that made it into town. Now the teenagers look back at the 50's with their poodle skirts and sack dresses, bobby socks and saddle shoes and laugh. Time just keeps marching on.

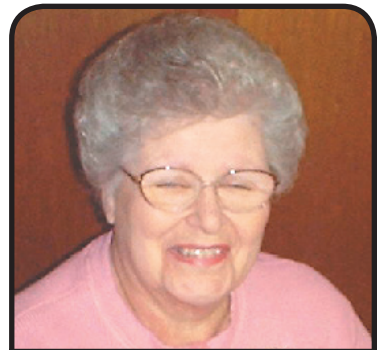
Please don't let it get away from you. Get started on your Grange projects. The long nights of winter are the perfect time to write to a soldier or work on a program for a convalescent or nursing home. We all need to use the Grange projects and contests as tools to get others interested in our Order. Don't let time get away from you. In the 50's the Grange was booming. We went out chasing gavels and gimmicks and our halls filled up for neighbors nights. What will your Grange look like in 2050? Now is the time to get more active. Plan ahead. Set a deadline to get others interested. How about Grange Sunday in June? Plan now to bring your friends. They will see the Grange at its best and meet new friends from all over Connecticut.

Need help? I'm here to help and I am as close as your phone or computer. Just call 203 272-4620 or e-mail to: mbcb76@cox.net. Don't be afraid to ask. It is my job as your Lecturer.

See you around the State....

Southern Connecticut Past Masters Association

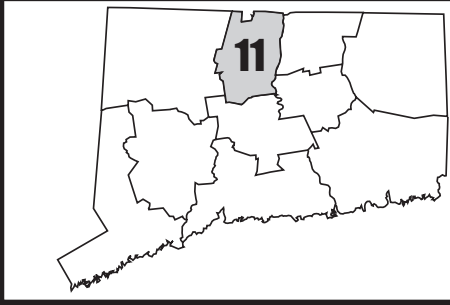
Our next meeting will be on Saturday, January 17, 2009 at Wallingford Grange Hall at 6:30 P.M. for a Potluck Supper. A program entitled "Slip and Slide" will follow the meeting held at 8:00 P.M. There will be a country store. Any questions, please call our President, Lou Godin at (203) 879-9584.



Joanne Cipriano
Membership Director

membership@ctstategrange.org

Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11



✓ Granby No. 5

Tunxis No. 13

✓ Cawasa No. 34

✓ Simsbury No. 197

✓ West Suffield No. 199

Cherry Brook No. 210

FARMINGTON VALLEY POMONA #11
Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner

No Meeting in January
Congratulations to our Master, Doris Shaw who was recently presented with her Golden Sheaf Certificate by State Master Robert Sendewicz and to our Pomona Pianist, Joan Goetjen who reached her 70 year milestone in the Grange. These two ladies have worked hard over all these years to serve the Grange and are true examples of good Patrons! All enjoyed our holiday meeting and party and sharing the joys of the season. We omit our January meeting, but will be back on schedule come February.

GRANBY GRANGE #5
Corr: Vivian C. Shaw
Jan. 16: Friday Program with potluck lunch at noon
We enjoyed having visitors from Lyme Grange, Daniel Mutchler and Ronald Purinton for the program we asked Ron to speak on the seven old ladies in CT at the N.E. Lecturer's Conference in Maine. We had wonderful music by Dan with his flute, Ron by harmonica, and Ruth with her piano. Marion Doak died on Nov. 14. She was an officer for several years as flora, and she baked two pies for every Granby Grange Barbecue and Fair.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner
Jan. 14: "Cat O'9 Tales" CWA in Charge
Jan. 3, 10, 17, & 31: Card Parties

We are happy to report another successful project for our Grange and say thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make our holiday bake, craft, and tag sale a good event. Although we have been meeting in the afternoon, our Christmas program and party was held in the evening so we could again enjoy our visitors from the Granby School Band (and their families) who bring us the music of the season each year. Those attending took part in the activities and a great time was had by all.

Several of our members have reported they are working on community service projects. Cold winter nights are the perfect time to keep the knitting needles and crochet hooks flying so that when spring arrives we can look back with satisfaction at the items we have completed. It's nice to know that many things will also be entries in our various contests.

WEST SUFFIELD GRANGE #199
Corr: Pam Covington
Jan. 13: Snowdrops-In charge of CWA and Legislative Committees
On our Nov. 11 meeting, our Lecturer had a program on Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving.

We were sorry to have two people out due to illness that night. We enjoy meeting at the West Suffield

There are no easy answers



Gordon Gibson
Legislative Director
legislative@ctstategrange.org

The General Assembly held a one day special session in November where everyone could agree on two issues: First, the State has major financial problems because of the economy and second, nobody has a solution to the first problem. The State gets most of its current funds from the income tax and the sales tax. When people's incomes go down, so does the income tax they pay. When people's incomes go down they also tend to spend less, which means the State collects less sales tax. Meanwhile, just like the rest of us, the State has to pay its bills. Like many households, the State is looking for places where it can reduce spending, but there are only so many places where spending can be cut. Thirty years ago the State tried to postpone some spending by making the highway trucks last longer. The result was trucks that could not be depended upon to plow the roads. Today, as more and more people find their income reduced or they lose their jobs in a layoff, they turn to the State for help. The unemployment and welfare offices are

Congregational Church during the winter as it is easier for us to do it than try to use the hall. We hope some can come and

seeing more and more people applying for benefits and assistance. Certainly they cannot cut back their services. The State borrows money for large projects by issuing bonds, just like a person takes out a mortgage to buy a house or finances a new car with a car loan at their bank. Issuing bonds to borrow money makes sense when the money will be used for something that will last many years, but, just like the average person, borrowing money to pay normal expenses just leads to more problems in the future. When the State decides to issue bonds, they must be sold to investors to produce the money needed now. The State must pay whatever interest rates the investors demand in the market. If the State refuses the investors' offers, the bonds are not sold and the State does not get the money it needs. Again, just like the average person, the interest rate the investors demand depends on the State's credit rating. The lower the credit rating, the more risk the investors are taking and the more interest they demand for their increased risk. When the State's income goes down, so does its credit rating. Working people are advised to have six months pay in the bank in case of an emergency. Connecticut, like most states, has an emergency reserve fund known as the "Rainy Day Fund." Some people are saying the current economy is an emergency and the State should dip into its Rainy Day fund to solve the problems. But a state without reserves is like a person living from paycheck to paycheck. A state without a good


visit us. Best Wishes for a very happy and healthy new year for all our Grange members.

reserve fund will find its credit rating lowered and will have to pay even more interest every time it borrows money. Unfortunately, Connecticut already has one of the worst credit ratings among state governments. We do not need to make it any worse by spending our "rainy day" fund to cover normal operating expenses. The 2009 regular session of the General Assembly will convene on January 7. This will be a "long" session when any senator or representative can file any bill they want. Certainly there will be many bills filed concerning the State's financial situation. By law, the General Assembly must pass a balanced budget to cover the two year period from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011. Many public hearings and private meetings will be held in an attempt to put together a balanced budget that everyone can live with. Two years ago the legislators looked to the lobbyists to help develop the budget that is now in place. Most likely the legislators will again look to the lobbyists for help, as we are all in this together. I try to end my columns with a positive, upbeat outlook. I'd like to say that everyone will work together and we will wind up with a great solution to all the economic problems. But this time I have to agree with the legislators at the November special session. We have a big economic problem, and I have no idea what to do about it. If any of you have a solution, your senator and your representative would love to hear from you.


WE OFFER A LIFETIME OF MEMBERSHIP

Nutmeg State Federal Credit Union has opened membership to everyone who lives, works, worships, volunteers or attends school in Hartford, Tolland and Middlesex counties. The unique credit union advantage may actually make your banking easier. Call or visit our Web site to learn how our new charter makes us the credit union for everyone.

From savings accounts, low rate loans and retirement planning, to FREE checking, 24 hour banking, direct deposit, e-Pay, and FREE ATM/Debit transactions, we have something for everyone.



Call 860-513-5000 (local) ; 1-800-526-6933 (nationwide); or visit us online at www.nutmegstatefcu.org for more membership benefits.




MAIN OFFICE:

521 Cromwell Avenue, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

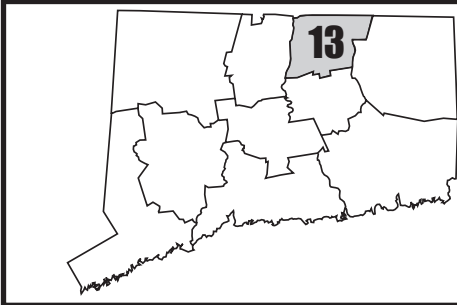
BRANCH OFFICES:

270 Broad Street, Manchester • 55 Curtis Street, New Britain



Always do right. This will gratify some people, and astonish the rest.
-Mark Twain

North Central Pomona No. 13



- ✓ Stafford No. 1
- ✓ Tolland No. 51
- ✓ Vernon No. 52
- ✓ Enfield No. 151

N. CENTRAL POMONA #13

Corr: J. Jordan

North Central Pomona will be on break for the months of January and February. We'll be talking to you March 2009!

STAFFORD GRANGE #1

Corr: Maude Emhoff

Jan. 20: Guest Speaker; Bring food for the needy. 7:00 P.M.

Plans are being made for our annual Christmas party. Since we like to keep it in town- because of the weather, we have decided to have it at the Arizona Restaurant on Main St. It is always great to have our members congregate socially. Mark Glazier, our new member and Master has been making rounds of neighboring Granges; and having a great time. So as not to be caught late we have begun making plans choosing a Citizen of the Year. Even if we try to keep it simple it still entails a lot of thought and time. At our last meeting we had two guests from Guiding Star #1 in Greenfield, MA; namely Ed Marion, Communication Director for the State of Mass. and Lois Skelton, Gatekeeper of the same Grange. They came a long distance but it was good as the weather was still clear. It is always interesting to hear about other Granges and how things are done. Hope you all have a happy and healthy Christmas.

TOLLAND GRANGE #51

Corr: J. Jordan

Can you believe it's 2009 already. It just doesn't seem possible. Time is flying by. Our first meeting for 2009 will be addressing winter. I am sure by the time that date rolls around we will have had or will be having snow. As I write this column it is 40 degrees outside. Wouldn't it be nice if it stayed like that all winter long? Tolland Grange adopted a family for Thanksgiving as well as Christmas. If your

Grange hasn't helped with Social Services this is a great way of getting your name out in the community. Our Grangers wish each one of you a happy and healthy 2009.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

Jan. 2: It's Not Easy Getting Old!

We had a fun Christmas Party at the beginning of December with great refreshments by the Congers. Many shut-ins were visited this year - Marg Skinner, Faith Lyman, Helen Reed, Linda Niederwerfer and Elaine Clarke. They were very pleased that we remembered them and really enjoyed a visitor. We must remember to do this all year and not just at Christmas time. It really brightens their day!

On Jan. 2nd, we are having a fun New Year's meeting on getting older. It's not for sissies!!!

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Jan. 10: Pins and Needles, Ref. Dawn & Louise

Feb. 14: If the Shoe Fits; Ref. Joe & Sophie

Dawn has graciously offered her home for our January meeting as our hall will be closed after our December meeting and we won't be back in there until April. Anyone needing directions please call me at 749-0463.

Turkey Potluck at our November meeting was a huge hit. We have done this for over 15 years and each year it seems to be better than the last. National Grange has come and gone, pink sash meeting completed and now the work of the new Grange year starts in earnest. We all need to work with our committees and spark interest in community service projects. The mittens and hats were distributed to the neighborhood daycare center and were greatly appreciated as

the children are all from low income families and are walked to school by the staff in all kinds of weather.

Winter means time to do all those projects for CWA contests and make items for the Big E, and don't forget mail for our

servicemen and women. Remember, you can't leave a footprint that last if you're always walking on tiptoe.

We are here to help you



Carl Bernhardt
Information Director
publicity@ctstategrange.org

With the start of a new Grange year, your State Grange Information/Publicity committee met to make its plans for the coming year. We will try to assist as many of the Subordinate and Pomona Granges in getting their

newsworthy articles into the local newspapers as possible. We will need your assistance in getting this done.

Your State Committee has compiled an address list of Information/Publicity Chairmen in all of the Subordinate and Pomona Granges. We will be using this listing to mail a quarterly newsletter to each of the Granges. These newsletters will contain helpful hints and recommendations for you to use.

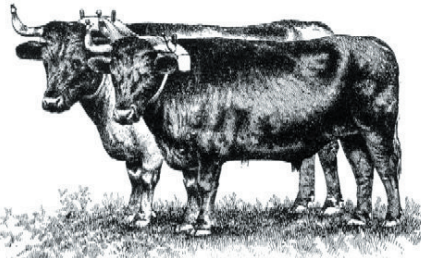
During our meeting, two simple suggestions were made to get the Grange's name before the general public. The

first was placing a copy of the Connecticut Granger in your local library. This simple suggestion would only cost your Grange \$3.00 per year. The second suggestion is to purchase a Grange Marker sign from National Grange. I believe the cost is \$25.00. For an additional \$5.00 they will furnish a small sign with your Grange's Name, Address and when you meet. The Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis and other organizations have similar signs that can be found on the roads leading into your town. The idea is to keep the name of your Grange before the public's eyes.

Kelley Friends celebrate 6 Years

Dedicated to "preserving our past for generations to come," the Friends of the Kelley Farm will note their sixth anniversary this spring. This historical treasure, a National Landmark, is a 189 acre "living history 1850-1876 farm" located on the Mississippi River. This is where Oliver, age 23, staked a claim in 1850 in this new Minnesota territory. (Statehood would come in 1858).

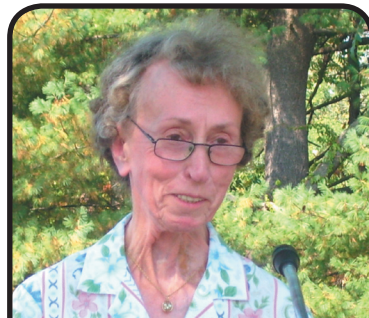
The farm is now owned by the Minnesota Historical Society and the "Friends" were organized at a time when the farm closure was imminent. The



and future of the Kelley Farm. Now is the time to join or renew since Brother Kelley's birthday is January 7.

Single memberships are \$24.00. Family memberships \$50.00. Check their website: www.friendsofthekelleyfarm.org. Write: F.O.T.K.F., 15788 Kelley Farm Rd., Elk River, MN 55330.

Dust finally starting to settle



Edith Schoell
State Secretary
secretary@ctstategrange.org

Remember:
P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury 06033
is our new address!

As I write this for the *Granger*, I am anxiously waiting for the dust to settle and be able to move into the office at Good Will Grange Hall. They have been working and hopefully the final details will be completed and I can get things put away and find some of the items you have requested.

With the beginning of the new year I must remind you about the IRS filing that caused quite a stir last year. You must file the "postcard" which is done on the computer. If you don't have a computer, or no one in your Grange has access to one, please let me know and I'll try to help you as much as possible. If you are not sure of your EIN number, contact me since these were all verified with the IRS.

Best wishes for a healthy and progressive 2009.

Massachusetts family honored

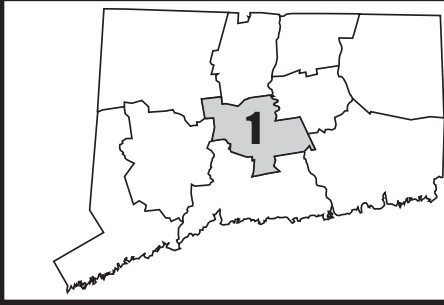
The National Grange honored The Jordan Family of Massachusetts as the recipient of this year's "Family of the Year" award tonight at the 142nd annual National Grange convention's "Evening of Excellence." This award is designed to annually recognize one outstanding Grange family acknowledging their achievements in their local community and Grange.

The Grange has been a way of life for the Jordan Family of Massachusetts for well over 100 years. They belong to Holden Grange #78, Uxbridge Grange #200 and Apple Valley Junior Grange #138. The family has served in numerous leadership positions in their Local, County, and State Grange. Exemplifying their commitment to the Grange, one member of the Jordan fam-

ily organized a peach shortcake sale at two local summer community events, Holden Days and the Rutland Chowder Challenge. Working together, the rest of the family participated in this event from start to finish, raising much needed funds.

More recently, the Jordan family initiated a new community service project for Holden Grange. Recognizing the importance of supporting the Wachusett Food Pantry in their local area, four members of the Jordan family helped secure funding for a "Pantry Partners" program through an Opportunity Grant from the Massachusetts State Grange. The grant funds Holden Grange's monthly purchases of food and/or paper goods to support the Pantry.

Central Pomona No. 1



- ✓ Southington No. 25
- ✓ Meriden No. 29
- ✓ Westfield No. 50
- Higganum No. 124
- ✓ Hemlock No. 182

WESTFIELD GRANGE #50
Corr: Phyllis Redford
Jan. 15: Here We Come
Feb. 6: Famous/Infamous Lovers
Mar. 6: Our Town

The program on Nov. 6 revealed some “firsts” about our presidents.

Washington- Was not born in the United States... in 1732 his birthplace was the Royal Colony of Virginia.

John Adams- Was the first president to live in the White House.

Andrew Johnson- 1865-1869 was the first president to face impeachment but was saved by a single vote in the Senate.

Lincoln- Was the first president to be assassinated... in a dream this event was predicted and it did happen on Good Friday, April 14, 1865.

The program on December 6th was about Christmas celebrations in other countries... Holland on Dec. 6th, Spain on Jan. 6th, and in Sweden the season begins on St. Lucia’s Day, Dec. 13th.

A happy and healthy new year to all.

SOUTHINGTON GRANGE #25

Corr: Lisa Lamoureux
Jan. 12: Business Meeting/Holiday Party – Everyone

Jan. 26: Omitted (Snow Date)

Now that the holidays are over and the Christmas tree and decorations have been put away, why not start thinking about Grange and some new and fresh ideas on how to get your members involved. What else are you going to do when the (should

I dare say it?) SNOW starts to fall and you cannot leave your house. Come up with ideas that get the couple of people from your Grange to say, “Gee, I have not been to a Grange meeting in a while, and this looks like an interesting program. Maybe I will go tonight!”. I am sure that everyone can come up with a few ideas.

On January 12th, Southington Grange will hold its business meeting along with a “Happy New Year Celebration”. Come on down and tell us how you rang in 2009!!! Remember though, that if the white stuff is coming down on January 12th, Southington Grange will be home thinking of new, bright ideas and we will then meet on January 26th.

As always, our doors are open for anyone and everyone who would like to join us for a meeting. Remember we meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays (except December, January, February – if we get snow on the 2nd Monday) at 7:30 p.m. at the Southington Grange Hall located at the corners of Summit Avenue and Knowles Avenue in the Plantsville Section of Southington.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Jan. 9: Connecticut Granges

Jan. 23: No meeting unless the 9th is cancelled due to stormy weather.

Nancy McBrien is in charge of the program. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

National legislative policies

Continued from page 12

devices, etc. should be reassigned to other more appropriate government agencies such as Agriculture, Health and Human Services and Homeland Security. Grange delegates also support immediate legislation to require the FDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to jointly deal with intentional or unintentional food contamination incidents to quickly identify the source of contamination and promptly alert consumers.

The National Grange will support the new regulation for packaging of prescription medications so different strengths of the same type of prescription medicine are intuitively recognizable as different from each other.

The National Grange will support passage of legislation requiring all food and beverage manufacturers to list on the standardized nutrition label the amount of caffeine in their products.

HEALTH ISSUES – With the cost of health care coverage and prescription drugs on the rise, Grange delegates advocated new policies to assure affordable health insurance for all Americans.

In conjunction with expansion of health insurance coverage, Grange delegates called for equitable billing requirements and reimbursements for medical, dental, and alternative health care treatments by all insurance providers, public and private.

The delegates expressed their concern over the availability of prescription medications over the Internet and called for efforts to educate and proactively protect the public from dangerous and fraudulent Internet prescription drug sales practices, including marketing practices from “foreign” pharmacies.

Grange delegates also expressed support for a cap on malpractice suits to help reduce the cost of health care and make it possible for physicians, especially those in rural areas, to continue practicing medicine.

Recognizing the special concerns of the hearing impaired, the Grange delegates voted to support a new \$500 tax credit on the federal income tax per hearing aid available once every 5 years.

FINANCIAL CRISIS – National Grange delegates urged government officials to carefully examine the firms that are being bailed out so that they are not rewarding

greed, poor business practices and corruption. They strongly urged the federal government to limit the amounts of benefits in the form of “golden parachutes” to executives of companies that receive bailouts. They supported instituting criminal investigation and prosecution of persons and entities that led to the collapse of U.S. financial institutions. However, they expressed opposition to the direct government takeover of private businesses and skepticism as to the scope of authority granted to a select few individual government officials addressing the financial crisis. Grange delegates expressed the concern that no government official should be given unlimited power, especially a non-elected one. All legislation and decisions of this magnitude should be carefully studied through a hearing process, the Grange delegates decided.

With the looming possibilities of large scale personal bankruptcies, Grange delegates urged lawmakers to regulate credit card issuers, to make terms in easier to understand language and in large print on credit card applications and agreements, and legislatively restrict interest rates to not more than five percent above the prime lending interest rate.

IMMIGRATION – The National Grange urged Congress to make reform of immigration laws a priority. Grange delegates called on the federal government to increase border security to stem the tide of illegal immigration, drug trafficking and the potential for foreign terrorist attack. Streamlining the process for legal immigration, thus allowing employers in agriculture and other business sectors to secure workers, should be a national priority. The Grange urges federal authorities to make tools checking the authenticity of immigrant worker documents more available to employers. However, Grange delegates believe that those employers who knowingly hire illegal workers should be punished and required to pay all associated medical care costs of those illegal National Grange delegates also asked that when streamlining the immigration process, those here illegally, regardless of nationality, should not be given amnesty or given an advantage over those immigrating by proper channels.

TRANSPORTATION CONCERNS – To address

the problem of short-line railroad abandonment, the Grange delegates called for public ownership of vital short-line rail transportation corridors and facilities that benefit farmers and farm communities.

The Grange delegates also voted to endorse legislation creating an “Airline Passengers’ Bill of Rights” providing passengers aboard any commercial flight that has been delayed from takeoff for more than one hour with electricity for fresh air and lights, adequate food and drinking water, and working toilets at the expense of the airline.

National Grange delegates voted to oppose the establishment of a national speed limit as well as oppose commissioning any study to determine an “optimal” speed limit as a way of reducing our dependence on foreign energy. However, in response to concerns about saving energy the delegates favor better options that include: 1) greater use of public transportation; 2) promotion of car pooling; 3) better enforcements of current speed limits; 4) promotion of alternative fuel development; and 5) further develop fuel-efficient vehicles, such as high-efficiency diesel passenger car engines, that are now widely available in other countries.

TAXATION AND FISCAL POLICY CONCERNS – Grange delegates reiterated support for taxation policies that levy both personal and business taxes based on ability to pay. The Grange supports a graduated income tax because we believe that most citizens have a greater understanding and respect for government when they have a part in providing revenue for general government programs. However, Grange delegates affirmed that taxes should not be punitive or excessive on any members of society or class of businesses. Grange delegates support continuation beyond 2009 of the federal income tax deduction for state and local sales taxes in states that do not have a state income tax.

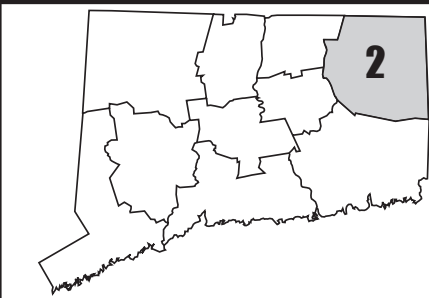
Grange delegates expressed their belief that government budgets should be balanced. The delegates recognize that there are times or circumstances to support deficit spending and the creation of debt, but that must be the result of a careful evaluation of the need and what will be the cost to future generations.

Please note...

We have received questions about articles not being printed in the Granger. We make every effort to get all articles submitted into the paper. Articles sent by the deadline will always make it in. Articles sent in late are at the correspondent's peril. There is no way for us to control articles that are emailed, but not received by the Editor, as we do not know they were sent and cannot control technical issues in the emailing process.

Next Deadline is Jan. 5th

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- ✓ Senexet No. 40
- ✓ Brooklyn No. 43
- ✓ Wolf Den No. 61
- ✓ Ekonk No. 89
- ✓ Ashford No. 90
- ✓ Putnam No. 97
- ✓ Killingly No. 112
- ✓ Highland No. 113
- ✓ Echo No. 180

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Jan. 21: Happy Holidays

We have been active with making pies for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We sold over 100.

We also had a wonderful float in the Holiday Dazzle Light Parade in Putnam. Over 120 were decorated from all local organizations and businesses. Thanks to Tom Perry for chairing this project.

We will also deliver pies to our Golden Sheaf members during the holidays.

We thank Jody Cameron for presenting Joan Perry with her Past Master's pin. Visit us.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Elsie M. Johnson

Jan. 14: Brrr- What'ch Doing?; Ref. John Dick Dan

Feb. 11: XOXOXOXO eh?; Ref. All Valentine Goodies

The third grade pupils of Pomfret Community School wrote letters of thanks to Wolf Den Grange for their dictionaries, which were great!

Seed catalogs are coming in the mail already- the wish book. I wish my plants looked as good.

Lois encouraged everyone to get busy on this year's CWA projects- the dolls- P.J.'s and bag and comfy covers.

Our new member Ethan was recently given the Good Citizen Award from his school. This time of year the request for donations are many. Recalls are common on t.v. To buy children's toys are a problem. You guess if they are safe or not.

We have two new affiliated members- Joan Perry and Gertrude Blain. Be careful driving at night as the deer are everywhere.

Turkeys by the flocks helping themselves to the bird feeders. Christmas lecturer's program was thanks to Clara Avery- she gave Christmas gifts on a right-left game. A great time had by all. Refreshments were Christmas cookies and red jell-o. Send a card to the shut-ins. Wish all a happy, healthy new year.

EKONK GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Jan. 5: Phycodelic 70's! 7:30

Jan. 23: Annual Casino/ Game/Family Night 6:30

Feb. 2: "The Magic of the 80's!" 7:30

Twenty some members of our Grange attended part or all of the National Grange Convention. We were positively thrilled with hosting the delegates at our hall Dec. 10th: all went great! 5 youth took the 7th Degree (J.Allen Cameron-in the cast; Brandi Hawkins, Katie Molodich, Jennifer Hawkins & Mason Gray)- Janet Hawkins also took the 7th Degree.

Brandi and Katie each recieved their Super JG pins at the National Junior Breakfast, which was also attended by Andrew Molodich & Jacob Gervais (and Mike & Betsy Molodich-Junior Leaders). Evelyn & Henry Pelletier attended Saturdays, events. Barbara Salisbury did an exemplary job heading the Hospitality Room throughout the Convention!

Jody Cameron received a standing ovation at the closing banquet for his outstanding job as Convention Coordinator! Jodi Ann Cameron headed the Flower Committee and Russell Gray was Co-Chairman of the Hosting Committee. Jody noted at our last meeting, that his daughter, Jaimie, took

National Delegates welcomed to Ekonk



Delegates to the 142nd Annual Convention of the National Grange pose in front of Ekonk Community Grange No. 89. The stop at Ekonk was part of the Delegates Tour held on Monday, November 10. While on Ekonk Hill, the Delegates enjoyed a Turkey Dinner provided by Quinebaug Pomona Grange No. 2 and Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm. A tour of the farm was provided after lunch.

part in the Junior Degree given at National; he and his wife were in the 6th Degree at National and J. Allen was in the 7th!

A successful Turkey Supper-thanks to Betsy Molodich, Chairman-in Nov. and our 6th annual Holiday Bazaar in Dec.-another success-thanks to Barbara Cameron & Evelyn Pelletier-Co-Chairmen Family Activities Team & the Junior Grange kitchen crew (Janet Hawkins, Robin Cousens, Brandi Hawkins & Clifford Gervais).

We look forward with great enthusiasm to the New Year!

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Joseph Valys

Jan. 10: Super Supper Saturday, followed by a Square Dance, 4-6, and then 8-10 for the dance.

Beginning the new year for bluegrass will feature Nick Anderson and Shady Creek along with Kip Hemingway and Crooked River on January 24, 2009 at 6:00 P.M. The show starts at 7:00 P.M.

Hello to all fellow Grangers. As I write this the holidays are winding down and I hope everyone has enjoyed them.

There has been a passing of a beloved former Master of Killingly Grange. Pat Renaud has been called to serve a higher Master. We will miss her greatly. On a happier note we have been having a revival of meals

served on the second Saturdays of each month at our Grange.

We have gained several new members over the last few months and they are all helpful and wonderful. Along with our Chaplain Anne Duvall who is a real worker.

Her baked goods are

You're the Cat's Meow!



Betty Jane Gardiner
Women's Activities Director
cwa@ctstategrange.org

Anne Marie Knochenhauer, State W.A. Comm.

As you now know this is the year of the cat because you are the cat's meow!


If any of you had gone to the regionals meetings I hope I spark some creative juices for the craft contest. I just want

to remind everybody that you can enter as often as you want in the craft contest. The contest is judge at state level only at Let's Celebrate Day. All entries will go to the Big E to be sold except those that will be use as gifts for the master and his wife; plus any dignitaries we have at state session.

The Scrap booking is in its second year. Scrap booking is a book of memories of important events, vacation, or grange activities over a year, Scrapbooks will be return to their owners after the contest and only one entry is allow. Both contest are for grange members, their children, and their grandchildren.



East Central Pomona No. 3



- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Coventry No. 75
- ✓ Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Marlborough No. 205

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3

Corr: John Waterhouse
Jan: No Meeting
Feb: No Meeting

To the Hosting Committee and anyone who helped to make the 2008 National Grange Convention such a success, Thank You! You did us proud!

Happy New Year to all!

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff
Jan. 8: Meeting, 7:30 P.M., “Joyous New Year”
Jan. 10: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7:00 P.M.
Feb. 5: Meeting 7:30 P.M., “Agriculture Night”

As I am typing this article, Thanksgiving is only two days away. I hope everyone did have a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving Day. Then we will all be headed to the various malls to do our Christmas shopping. Where did the year go? Glastonbury Grange memers are wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Our Card Parties are held the second Saturday

of each month from January through May. This is one of the ways that we raise money to help pay our bills and to make the various donations that we make during the course of the year. It is a very enjoyable evening with plenty of laughter, some really good refreshments and numerous door prizes. Come and join us for an enjoyable evening.

I want to remind all our members that it is time to be thinking about some of your friends and/or relatives that you may wish to invite to join our Grange. Bring in the names and addresses at the next meeting and give them to me. Happy New Year to all.

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Diane Small
Jan. 7: Wood Stoves vs Oil (Cons. Safety)
Jan. 21: Look It’s...
Feb. 4: Snow, Sleet (Publicity)

Winter is upon us. How nice a fireplace is on a cold winter night. This is also a time for your cat or dog to curl up with you to keep you warm and toasty. Go the library and find a good book. Pick out an author or subject

you wouldn’t normally read. It might be fun to think about doing a book report at your Grange meeting on a new book you’ve read. This could convince someone else to read this book. Now is the time to start work on your CWA projects. Dressing a doll, the new CWA project, sounds like a fun and interesting challenge. Don’t forget the Big E will need items to sell. They had a marvelous year and sold most of the donated items. We are really the only group that offers such a good variety of homemade items. If in doubt what may be needed, contact any member of the State CWA committee.

January always holds many surprises. The weather can be kind or treat us with misery. Remember be very careful when out and about. How many of you remember growing up with wood stoves as the primary source of heat?! With the price oil, fortunately it has come down in price, it makes for many options. One of the January programs is -- Look It’s....., I wonder what that could mean. Any ideas??

Now is the time to catch up with those overdue notes and letters you need to write. Make yourself a cup of coffee, tea or hot cocoa, tis the season. Give someone a call that you haven’t talked to in a while.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Winter seems to have come on us early this year. Hope it won’t be a long one.

Dictionaries are in- no date set to distribute them to 148 third graders at A.H. Robertson School.

We are saddened to report the passing of our Flora, Ruth MacRobbie. She had so many problems and is now at peace. Her memorial service was held on her 76th birthday. Our condolences to Richard and her extended family.

Happy Holidays to all. See you in March, when the wind doth blow.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Rita Schaefer
January and February- if weather permits. Bells are ringing and candles are all aglow. The

holidays just passed and now the laziness of winter approaches.

I hope all are taking care of themselves and stay away from crowds.

We are anxiously awaiting to hear of our contests for the coming year.

A couple of our members help to deliver over 60 Thanksgiving baskets (dinners) and will do the same as Christmas comes closer.

Our Chaplain will be in touch with the shut-in members by the time you read this Granger.

Most of our members will be relaxing until after the holidays.

Our hall will be used by the Lions Club to pack hundreds of pounds of cookies for the soldiers and less fortunate. We can’t forget them.

I’m asking our Grange members to let me know if you still receive the Granger and any changes of address. Also, we would like to see or hear from our members- 4th, 5th, 6th, or 7th degrees, including all of our 50 year members. Some of you have been contacted

and no reply. We would like to read a line or have a call anytime. We still need your support to keep our Grange going. More news coming next month. Be healthy this winer.

MARLBOROUGH GRANGE #205

Corr: Ruth Posuniak
Regular Meeting - Time 11:00 AM - Marlborough Cong Church Youth Room. Program: Show and Tell. Ref: Frances Carmel

Marlborough Grange held its Annual Christmas Dinner at the Adams Mill Restaurant in Manchester on Dec 20th. A fun time was had by all who attended. Marlborough Grange will award a \$1,000. Scholarship to a deserving High School Senior or student presently in college who is seeking a vacation in an agriculture related field. The student must be a resident in either Marlborough, East Hampton, Lebanon, Hebron, Andover, Colchester, Columbia or Glastonbury. Applications must be post marked no later than April 1, 2009. For information call Laura Combs at 228-3668

National elects officers

The National Grange elected four officers during its annual convention held November 11 to 15 in Cromwell, Connecticut. The election was held on Friday, Nov. 14.



Betsy Huber and Marty Billquist were reelected to the Board of Directors for 2nd terms, Huber as Board Chairperson.

Betsy Huber became a Granger at age 5. She was active in Junior Grange and held many offices in the Community and Pomona Granges, including Master. In October of 2002, she was elected President (Master) of the Pennsylvania State Grange, after serving six years as Vice President (Overseer). In November 2006 she was elected to a two-year term on the National Grange Board of Directors and in November 2006 she was elected chair of the Board.

Marty Billquist has been active in the Grange since he was a child, first as a Junior Granger and then as a subordinate member. He joined Avon Grange in 1968 and has held the majority of the Subordinate offices over the years. He founded the Avon Grange Youth Group to work on community service projects. He was elected President (Master) of the Montana State Grange in October 2001 after serving as Steward and Youth Co-Director with his wife Joyce. He was elected to a two-year term on the National Grange Board of Directors in November, 2006.

Phyllis Wilson, President of the Oregon State Grange, was elected Chaplain of the National Grange. After moving to a small farm in Coos Bay, Oregon, Wilson joined Greenacres #834 Subordinate Grange and Coos Pomona Grange #30 in 1969. She served her Granges in many offices, including Secretary for several years. She was elected President of the Oregon State Grange in June of 2006 and reelected in June 2008.




Linda Lewis, First Lady of the California State Grange, was elected National Grange Pomona on November 14, 2008. Mrs. Lewis first joined Yucca Grange #736 in 1971. She was Secretary of the Winnetka Center Grange from 178 to 1985 and became its President in 1986. She held various positions in Antelope Valley Pomona Grange and San Fernando Valley Pomona Grange and was California State Grange Young Married and Singles Chairman in the early 80s. She is currently a member off Browns Creek Grange #837, where she has been Secretary since 2001. Outside the Grange, Linda is active in Friends of Taxco, a Sister City program between Canoga Park, CA and Taxco, Mexico, is a Deacon in the Valley Presbyterian Church.



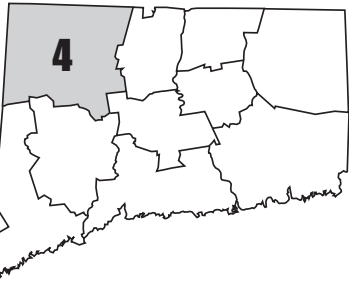
THE PATRONS GROUP

769 Hebron Avenue, Glastonbury, CT 06033
(860) 633-3942 ★ 1-800-800-0863

*Protecting our Connecticut policyholders’
financial security since 1833*



Mountain County Pomona No. 4



Hope No. 20
Whigville No. 48
Eureka No. 62
✓ Winchester No. 74
✓ Taghannuck No. 100
Litchfield No. 107
Beacon No. 118
✓ Riverton No. 169

MOUNTAIN CTY. POMONA #4
Corr: Todd Gelineau
Jan. 23: School of Instruction, Litchfield Grange Hall, 7:00 P.M.
Feb. 9: “Love All”-Litchfield Grange Hall
Mountain County Pomona doesn’t have a regular meeting in January but the void will be filled by the annual School of Instruction on Friday, Jan. 23 at Litchfield Grange Hall at 7:00 P.M. Unlike previous years, the opening and closing of the Grange will be exemplified along with any other ritual members would like to see demonstrated. The school will be conducted by the State Master Bob Sendewicz and General Deputy Bob Buck.

Our next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 9 at Litchfield Grange Hall. The program will appropriately be “Love All.” All Pomona meetings begin at 7:30 P.M.

The December meeting was very well attended and \$100 in donations was raised for the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center in Hartford. Thank you to all who chipped in. The dues increase/by-law change was passed at this meeting. Effective October 1, 2009, dues to Mountain County will increase to \$5.00. It is the first time in 40 years that a change has been considered. We know you all agree that \$5 is not a lot to pay for such a worthwhile organization!

Mountain County Pomona mourns the loss of Barbara (Beecher) English who passed away on December 15. Barbara served Mountain County for many years as Pianist. Many of you may remember her as State Pianist under Brother Bud Beecher. She will be

greatly missed by us all.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74
Corr: Todd Gelineau
Jan. 13: Brrr! Ref. Mary Ann & Gene Berlinski
Jan. 27: Skater’s Waltz, Ref. Women - Shirley Lemieux, Chair

Winchester Grange held its first Pasta Supper at the beginning of December and had a respectable turnout. We had hoped for more but are happy with the result on our first effort. A committee has been appointed to consider future fundraising activities for the Grange. We are determined to raise as much money through fundraising rather than future dues increases.

Our next meeting will be on January 13 and is entitled “Brrr”-appropriate wouldn’t you say?

Winchester Grange is saddened to report the passing of Barbara Beecher English. Barbara was a long-time Lecturer of Winchester Grange and served in many other capacities through the years. Her love for the Grange was always evident in everything she did. She served as Brother Bud Beecher’s pianist during his term as State Master. She was involved in so many different activities in the community and really defined the office of Lecturer for Winchester Grange. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends.

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100
Corr: Myrtle Hayden
Jan. 8: Pure White (Snow Date 22nd)
Feb. 12: Graces (Snow Date 26th)

At our Nov. 13 Harvest Dinner we presented one 65 year award, two 60 year awards and three 25

year awards.
December was our Cookie Exchange. Plates were made up for shut-ins and Ella’s Pantry.
Three members took the Seventh Degree at the Bushnell.
Dictionaries were presented to third and fourth graders in Sharon, Cornwall and Warren.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169
Corr: Gail Prelli

Come and celebrate the New Year with Riverton Grange. Riverton Grange will be holding a regular meeting on Friday, January 2nd beginning at 7:30. The program is entitled, “Auld Lang Syne”. Start the New Year off right by visiting us and enjoying a Grange evening filled with fun, friends and of course food.

Friday, January 16, 2009 will be Riverton Grange’s 101st Anniversary. We begin the evening with our Birthday Pot Luck. Bring a pot luck dish for dinner at 6:30 and enjoy the various birthday cakes and seasonal birthday tables. A long standing tradition for Riverton Grange includes 4 people decorating 4 tables for the birthday dinner. Everyone tries to sit at a table with others born around the same time. The first table is for January, February and March birthdays and you never know until the dinner whether you will have a New Year, Valentine or Saint Patrick’s Day theme. April, May and June may have an Easter theme or Flag Day. You may even see a May Pole. The July, August and September table has been known to have ants. (fake ants luckily) The October, November December table requires an overflow table. We always have too many Grangers born in these three months to fit at this table, but you can count on a winter theme if you sit with this group. Following this fun pot luck we have an open meeting and program. We invite all to come.

Mystery Meeting Place



For our January Mystery Picture, we would like to know what Grange meets in this building? If you know or have any idea, please let your Information Director know by telephone, postcard or e-mail. Just mail your answers to: Carl H. Bernhardt; 424 Cedar Lane; Cheshire, CT 06410, or call (203) 272-4620. Our e-mail address is: mbcb76@cox.net. We would like your answers by February 1st. The names of everyone who gives us the correct answer will be printed in the March issue of the *Connecticut Granger*.

The Mystery Picture shown in the November issue of the Granger is Killingly Grange Hall. We received correct answers from: Glenna Bruno of Killingly Grange, Dan Mutchler of Lyme Grange and Eleanor Davis of Killingly Grange.



Killingly Grange No. 112

Tucker addresses convention

Woodrow Tucker, past High Priest of Demeter, spoke before a luncheon crowd during the 142nd annual National Grange convention discussing the importance of Grange ritualism. Brother Woody joined the Grange in 1939 and has served in many capacities for 69 years including Rhode Island State Grange Master and several National Grange offices.

Brother Tucker challenged the crowd to think about two words – structure and discipline. He said every organization needs structure and the Grange is no different. The Grange reaches out to many interests, and according to Tucker, ritualism is part of that outreach. “Ritualism does have a place in this organization, and your life,” Tucker stated. “Grange members want uniformity. In fact uniformity is the backbone and structure of the Grange.”

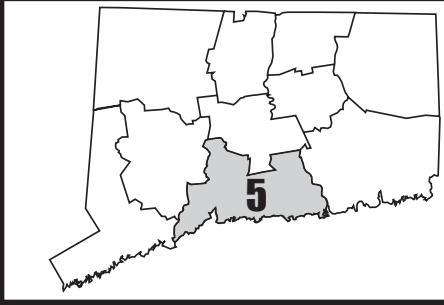
Brother Tucker believes ritualism is synonymous with discipline stating, “Some people resist ritualism because they think it takes away innovativeness.” He believes, on the other hand, that ritualism engenders enthusiasm and specifically builds character and leadership. To clarify his beliefs, Tucker described a Grange ceremony. “When Grange members expect to participate in a ritual ceremony, those performing strive to succeed and lead the group” Woody explained.

Since becoming an attorney in 1950, Brother Tucker has seen many clients come into his office forgetting to live as a family and forgetting the generosity of a Christian spirit. This moral relapse, according to Tucker where people do not extend the hand of Christianity has eroded society. “Those moral qualities that people have forgotten lie within our Grange ritualism,” Tucker stated. “It is part of the package.”

Recognizing the Grange has evolved over the years, some people have taken a hard look at the Grange ritual noted Brother Tucker. “Sometimes people snipped that the ritual here, and snipped at it there. I have wondered if at some point people are going to sit at a National Grange convention and decide if the ritual is the way for the Grange to continue.” Brother Tucker hopes that those Grange members think long and hard before they remove ritual from the organization. “The Grange is respected because of its moral fiber,” Tucker said.

Brother Tucker ended his speech by stating, “I am so appreciative of the opportunity that the Grange has given to me. I will always be eternally thankful for it. When I think of the inter-relations of Mother Nature – the greatness of the earth and the greatness of the people – I think of its interaction with our fraternity. This is MY Grange and I hope it is Yours too.”

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- ✓ Cheshire No. 23
- Wallingford No. 33
- ✓ North Haven No. 35
- ✓ Totoket No. 83
- ✓ Old Lyme No. 162

NEW HAVEN COUNTY
POMONA #5

Corr: Charleen Dimmick
Jan. 12: Totoket. “Our Youth And Young At Heart”

The annual Christmas party washeldatCheshire. Gifts were exchanged and an interesting and informative program was presented, with each Grange bringing a number.

At the March meeting, the Pomona Talent Runoff will be held. It is always most interesting to see the talent in the Pomona.

In May, the 5th Degree will be conferred. It’s not too soon to be thinking about getting new members.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Charleen Dimmick
Jan. 7: Legislative Night
Jan. 21: Agricultural Program, “Farm Buildings”
Feb. 4: Box Supper at 6pm.
Feb. 18: Flag program

We had the annual Thanksgiving dinner in November. Thanks again to Marge Bernhardt for cooking the turkey.

Our first meeting in December was ‘hat night.’ The members wore their favorite hats and Marge Bernhardt presented a program about hats.

Be thinking about getting new members for the degrees in the spring.

See you all next year.

NORTH HAVEN GRANGE
#35

Corr: A. Tolette
Jan. 6: Youth Night

The calendar says December but outside it is like late October. I have blossoms on a forsythia. So who’s mixed up?

We will have to wait some more to learn what’s cooking with John. This has to be in before that happens. Also, Christmas and New Year’s will be over before this is printed. Hope both were good and the new year will be safe and healthy for all. See you next year.

TOTOKET GRANGE #83

Corr: Marion D. Bradley
Jan. 12: Pomona meets at Totoket

Jan. 13: New Year Resolutions for Totoket Grange

Our last two meetings were busy. The October meeting was a joint installation for North Haven and Totoket Granges. Everthing went well. Edith Schoell and her team did their usual outstanding job.

At the November meeting, Carlton Platt did the Welcome Ceremony for Andrea Barlow and her mother, Jane V. Auclaire.

Andrea and Sue Hager both took the Sixth Degree at State Session and Seventh Degree at the National Grange Convention in Cromwell. We now have 9 Seventh Degree members in Totoket Grange. Andrea’s mother, Jane Auclaire, became not only a member but serves as Flora as well. Andrea is our Lady Assistant Steward.

December was our usual Christmas meeting with a nice dinner first we are always glad to welcome visitors. If all went well, we had a complete supper before our meeting and member Victoria Strickland did her great game that means everyone ends up with a gift. I confess it is a challenge though.

January is always an interesting month as Pomona meets in our hall the night before our regular meeting. The weather can be a real problem one or both of the nights.

Come whenever you wish.

OLD LYME GRANGE #162

Corr: Barbara Kulisch
Jan. 9: Slip & Slide
Jan. 23: Snow date for the 9th of January

We Wish You All A Very Happy And Healthy New Year!

Our Grange Hall is finally finished on the

outside, with a new coat of paint! We will hold a plaque dedication during Grange week, 2009. This plaque was given to us by the Historical Society of the Town & hangs on the front of our building.

We welcomed

visitors from Lyme and Cheshire to our “Christmas When We Were Young”, Youth Night program in December & got to enjoy Christmas Melodies with Dan Mutchler & Ron Purinton of Lyme. The evening was

enjoyed by all.

Our new community service projects are under way & we are busy with the new CWA projects.

Our door is always open, so come on down.

In Memoriam

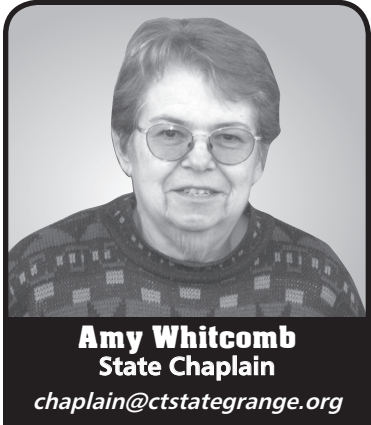
Marion Doak, G.S.
Kenneth I. Hale, G.S.
Dorothy Hubbard
Rita Kozlak
Ruth Case
Jennie Sweeney
Rose Marfyk
Eileen Case
Ruth Evanyo
Mabel Irish
Sarah Henry
Norma Croteau
Barbara B. English, G.S.
Nicholas Mancini
Martha Locarno
Pat Renaud
LeRoy Moran, G.S.
Anne France
Rev. Robert Fell

Granby Grange No. 5
Cheshire Grange No. 23
Manchester Grange No. 31
Cawasa Grange No. 34
Cawasa Grange No. 34
Cawasa Grange No. 34
Cawasa Grange No. 34
Cawasa Grange No. 34
Cawasa Grange No. 34
Cawasa Grange No. 34
Cawasa Grange No. 34
Winchester Grange No. 74
Totoket Grange No. 83
Totoket Grange No. 83
Killingly Grange No. 112
North Stonington Grange No. 138
Hemlock Grange No. 182
Hemlock Grange No. 182

G.S. denotes Golden Sheaf (50 Year) Members

Please keep us notified of deceased members.
Use the email or the regular mailing address listed on
page 2 of this issue. Thank you.

Chaplain’s Message



As we begin the new year, let us focus on renewing our faith. After the light has come, after the joy of Christmas has gone, rest

in its afterglow. Let the glow stay with you as your resume your routine living. Let it lighten your daily work. The light of Christ is within you. Let it shine in you the rest of the year and beyond.

Once a year we are blessed with the opportunity as a collective whole to become one with a loving presence. It is the presence of the Holy One waiting to be born in all of us, the Holy One waiting for the first

gleam of the Christ star to appear in the heavens. Watch and wait. A small light appears and grows stronger and brighter. Let it grow and fill your heart. Breathe in that holy light. Breathe in that love. Breathe in that joy. Take your light and brighten the lives of others with love, your concern and your gift. Let your Christ light shine. That is your true purpose this coming year. The renewal of your faith is one of the most important parts of your life this new year.

Junior Grange Corner



Well the Holiday Season is here. We had the National Convention in November and two of our Junior Grangers received their Super JG Awards. They were Katy Molodich and Brandi Hawkins of Ekonk Community Junior

Grange. We also had all three of our Junior Granges represented in The Junior Degree on Saturday. Thanks to all who helped and participated during the National Session. Programs have been distributed for the Juniors and we hope to have many participants. Happy Holidays.

EKONK JR. GRANGE #101
Corr: Mike Molodich

Many juniors entered state contests and won prizes. Jaimie Cameron was named junior granger of the year. A few juniors also entered National contests. Katrina

Sebastian won first place at the state grange talent contest this past year. Jaimie Cameron received honorable mention for her public speaking at New England level. She was asked to give her speach at the National junior breakfast.

The juinors put together a Thanksgiving basket for a needy family in town. We are playing volleyball on Sunday evenings from 6-8pm using the equipment we donated to the Sterling recreation department.

We did the welcoming ceremony for our newest member Conner Sebastian.

Policies set at National Grange Conention in Cromwell

by Leroy Watson, *National Grange Legislative Director*

The 142nd Annual Convention of the National Grange held in Cromwell, CT, Nov. 13-16, 2007 is now history. This year, the National Grange considered 170 separate policy resolutions, of which 140 resolutions were either adopted or were determined to be covered by existing National Grange legislative policy.

For more than 140 years, the National Grange has offered its members one of the purest, most effective, and most direct forms of political advocacy through its local, grassroots, and resolution based policy development process. On behalf of the officers, delegates, and directors of the National Grange, we would like to say "Thank-You" to each and every one of the thousands of individual Grange members and local Grange chapters across the country that took time to draft and submit a Grange resolution for consideration in 2008. Not every local Grange resolution reached the level of consideration by the National Grange delegates in 2008. But every resolution debated, discussed and considered by every local, county or state Grange chapter across the country this year demonstrates the Grange's commitment to creating a strong, collective voice in local, state, and national public policy discussions as well as providing our members with an opportunity to "Celebrate the Responsibilities of Citizenship."

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – National Grange delegates expressed support for consistent regulations dealing with false and misleading claims on labels and in advertising dairy products with special attention to hormone-free, drug-free, and pesticide-free claims.

The National Grange opposes the relocation of Plum Island research and disease control and supports the renovation of Plum Island Animal Disease Center from a Biosecurity Level 3 facility to a Biosecurity Level 4 facility. The delegates recommended that Plum Island Animal Disease Center be renovated in such a manner to investigate cures and controls for diseases that could infect both human and animal population, and that Plum Island Animal Disease Center renovations include necessary security measures to prevent the release of pathogens into the environment resulting from human error or acts of

terrorism.

The National Grange will support continuation of the current Farm Bill regulations so that farm parcels that are less than the new 10-acre minimum, and have a previous history in the federal farm program, can continue in the program.

The National Grange will oppose legislation that would amend the federal criminal code to impose any fine and/or prison term for possessing, shipping, transporting, purchasing, selling, delivering, or receiving any horse, any horse flesh or horse carcass for legal purposes.

National Grange delegates reiterated their support for scientifically proven, best industry practices used in chicken and egg production. They opposed efforts to restrict commercial chicken and egg production through legislative and/or referendum initiatives.

National Grange delegates endorsed amendments to current regulations governing the National Beef Check Off program to encourage the formation of regional beef councils for small beef producing states. National Grange delegates also pledged support for the efforts of the Board of Directors of Tobacco Associates, Inc. and the grower leadership in all tobacco producing states to unite in seeking a national tobacco export promotion check-off to fund promotion of U.S. grown tobacco leaf in the world market.

Recognizing that "...the movement of agricultural products across our country as well as exports to foreign countries is vital to the economy of the nation," National Grange delegates pledged support for drafting new trade agreements "that will be beneficial and flexible while protecting not only U.S. agriculture but also the American dream."

CONSERVATION AND ENERGY ISSUES – In light of the devastating wildfires sweeping across Southern California and other areas in 2008, Grange delegates advocated immediate political action to support the harvesting of fire-ravaged timber from fire recovery zones.

The National Grange will call on all local, state, and federal agencies involved in groundwater management to develop

and institute an emergency program to restore groundwater resources while at the same time defining agriculture as a priority sector for essential water use and management. Grange delegates believe the highest national priority for utilization of water should focus on maintaining our ability to produce food. Non-food related agricultural production, such as the production of ornamental plants or fertilization and watering of commercial and private lawns should have lower priority in local, state and national water management plans.

The National Grange will oppose any attempt to make the Mt. St. Helens National Monument a National Park.

Grange delegates supported a ban on the use of Bisphenol A in all plastics because of possible behavioral side effects to fetuses, infants, and young children that have been exposed to the chemical.

Finally in response to the energy crisis, Grange delegates proposed to support increasing reliance on renewable energy. However, the National Grange will oppose passage of any new law mandating energy technologies that have not been proven feasible or any new law eliminating existing, successful energy technologies.

HONORING VETERANS – "We must never forget," the delegates expressed in their policy statement, "that our freedoms exist because our forefathers fought and died for them and our troops continue to fight for freedom throughout the world." Reflecting this responsibility, the delegates pledged to lobby the United States Congress to provide a permanent educational assistance program to serve current and future military veterans.

The National Grange will further support legislation requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs to pay the widow/

widowers or estates of veterans any retro-active disability benefits they are entitled to, even if the veteran should die before the submitted claim is processed.

National Grange delegates further called for federal legislation to make it a federal offense to defile the grave of any military service member, regardless of where the grave

is located.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ISSUES – Grange delegates expressed strong support for continuing to allow the marketplace of ideas to be subject to free market mechanisms rather than government control. The National Grange will oppose any attempt to implement the "Fairness Doctrine" or any comparable regulations, which would inhibit free speech or freedom of the press.

EDUCATION CONCERNS – The National Grange supports amending the "No Child Left Behind" Act to make it more responsive to local education concerns and budgets. Grange delegates believe that the federal government must fund educational programs appropriately so that these programs do not create an unrealistic burden on the state and local school systems.

National Grange delegates voted to strongly support local school officials who remove disruptive and violent students from the classroom and urged these officials to provide an alternate education to these students until the underlying cause of a student's disruptive behavior has been corrected. They further urged reform of state and federal regulations so that schools actively addressing the problems of violent and disruptive students are not at risk of being classified as failing schools. However, the Grange will oppose the use of cash payments to students for the purpose of improving attendance, behavior, and performance. Finally Grange delegates expressed support for home schooling as a viable alternative to traditional education and called for appropriate, non-intrusive regulations in order to ensure that home schooled students receive a high quality education.

Grange delegates ap-

plauded the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self Determination Act and pledged to work with Congress and the new Administration on a long-term solution for funding for rural forest counties and schools.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY – The delegates took note that the nation's rural law enforcement agencies face the challenge of dealing with crimes as diverse and far reaching as domestic, environmental, and animal rights terrorism. Additionally, corporate and consumer fraud, as well as Internet crimes, affect rural communities. They spoke out to encourage new strategies to deal with the rural methamphetamine problem. The Internet has made it easier for child predators to target children in rural communities. The Grange supports maximum penalties for those convicted in child predator cases. The Grange supports victim advocacy programs in rural communities, many of which are ill prepared to address complex issues such as domestic violence and the rights of victims of violent crimes.

With the pervasive news coverage of violent crimes, the delegates expressed concerns that criminals gain celebrity status for their crimes. The Grange will urge news media to continue to report crimes but in a way that will not give criminals credibility and celebrity status.

National Grange delegates also called for enactment of a Silver Alert Program for elderly individuals that have been reported missing and/or have wandered away from a safe environment that would be administered in the same manner as the current Amber Alert system.

FOOD AND PHARMACEUTICAL SAFETY – In response to recent and continued reports of contaminated food and pharmaceutical products making their way on to the market, the National Grange will urge the new Administration and Congress to conduct a strategic reorganization of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) focusing on regulating and policing the quality and safety of foods and drugs for human consumption. Grange delegates believe that other FDA regulatory responsibilities over such products as animal pharmaceuticals, non-pharmaceutical medical

...continued on page 10

