

Happy New Year!

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Connecticut Granger

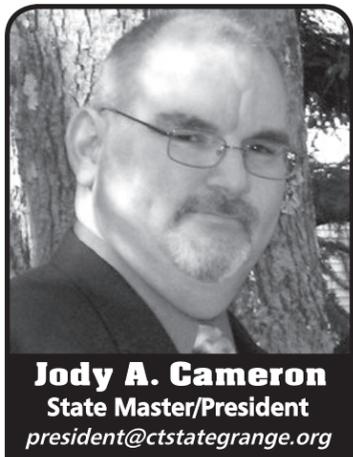


Vol. 51, No. 4

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

JANUARY 2011

Our history is written...



Jody A. Cameron
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

We write our future!

We have been around for over 125 years; we have an impressive history that has brought us many successes, a foundation of concrete. That concrete over the years has weakened slightly, even crumbled in some cases. We have gone from a high in excess of 10 thousands members to just over 3,000, over 200 Granges to just 58 today. That is our history, what about our future?

Do you see a growing membership? A stronger, more involved membership? A Grange that is looked to for solutions when

there is a need in the community? I hope so, because I do! Tomorrow brings us GROWTH; we have the people, the tools, and the right attitude. We have a solid membership base that is willing and interested in growth and sustainability. We have Granges doing incredible community service; we have individual members giving of themselves unselfishly for the betterment of their neighbors. We have good leaders in our Granges with the ability to initiate growth, develop teams and encourage individual personal development.

Sister Jodi Ann and I have visited Granges since October that have already been taking in new members; one welcomed 3 new members the night of our visit. The Lecturer Programs have been OUTSTANDING top quality, from paid Bell Ringers to well prepared

programs on the history of the Grange to ritual. We are seeing good exemplification of Grange Ritual, officers and members taking pride in their work and their Grange and having fun at the same time. These are the tools that are essential for the attraction and retention of members.

These are exciting times. We have an opportunity to change the

face of the Grange. This is our time to be the pioneers of the Grange to quote the National Master, Ed Luttrell, "the second 7." It kind of gives me goose bumps to realize we are as influential as the 7 founders of the Grange. Our job is easier that theirs was, we have a solid, concrete foundation to build upon the very foundation they built. I can only imagine the trial and tribulations the seven founders faced, introducing the public to

a fraternal organization no one had ever heard of. We have none of those challenges, none. There is no wheel to re-invent, we have been bringing in members for over 125 years, there is one secret to membership development that I want to share you, it is not a guarded secret so you can share this with all members of your Grange, JUST ASK THEM TO JOIN!

Connecticut State Grange honored by Congress

The Connecticut State Grange was recently honored on the floor of the United States House of Representatives by Representative Joseph D. Courtney. In remarks that have been recorded in the Congressional Record, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the 111th Congress, Rep. Courtney congratulated the State Grange on the occasion of its 125th anniversary.

He also recognized the contributions Connecticut's Granges have made to communities throughout the state. His comments are printed below:

"Madame Speaker, I rise today to honor the Connecticut State Grange on their 125th anniversary.

The National Grange, also known as the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, is the nation's oldest national agricultural organization, with chapters established in 2,700 local communities in 40 states. The Connecticut Grange has been an integral part of our states' efforts to preserve farmland, support rural communities and maintain the idyllic charm that is such an important part of New England's past.

The Grange has always welcomed farming families to involve themselves in the betterment of rural life and to contribute to its welfare by talent, thought, strength and willingness to labor heartily with fellow Patrons for the general good of the Order and of mankind. The Grange's

 **Congressional Record**
PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION
Vol. 156
House of Representatives

HONORING THE 125th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONNECTICUT GRANGE

HON. JOSEPH D. COURTNEY
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 2, 2010

MR. COURTNEY. Madame Speaker, I rise today to honor the Connecticut State Grange on their 125th anniversary.

The National Grange, also known as the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, is the nation's oldest national agricultural organization, with local chapter established in 2,700 local communities in 40 states. The Connecticut Grange has been one of the most active, continuously operating since 1885. In Connecticut the Grange has been an integral part of our states' efforts to preserve farmland, support rural communities and maintain the idyllic charm that is such an important part of New England's past.

The Grange has always welcomed farming families to involve themselves in the betterment of rural life and to contribute to its welfare by talent, thought, strength and willingness to labor heartily with fellow Patrons for the general good of the order and of mankind. The Grange's focus on community service, family activities and agricultural causes reflects well on the countless farmers who strive to preserve America's pastoral traditions. In eastern Connecticut, the Grange has a long and storied past supporting communities, maintaining our rural heritage and promoting the agricultural ideals that serve as the backbone of our country.

Not only is the Grange the oldest and one of the strongest farm organizations in America, it is the only farmers' fraternity in the world. The precepts of this farm-family fraternity are fourfold: (1) We should work toward a more prosperous agriculture; (2) Improve practical education; (3) Super-size community life and citizenship; and (4) Build higher ideals of manhood and womanhood among ourselves. With a strong faith in God, a nurturing hope, a focus on charity, and faithfulness to duty, the Granger continues to make rural life more desirable.

Members of the Grange have adopted the following creed: "United by the strong and faithful tie of agriculture, we mutually resolve to labor for the good of our order, our country and mankind." Madame Speaker, I believe those are words we can all live by, and so I ask my colleagues to join with me, and the people of Connecticut, in recognizing the Connecticut State Grange on their 125th anniversary.

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... Continued on page 5

Food & Medicare



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

In November we received an Action Alert from the National Grange concerning U.S Senate Bill S.510. This bill was being debated on the floor in the Senate and we were asked to oppose it. S.510 is the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act. The Senate did pass this bill at that time. The House had already considered

a similar bill, H.R. 2749, which passed the House in August 2009. The bills have many similarities but are not identical.

At the 144th National Grange Convention that was held in November, the Food Safety bills were discussed. The Grange policy supports strong inspection standards for animal and human food for consumption. We also encourage the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) to work together and be allowed to order food recalls or close down firms with severe violations. The National

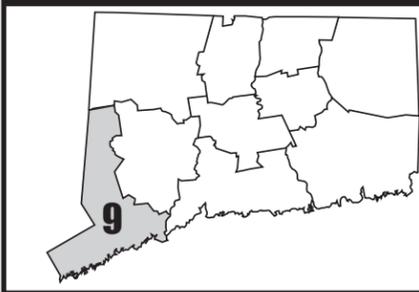
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Deadline for the FEBRUARY 2011 issue of the Connecticut Granger: JANUARY 5

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: Bob Sendewicz

March 2: New York World's Fair

Fairfield County Pomona will not meet until March 2, 2011 at Harmony Grange Hall in Monroe. There will be a pot luck supper at 6:00 p.m. followed by a business meeting and country store.

At this time we will also be visited by Pomona Deputy West, Donald Lanoue, who will present a school of instruction for our Pomona.

At our December meeting we had a great Christmas dinner and party. Santa paid us a visit at the end of our Christmas program. Many of the members brought toys for the Marine Corp. Toys for Tots collection. All in all it was a great way to end the year.

We wish all our Grange friends a happy and prosperous New Year.

REDDING GRANGE #15

Corr: Marge Sendewicz

Jan. 10: New Beginnings

Jan. 24: Legislative and Agricultural Program

Now that all the hustle and bustle of the holidays are over we are ready to start the serious work of the year. We do not know what the weather conditions will be like in January but we hope to get one meeting in. Aah, the winters in New England, one of the best times of the year, for some people.

We at Redding Grange welcome the agenda of the State Master, Jody Cameron, and will do our best to make it successful. Six of our members wear pink sashes and they will keep us focused on that task.

As we receive more information from the various state committees we will re-plan some of our activities of the year to accommodate their programs. Let's all do our best and enjoy the fruits of our labors at the 2011 State Session.

All of us at Redding Grange wish all our Grange friends, "A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR".

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE

#133

Corr: Dennis Rich

Jan. 16: "Jack Frost" - 2 P.M. Meeting

Our November meeting featured a discussion of appropriate meeting days and times, that will allow for more participation by those who often have family and other activities on Sundays. The consensus was that the third Monday of the month would have a minimum of conflict with activities of other Granges in our Pomona. If this is favored by a vote of our membership, we will amend our by-laws. The program included questions and answers, and in keeping with the Thanksgiving theme, we concluded with everyone sharing reasons for their being thankful!

In January we will continue planning our meeting schedule. Our program will include a presentation on winter survival. We wish all of our Grange friends a Happy New Year!

TRUMBULL GRANGE #134

Corr: Susan Carol Sulier

Hi, fellow Grangers and welcome to January, the month associated with "Ringing in the New Year" and "New Year's Resolutions".

Now onto the Grange stuff - Our well wishes are extended to our President/Master, Louise Malatesta and our Executive Committee Chairman, Henry/Hank Barrachina, who are both recuperating from health related issues.

Last month we had our annual Christmas Party at the Blue Goose in Stratford. The atmosphere was great, the service was impeccable and food was fabulous. We thank Val Barrachina for a job well done with securing the venue and menu selections and we also thank Scherryl Fairchild and Barbara Standley for gifting us all with a Christmas stocking goodie bag and a box of candy. We were honored to have our former State President and former First Lady, Bob and Marge Sendewicz, attend our gathering as well as Joan Ziegler and a few

Harmony Grange members. A good time was enjoyed by all!!!

Our Featured CT AARP Column #13 - AARP Sets State Legislative Priorities for 2011 - Now that the dust has settled from the recent elections, the real work of governing begins. When the Connecticut legislature convenes Jan. 5, lawmakers will have to address a \$3.5 billion state budget deficit. AARP Connecticut is urging legislators and Governor-elect Malloy not to slash services across the board, but rather to preserve safety-net programs and maximize cost-effective alternatives to nursing home care. Home care services help keep people out of nursing homes, allowing them to remain independent longer and ultimately saving the state millions of dollars in Medicaid costs. New federal incentives are also available for states that choose to expand home and community based options. AARP Connecticut also will continue fighting to lower electric rates for residents; Connecticut ratepayers currently pay among the highest rates in the continental United States and, on average, 15% higher than our neighboring states. To learn more and get involved, go to aarp.org/ct or call 1-866-295-7279 toll free.

Please pray for the safe and speedy return of our US Military Troops.

"Wishing you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year"

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

Jan. 11: Keeping Warm for the Winter; Hot Chocolate and Sewing

Feb. 8: Sweets and Treats Valentines

We had an Open House/ Neighbor's Night / Apple Festival / Harvest get-together in November, when we hoped to meet and

greet prospective Grange members by talking about who we are and what we do in and for the community. A Membership Chairman Lyn Kimberly later sized it up, "We re-enthused some old members, recharged some newer members, and signed up three new members! And two more will sign-on before the end of the year. Since January, that's at least 15 new members!"

Ted Coley spoke from the heart about the wonderful old days at Norfield Grange, and story-teller extraordinaire Sue Sulla broke up the meeting with the kind of joke she's been famous for ever since she signed on as Lecturer. Appetizers, dessert, and of course apples, were on the menu last night, with over 35 members and guests joining in the fun- plus one ghost. When the last five people in the clean-up crew were finishing, one walked out the kitchen door and was surprised to see a dark figure running across the parking lot to hide behind a parked truck. When he investigated, no one was there. The flood lights were on, the truck was parked right next to the Grange Hall, and there was no place to hide! More later, if this mystery ever unfolds.

On Nov. 30, about 25 Grangers met for decking the hall and trimming the tree for the upcoming Pomona meeting- and for the rest of us too, of course. Unfortunately, no one could find the center pole of the Christmas tree! But the hall looked beautiful, and there was enough food to feed an army. We had our first Farmer's Market on December 4, from 10 to 2, and it will take place every Saturday until April 16. The next day we hosted a craft fair. And who knows? Perhaps our ghost will join us on Jan. 11 for some hot chocolate.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

Feb 3: Business Meeting

Feb 12: Scrabble & Pizza - 6 PM until Midnight

Mar 3: Business Meeting

Mar 12: Scrabble & Pizza - 6 PM until Midnight

Mar 17: Speaker from the CT Agricultural Experiment Station

We enjoyed a wonderful Christmas party in late December during which we welcomed members and neighbors to our Hall for delicious refreshments and talented musical entertainment. We were delighted to welcome our State President, Jody Cameron and his wife, Jodi-Ann at the party. Entertainment of Christmas music was provided by Allison Roberts, a local opera singer (and friend of Michelle McDonald) and the Brilliant Brass Quintet from the Wilton Congregational Church (Don Offinger is one of the horn players), and Chris Sorensen who set up background music during the party. Pat Medeika made a surprise visit, coming all the way from Maine, where she is very active with Evening Star Grange.

Our Grange has been invited to be a partner and exhibitor with the Wilton Go-Green festival coming up on May 1st, and we will once again host an information booth about our Grange and growing string beans in a home garden; helping residents reduce their carbon foot-print.

We will be meeting once a month, as noted, during the cold winter months, and we will resume our bi-monthly meetings in March. Please take note of our meeting schedule. We meet at 7 PM and follow an informal format. Visiting Patrons are always welcome--won't you join us? Please visit us on the web, FaceBook and on Twitter.

PLEASE! Do not send correspondence or any other mail to the Newfield Rd. address listed below. This is the address for Winchester Grange #74 and is only listed to satisfy USPS requirements. Please mail to the Editor's address listed below, right. Thank You!

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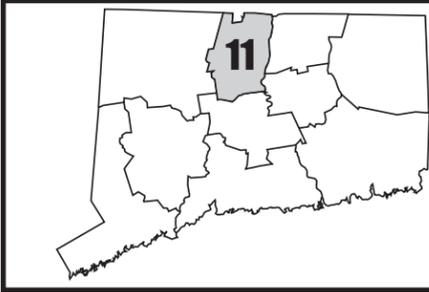
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Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11



- ✓ Granby No. 5
- ✓ Tunxis No. 13
- ✓ Cawasa No. 34
- ✓ Simsbury No. 197
- ✓ West Suffield No. 199
- ✓ Cherry Brook No. 210

FARMINGTON VLLY. POMONA #11 Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner No Meetings in January

Our December meeting was held at Granby Grange with each of our groups presenting a part of the program. Pomona Deputy Donald Lanoue was here with us. Cawasa furnished special refreshments.

We do not meet in January. Hope you all can stay warm and by the fire. Don't forget - the cold winter nights are the ideal time to work on sewing and craft projects- and we will still be looking for salable

handmade items for the Big E.

May the new year be wonderful for all.

GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: Vivian C. Shaw

Jan. 14: New Year Program

Turkey Quizzes by Roseanne, Karla, Stephen, Fran and Bob. Granby Korean War veterans honored Granby Grange members were Joseph Rudzik, J.D. Thomas, Virginia "Ginny" Thomas, and Lyall Shaw, Jr.

Harvest Days poem by

Carol. No-cost tips to save money this winter by Lou. A Thanksgiving prayer by Shirley.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner

Jan. 12: CWA in Charge

The CWA will put on a short program in our limited space in the library. Hope the weatherman will be kind to us.

We continue to do what we can throughout the winter months to keep our projects going. Community Service work can be done by each member as our many projects are small and on-going.

We missed not having a Christmas meeting and program with a visit from the young people entertaining us with their holiday music. We hope to be able to have them with us in the future.

Best wishes to all for 2011.

Food & Medicare

continued from page 1...

Grange also encourages the USDA to develop education programs concerning the safe handling of food.

The National Grange is concerned with part of the legislation which would increase record keeping that food producers would be required to do. The act requires inspection of facilities and tracking the process of food production phases. They are requiring that records be kept from production inputs used and every step right through to the consumer. The National Grange feels that this would bury farmers and ranchers with large amounts of paperwork. There was a resolution that was attached to the Senate bill that exempts small farms that sell food directly to grocery stores and consumers from these requirements.

The act also requires the establishment of FDA office facilities in other countries from whom we import food.

What happens next is that either the House will take up the Senate bill as it stands, or a committee will fuse the two bills and re-present it to each chamber. Expect to see the combined bill during the coming session after the legislators return from the winter break and the new members are sworn in. These bills are in response to the E-coli outbreaks that occurred with spinach and tomatoes not too long ago.

Also, there has been some information regarding changes in Medicare coverage. Application of the Improvement Standard is becoming applied as standard practice for Medicare coverage. In other words, people with chronic conditions are being denied skilled services that they need to avoid further deterioration. This Improvement Standard is not part of the Medicare statute and conflicts with the law. The statutory standard for care is medical necessity, not improvement.

Some members of Congress have joined together in opposing the application of Improvement Standards. They have sent a letter to the Center for Medicare Management expressing their concern about this practice. We will be watching this to determine what evolves and will update you as we learn more.

watching others.

10.) Get people involved and make it fun.

Even the greatest athletes in the world can't do it alone. Make creating your video a fun and memorable experience for everyone involved. When you involve others, you have access to more knowledge, more ideas, more enthusiasm, and more resources. Members will support the project if they have a hand in creating it. They need to know that their contributions count and that their input is valued. Don't forget to include everyone who participated in the closing credits.

The script is written, the members performed their roles to Academy Award standards, and all the footage is shot - now what? Next comes editing.

There are a number of software packages available for both Mac and PC computers for editing digital video. The top two come standard and are free on most computers - Microsoft Movie Maker and Apple's iMovie.

Microsoft Movie Maker comes pre-installed on newer computers that are running Windows XP or newer. Movie Maker has drag and drop features to make creating and editing your movie easier, and has many add-ons available for special effects. This program is considered one of the best free video editing software programs available for the PC platform.

For Mac enthusiasts, Apple's iMovie is comparable to Windows Movie Maker. The software is part of the iLife suite of programs, which is free when purchasing a Mac. It also has many advanced features and add-ons available. This is one of the best free video editing programs available for Mac users.

People are watching 2 billion videos a day on YouTube and uploading hundreds of thousands of videos daily. In fact, every minute, 24 hours of video is uploaded to YouTube. Video is a powerful way to showcase your Grange's impact and needs.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

This month, we are taking a closer look at one of our new contests for the upcoming year - the "Spot On" - 30-Second Grange Video Commercial Contest.

Here's the creative - Create a commercial for your Grange that is 30 seconds in length, using the theme "Community Grown." Think of an idea for a commercial representing your Grange. Make us laugh. Make us cry. Make us say, "Wow! I want to join the Grange." Make it something you'd want to see on TV. You write it. You cast it. You direct and shoot it. You have total creative control.

Here's a few tips and tricks for making your video rise above the rest.

1.) Plan before filming and create your hook. Start with an outline. Even though the commercial is only 30 seconds, you still need to have a story with a clear beginning, middle and end. When scripting the spot, be sure to have the details on paper prior to breaking out the video camera. Remember to answer the following questions in your 30-Second Commercial: Who are you? What is the Grange? What does the Grange do? How can someone join? How should the audience react? Your HOOK should be the tidbit that makes the commercial memorable. The key is not only giving viewers

great information, but it's engaging the them, and asking the right questions. Be quick and get to your point.

2.) Is it the end or the beginning? Expert film makers use this trick all the time - use the end of the story at the start of the video.

3.) Remember your location. In the movies and on television, you may see the camera zooming in on the outside of the building first, before cutting to a scene that happens within. The viewer will not necessarily know the shooting location, such as the inside of your Grange Hall. Mix up your shots with landmarks that tell the audience where you are.

4.) Avoid zooming in and out too much. Most digital camcorders come with zoom features. Using the zoom is good in limited quantities, but don't get carried away. And when you do use the zoom, make sure it is slow and well-controlled. The output will look more professional.

5.) Importance of lighting. Nothing spoils a video as much as poor lighting. Remember to always shoot with the light behind the camera, shining on the subject. Never shoot into a window.

6.) Change your perspective. Don't limit your shots to one type, such as someone sitting in a chair, or only one angle.

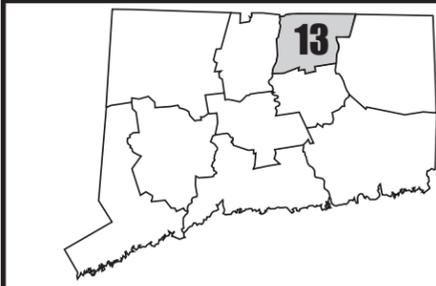
Approach your subject from all angles such as behind or from the top. Perhaps you can even film yourself walking up the steps and opening the door to the Grange Hall before reaching your subject inside. You can also include photographs in your video. Take the time to make sure you get multiple versions of each shot so that you have options when you're editing.

7.) Keep it steady. We've all seen home movies where the camera shakes so much it gives the viewer a headache. There are a couple of ways to remedy this situation. Use a tripod or unipod or brace yourself against a solid surface - like a wall. Another trick is to stoop down onto one knee.

8.) Don't forget about the sound. You may be so caught up on filming the perfect moment that you forget about the sound. It never hurts to have an extra microphone for sound focusing which results in better audio quality. Keep in mind, you can always add in clear audio as a voice-over after the fact during the editing process.

9.) Watch and learn from the pros. Take note of ads on television and how they are composed. When watching your favorite movies and television shows, look for the angles of the shots, and compositions used. You'd be surprised how much you can learn about shooting video from

North Central Pomona No. 13



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

NORTH CENTRAL POMONA #13

Corr: J. Jordan

North Central Pomona will not be meeting in January.

STAFFORD GRANGE #1

Corr: Gail Fisher

A very informative slide show was presented to us from Mr. Bruce Dutton. We were shown about how our mills came to be and how the many waterways still here helped fun them. There are many ponds and lakes in Stafford that were the source of running our many mills. Juanita Scism, our Lecturer, arranged for Mr. Dutton to present this program to us.

At our next meeting we will be meeting two new members. Our group is growing so nice. We welcome newcomers always.

Three turkeys were bought and donated to the Stafford Human Services for the enjoyment of needy families. We are thankful we can help and our wishes to everyone for a blessed holiday.

TOLLAND GRANGE #51

Corr: J. Jordan

Jan. 14: New Hampshire

Tolland Grange will meet on the fourth of January at St. Matthew's Church Hall. The topic of the program will be New Hampshire. Come learn a few tidbits about one of our New England states.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

Jan. 14: Winter Wonderland

Vernon Grange had the great honor of having our State President and General Deputy as visitors during our December meeting. They had the honor of participating in our "Wacky Christmas Present Exchange" The State President lucked out and went home with a non-wacky poinsettia, while the General Deputy went home with a loofah pad!!! Our next meeting has been put off to the 14th due to Florida vacationers and it will be a Winter Wonderland welcoming them back!

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Jan. 8: The Postal Service
Feb. 12: National Heart Month

Our usual Thanksgiving potluck wasn't possible in our new location, but turkey sandwiches, macaroni salad, apple and pumpkin pies never tasted so good. Our visitor decided to join and become a member! Welcome Deborah Mulikin. This month we will do homage to our postal service. Have you ever wondered, what it takes to get your letter to its destination? How much did it cost in the beginning and what does the future hold? Come and see.

Stafford Winterfest



The members of Stafford Grange No. 1 reminded their community of the Grange's presence by participating in the town's annual Winterfest Celebration Parade.

WINDOW TO THE PAST

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



On last month's photo (below): We heard from Kim Mele and Cindy Charbonneau with some insight to this photo - Front Row, from left, #2-Sharyn Wetmore, #3-Cindy Charbonneau, #4-Cindy Redling, #5-BJ Harrington, #6-Audrey Wetmore, #7-Ginny Wetmore, #9-Kim (Fiondella) Relihan, #12-David Redling. Back Row, from left, #2-Roy Harrington, #3-Coach Duane Wetmore, #4-Sean Relihan, #5-Pat Palmer. Kim also says "I'm thinking it is 1979 and they might have beaten Quinebaug Pomona that year."



Symbolism of the Sixth Degree

Edith Schoell, State Historian

Continuing with Rev. Grosh's article...

Sixth Degree

"The emblem of Flora's degree is the queen flower of her domain - crossed sprays of Rosebuds - denoting by the colors (green and red) the brightness, youthfulness, and light and life of the season of the year, as a prefiguration of the life and immortality which awaits man beyond the wintry reign of death. In the bud it also reminds us that we are but at

the beginning of our existence, in this mortal cradle of our being, and at the beginning of our career as national legislators for our Order. The Scrolls, with inscribed Laws, teach, renewedly, the necessity of attention, observation, reflection, and judgment - the four great lights of our Order- in our further advancement in duty and privilege, that we all learn and all we do may be to the welfare of our fraternity and of the great fraternity of man."

You can "take flight" with us!



Pat Palmer
Family Activities/CWA Director
CWA@ctstategrange.org

I hope that everyone had a happy holiday and that Santa brought lots of craft projects for you to work on during the cold

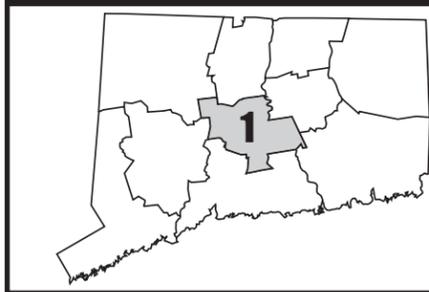
months of winter. All the materials for the CWA projects should have been distributed to all the Granges by now. If your Grange has not received theirs, please contact me and I will get them to you.

As mentioned in the last month's article, we are making some changes to our program. Probably the most important of which is that "Let's Celebrate" will

be held in conjunction with Grange Sunday on June 12th at Cheshire Grange Hall. I know that this will give everyone on less month to work on their projects, but hopefully this will keep everyone from melting in the heat in July. All entries will be due at the Grange Hall on Saturday for judging.

So Happy New Year to all and keep those needles flying.

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. 6 or 18*: Snowbound 2011
Feb. 3 or 17*: Lillinonoh's Leap
Mar. 3 or 17*: Shamrocks, Harps and Shillelaghs

Please note that our Lecturer's program for 2011 is incorrect in the Pomona handbook.

The November program explored the mystery of what may/might have happened to the Mayflower, the old freighter which brought the Pilgrims safely to the New England shores in 1620. Nothing is known positively... did the ship sink at seas? At Old Jordans, a town in England not far

from the ocean we might find a clue. Records there report that the Mayflower was no longer seaworthy by 1622 and was sold for scrap. Records show, also, that in 1624 a farmer built a barn using the frame of an old ship turned upside down. Tradition tells us that this was part of the Mayflower. Also, on the same property, at least one door, originally from a ship's cabin, shows the word "May"... These photos are very clear, the evidence is strictly circumstantial, but possibly, sometime in the future, science might find the answer... is part of the famous Mayflower still in existence?



Congratulations to Prospect Grange who received first place for their community service report for Granges with membership of 50 and under, and to Ekonk Grange on their first place entry for Granges with a membership of 51 and over. Ekonk Grange's entry went on to place third on the National level!

Community Service

We are a community-based organization. The Grange was founded to make the community a better place to live and in this way we are all community granges. The heart and soul of every local grange is service and involvement in our communities.

They say "what goes around comes around". When you do good things good things happen to you. Helping in your community to benefit others will bring you and your Grange good things - pride, satisfaction, recognition and active members. Remember, a good patron dispenses charity. The ways in which you do it are infinite.

A healthy and prosperous 2011 to all! *Snow dates.

HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: Barbara R. Smith

January will be a meeting to spruce up the Grange Hall and to replenish the staples for the kitchen. Members are to bring any item that they wish.

February cookie bake-off. The cookies will be given to the elderly citizens in town for Valentine's Day.

March- School of Instruction

April- Inspection and there will be a program on Egypt.

We wish everyone a healthy, happy new year.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Jan. 14: Bring your favorite flower pot.

Jan. 28: Omit (Unless first meeting of the month is cancelled)

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Debbie and I are pleased to be your new community service chairpersons, and look forward to seeing your reports and notebooks in September.

Your entries will again this year be judged in two categories - Granges with membership of 50 and under and those with membership of 51 and over. Please note the due date of September 1, 2011. We challenge you to become more involved. Make a difference!

One community service project or activity is now required for the Honor Grange Program, and we would really like to see all Granges participate.

Congressional honor

continued from page 1...

should work toward a more prosperous agriculture; (2) Improve practical education; (3) Super-size community life and citizenship; and (4) Build higher ideals of manhood and womanhood among ourselves. With a strong faith in God, a nurturing hope, a focus on charity, and faithfulness to duty, the Granger continues to make rural life more desirable.

Members of the Grange have adopted the following creed: "United by the strong and faithful tie of agriculture, we mutually resolve to labor for the good of our Order, our country and mankind." Madame Speaker, I believe those words are words we can all live by, and so I ask my colleagues to join with me, and the people of Connecticut, in recognizing the Connecticut State Grange on their 125th anniversary."

The New London Day and several other papers published articles recognizing Mr. Courtney's statement in Washington. In a Facebook comment, Mr. Courtney said "I spoke about the Connecticut State Grange last week, honoring them for their efforts to preserve farmland and a New England way of life. Nice article in *The Day* about the Grange and the important work they're doing."

The Day's article... The Connecticut State Grange has been formally recognized in the Congressional Record by U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, D-CT, calling the organization "an integral part of our states' efforts to preserve farmland, support rural communities and maintain the idyllic charm that is such an important part of New England's past."

Organized in June 1885, the Connecticut State Grange is celebrating its 125th anniversary. Originally formed to help farmers recover from the ravages of the Civil War, the Grange is constantly evolving and making new contributions to the State of Connecticut through the efforts of its members in the nearly 60 rural and non-rural communities it serves. Local Granges are committed to bettering their communities through agricultural initiatives, advocating legislation, service projects and sponsoring family oriented activities.

"I am honored that Congressman Courtney thought enough of the Connecticut State Grange to bestow this honor," said Connecticut State Grange President Jody Cameron as he extended his gratitude to Congressman Courtney. "I'd like to thank him for recognizing the important role the Connecticut State Grange plays within our communities across the state."

Congressman Courtney, a West Hartford native, was recently elected to a third Congressional term in the United States House of Representatives. He represents Connecticut's 2nd District, which is comprised of 65 towns in the Eastern part of the State. Known for his bi-partisan manner, Courtney is respected for his work to strengthen and expand jobs and business opportunities within his region.

Gordon Gibson, Legislative Liaison for the Connecticut State Grange, was made aware of the December 2 statement when he received a phone call from Congressional staffer John Hollay, a Legislative Assistant in Congressman Courtney's office. "It's a very nice honor," Gibson said. "This shows how Representative Courtney sees the importance of preserving the quality of agricultural life in eastern Connecticut."

The Congressional honor comes at a time when the Connecticut State Grange and the Granges across the state are experiencing a heightened level of enthusiasm.

"The Grange in Connecticut is thriving," Cameron said. "As proud as we are of our history, it is the hard work, dedication and pride of the members that build upon our foundation. With these strengths, we have nothing but growth in our future." ...

It is important to realize that all of this recognition began with ONE PRESS RELEASE announcing the upcoming October Session of the Connecticut State Grange. That article received the attention of the Hartford Courant and writer Julie Stagis, who wrote a full page article which appeared on the front page of the CNow section of the paper in late November. (That article is printed elsewhere in this issue).

Help solve the Mystery



The Social Connection hopes your holidays were happy and your parties were as enjoyable as planned.

Our Worthy State Master Jody, appointed this committee (Barbara

Robert, Betty Jane Gardiner, and myself) to plan some fun activities.

Our first activity will be a "Mystery Night" to be held at Cheshire Grange Hall on Saturday, April 30. Tickets are \$10.00 and will include dinner, entertainment and mystery package tickets.

As this is a mystery, we are not telling you what is on the menu. So save the date and come and have a fun evening. Tickets will be on sale right after the holidays.

Party Tip

For your next party, roll ham and cheese together and cut in bite size pieces. You can also spread on a little mustard if you like. In place of a toothpick, try using a pretzel stick for easy picking up!



Saturday, April 30, 2011

2





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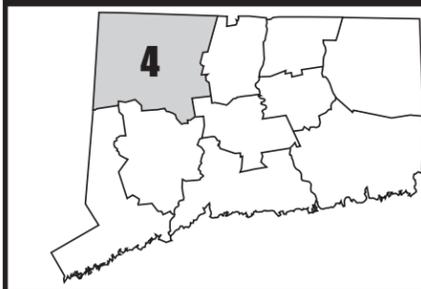
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Mountain County Pomona No. 4



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

MT. COUNTY POMONA #4

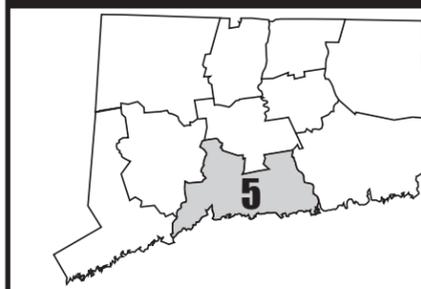
Corr: Todd Gelineau

Mountain County Pomona takes the month of January off with no meetings scheduled until February 14. The meeting will be held at Eureka Grange at 7:30 P.M. The handbook tells us the program will, appropriately for the date, be Valentine's Day. However, the program will be very short as the State Master and General Deputy will be conducting a School of Instruction

specifically for the Pomona

Our last meeting was on Dec. 13 at Litchfield Grange. Discussion began with a short presentation made by Executive Committee member Earl Phillips. There is a feeling among members that Pomona should try to do more than it is currently doing. Discussion focused on special fundraising and other activities that will benefit the Pomona and the Granges within the Pomona. We're sure discussion will

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



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

NEW HAVEN CTY. POMONA #5

Corr: Don Lanoue

Jan. 10: Youth Program

New Haven County Pomona met on December 5 which was our Christmas Program. Marge did an excellent job presenting a program filled with games and education about Christmas. We had receive and tried out the new Grange disc filled with music to help our singing. We hope that all have a safe and happy holiday season.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Jan. 5: What's Cooking in Hartford

Jan. 19: Charles' Garden Hints

Our dictionary project (Words for Thirds) is well under way and we are delighted to be able to participate in this worthwhile activity. We have visited two of the Cheshire elementary schools and have two more to go. We have been very well received and appreciated for our efforts.

We hosted the Deputy School in November and provided lunch. Several of our members, who are part of the pink sash family, attended the meeting the next day at Goodwill for elected officers and committee heads.

We have taken in two new members and a few

more are in the wings.

At our January 5th meeting, we will have noted political speaker, Professor Gary Rose from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield. He will speak on local and national items of interest. All are welcome to join us for this informative program which will be open to the public. Let's hope mother nature cooperates.

We hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season. It's now back to work as we move our grange fraternity forward in this new year.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Daniel M. Lauttenbach

Jan. 13: "A New Year, A New Decade"

Jan. 27: Vo-Ag Program

On Nov. 11 we had one meeting for November and it was on Veterans Day. Natalie Yasensky put on the program. Natalie is very involved in veterans activities throughout the year. She reminded us of the holidays to remember our veterans throughout the year. On Veterans Day, we remembered servicemen like Natalie's brother who was killed in World War II and her husband who had also served in WWII. We also remember the service people who made the ultimate sacrifice in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

continue when the State Master visits in February... and beyond!

We hope you all enjoy your winter break and have a wonderful new year!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Jan. 11: Martin Luther King, Jr., Ref. Arline Cote

Jan. 25: New Moon, Potluck Supper, 6:30 P.M.

Winchester Grange only held one meeting in December due to the holidays but thoroughly enjoyed its Christmas party on Dec. 14. It's now time to hunker down a bit and hope winter is kind to us with an early spring around the corner!

Our next meeting will be Jan. 11. The handbook tells us the program will be Martin Luther King, Jr. but

Natalie also puts on flag programs throughout the year. For this meeting we learned that Connecticut's star on our nation's flag is located in the field of blue, on the top row and the 5th star out.

NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35

Corr: A. Tolette

Jan. 5: It's a New Year

Feb. 1: Can Spring Be Far Away?

The calendar says it's December but yesterday was more like the hurricane of 1938.

We are hoping for balmy weather for our 125th anniversary. We changed the date from Dec. 7 to the 14th. The first selectman has a proclamation he wants to present in person. We will be having this event without our mainstay Lecturer. Sister Emily is scheduled for surgery that week. Our thoughts and prayers will be with her.

Hoping that Santa finds everyone and the New Year will be a pleasant and healthy one for all.

OLD LYME GRANGE #162

Corr: Barbara Kulisch

Jan. 14: Everyone Brings a Number

Jan. 28: Snow Date for Jan. 14

Feb. 11: Complete Program - "When He Was President"

The officers and members of Old Lyme Grange No. 162 wish our fellow Grangers a Happy New Grange Year!

We have several Country Stores to benefit the Waterford Country School "Wish List" for movie and bowling passes! We had a large turnout for their Christmas "Wish List" as

our Deputy has different ideas. We have kept the title for the program in tribute to the great man the holiday celebrates, but the program time during this meeting will be reserved for a School of Instruction conducted by Deputy Victor Salazar. We are looking forward to hearing about all of the exciting programs and changes made by our new State Master this year.

Until next time, Happy New Year from Winchester Grange No. 74!

LITCHFIELD GRANGE #107

Corr: Sara L. Fischer

We are still going strong with much thanks to our affiliate members who help fill our stations.

Nov. 11 found us celebrating our 121st Anniversary we started

with a delicious potluck supper enjoyed by all. We then draped the charter for Sister Anne (Sue) Magyar. We miss her sweet smiles dearly.

Then Brother John Magyar was presented with his 75 year certificate. This was followed with the presentation of a 50 year certificate to Brother David Bailey.

It was good to have Bud and Fran Bunnell at the meeting. Bud is still recovering from his broken hip and replacement surgery.

November 24th found us selling Thanksgiving pies. We had many repeat customers who ordered their pies in advance. This was a success thanks to Janet Healy's hard work and planning.

well. A Country Store was held in December for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen.

We are busy with our needlework and craft projects for the Women's Activities (CWA) projects! We have sent another

donation, from our Panny Jar March, for the Diaper Drive.

We continue to look into other community service projects that our Grange can be a part of with the local community!



Sue Addison (center) and Shirley Lemieux (front right) were among the many members who braved an early winter snow to attend Mt. County Pomona's Christmas meeting in early December.

My resolution...



Edith Schoell
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

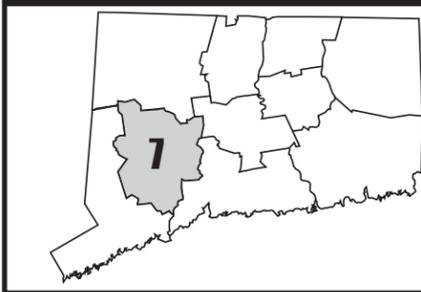
The new year is here and resolutions are made and hopefully they will be easy to keep. One of my resolutions is to be more current with projects that need to be done. Some persons make lists of things that must be taken care of, but I tend to make mental notes and sometimes they get done and other times no.

One of my projects is to go through my Grange carryall and check for anything that was overlooked in the past few months. Namely, did I send a check for the dues receipts, supplies ordered from the Central Office and most recently the bonding. I know I am not alone when it comes to misplacing things. I hope you will check your bag to see if anything was misplaced, and needs to be paid.

I hope you brought the new year in safely and send best wishes for a healthy new year.



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. 19: Meeting & School of Instruction by State Master and General Deputy

Happy New year from Excelsior Pomona #7. The first meeting of the new year will be held at Oxford Grange hall on January 19, 2011, 7:30 P.M. Lecturer Jean's program is called Seasons of Connecticut. This meeting will also be the Pomona's School of Instruction. Visiting Pomona members are always welcome.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

"Committees" is the title of our January program to be held on the 14th. Each committee will explain their program for the year. Refreshments in charge of Joanne Cipriano.

We were saddened by the death of two of our members. Lois Litke lived next door to the Grange and kept a good eye on it for many years. She was a very active member until the past couple of years when failing health kept her home. Mary Bridge was an active member in her youth until her children came along. She came to Grange on Degree nights and held the office of Lecturer in the Third Degree for many years.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Linda Coad

Jan. 23: Sunday Meeting - 2 P.M., Hearts & Flowers, Ref. Buzz & Linda; Country Store

Feb. 27: Sunday Meeting- 2 P.M., Grassroots, Ref. Cindy & Ernie

Mar. 28: Spring is Near, 7:30 P.M., Ref. Faith Korpalski

Happy New Year! Join us on our Sunday afternoon meetings to start the year right. If you don't like to travel after dark in winter, this provides a friendly alternative.

WATERTOWN GRANGE #122

Corr: Mary Dubay

Jan. 7: Big Winter Storm

Jan. 21: January Thaw

Happy New Year!

Hope everyone had a nice holiday. May your year be filled with happiness, good cheer and peace.

Our first meeting program for the new year is called Big Winter Storm. Just about the right time of the year. Something we will all talk about.

Our second meeting is called January thaw, which means if we have a snow storm it will thaw near the end of January which usually happens.

It is a new year which means the Ways and Means Committee will discuss our fund raisers for the year.

A reminder, we will have our annual winter Tag Sale in February, so members keep this in mind. We do well having a sale in winter, no competition.

As part of our Community Service, we made a monetary donation to St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen so homeless people can have a nice Thanksgiving dinner.

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

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Phil Rowland

Jan. 7: Short Days- CWA- January 21 snow date

On January 7, CWA Chair Loretta will preview the year's committee programs. Entertainingly, I presume. As usual in the month of January there will be only one meeting. Threatening weather may force a postponement to January 21, so phone ahead if in doubt.

The Oxford Land Trust recently held an impressive dinner meeting at the Hall which brought together several organizations, including the Grange, in an effort to promote local growth and consumption of agricultural produce. This is seen as a timely development because rising supermarket prices have encouraged many people to try gardening or buying from farm markets. Our Master/President Rob Buck spoke to the group about Grange activities.

A Happy and Healthy New Year to all!

Subordinate Lecturers lead the way



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

lecturer@ctstategrange.org

As we watch the old year bow out and the new one come and greet us, let's put that new youthful energy into our Grange work. It is a new year. Let's start anew our work as good Grangers.

Lecturer is a key position in any Grange, but, no where is the Lecturer's work more important than

in your own Subordinate or Community Grange. Without your Grange and mine we wouldn't have the need for Pomona and State Granges. We are the backbone of this organization and Lecturers hold the key to keeping members active. We need to get more people involved in the programs. We need to have interesting programs. We need to have members want to come to Grange – not have them feel that they have to come.

I'm not trying to slight any other officer – all officers play an important part in the welfare of the organization. But, we, as Lecturers have to lead the way. We have to show enthusiasm. If we don't

act like we are enjoying the program, than no one else will enjoy it.

I have been to several smaller Granges lately and enjoyed some really good programs. Please keep up the good work. You don't have to have a huge attendance to put on an interesting program.

There is a storm coming. What will you do when you can't get out of the house? Why not write an Essay. The rules are pretty simple. -- Write an essay. It should be 100 words or less entitled "The Grange Then and Now". Then can be anytime from 5 years ago to 125 years ago. Deadline for entries is October 1st.

See you around the State.

Impressions of my Grange initiation

The following is an article posted on the website, "Preserving Traditions: Preserving our harvest, our heritage, our community, and our future" by Emily Springfield of Pittsfield Union Grange #882 near Ann Arbor, Michigan. Emily has graciously given permission to have her moving article reprinted in the Granger.

The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry ("the Grange") recognizes seven degrees of membership. The first four degrees are conferred at the local level by one's home Grange. The fifth degree is administered by the regional, or Pomona, Grange; the sixth, by the State Grange; and the seventh, by the National Grange.

At induction to each level, the Grange imparts various teachings and exhortations about the Grange and the Granger's duties, as well as explanations of the Grange's symbolic objects, hand signs, and yes, even the secret handshake. But I can't tell you about them, or I'd lose the respect of my fellow Grangers and be expelled from the Grange. So you'll forgive me if I speak only in broad terms!

I was initiated into the fifth and sixth degrees at the state Grange meeting in mid-October. What were the ceremonies like? In a word, awesome. And I mean that in both the "wow, cool!" sense and in the sense of being humbling and awe-inspiring.

Now, I'm fairly susceptible to good ritual. I like the sense of tradition, of rites handed down generation after generation. I appreciate good symbolism, especially tangible, physical, kinesthetic symbolism: walking on a ritual journey, bestowing meaningful objects, and that coveted secret hand gesture. And I confess to enjoying a bit of theatre – costumes and pageantry, set dressing and lighting effects, shared songs and speeches a bit on the highfalutin' side of the everyday. It all works together to impress upon one that this is not ordinary time; something special is going on here, and whether or not we believe all the bits, we're happy to play along for the joy it brings, and the messages it conveys.

If you grew up celebrating the typical American Santa-centered Christmas, you know all about these aspects of ritual: the fur-trimmed red suit, the twinkling lights, snow and reindeer (real or cartoony), singing "Up on the Housetop," and the ever-important ritual question, "Have you been good this year?" Only the youngest believe Santa is a real person with the power to grant wishes, but for those few moments,

we indulgently play along. We enjoy the pageantry, remember our own memories of whispered wishes on Santa's knee, and renew our pledges to *try to be very very good this year* in the hopes of good returns.

With no young kids in my life these days, I no longer really celebrate "Santamas," and with it goes one of the last time-honored group traditions from my household. And you know what? I miss it. I miss feeling like part of something bigger than myself. I miss the comfort of knowing all the words (even if I don't totally believe them) and the tune and the "right" clothes to wear. I march to my own drummer most of the time...but I also miss the Little Drummer Boy.

So the degree conferral satisfied my hankering for spectacular ceremony. But beyond this aesthetic appreciation for the ceremonies, I found – somewhat to my surprise – that these rites really *mattered* to me. I feel different now, about the Grange, about my place within the Grange, and even a bit different about how I see myself. I admit that before the degree work, I was concerned about the way some of my opinions differ from the prevailing opinions of the National Grange. But after the ceremonies, and after meeting Grangers from across the state, I know for certain that the Grange is a great place for me. Yes, I differ on some points of politics and religion, but I find that I really do agree with the more fundamental issues of growing and preparing of food. And I see myself as really belonging to this tradition of growers and makers, of sowers and sewers: of Patrons of Husbandry. It feels really, really good to belong to a group of people who deeply appreciate what I do, in the garden and the kitchen and the Grange hall. And I really *like* the Grangers I met. They're just good folks.

Would you find as good a fit within the Grange? If you enjoy bringing food forth from the soil, be it in a garden, on a farm, in an orchard, or on that mythical "back forty" you hope to have someday, you very well may. If you take pride in the work of your hands, such as needlework, spinning, weaving, or even nature photography, you just might. If you enjoy shopping at the farmers' market and turning that bounty into nourishing meals, and appreciate the work that went into coaxing that food from the soil, I bet you would.

Maybe I'll see you next year, and hand you an apple. And you'll understand, and smile just as hugely as I did.



Youth & Junior Grange



Lisa Lamoureux
State Youth & Junior Director
youth@ctstategrange.org
juniors@ctstategrange.org

Greetings!! Hope everybody had a great holiday season and Santa was good to you. I know that he was very good to me, as always.

With the New Year comes new ideas and fresh starts. The coming year will hold many new and exciting activities for the Junior and Youth Committees. I will be traveling to Albany, New York for the Northeast Leaders Conference which I am really looking forward to. One of the big projects coming up will be the Bowl-A-Thon. We will be starting to plan the event so start forming your teams and getting donations and get ready to bowl. Why not show other State Granges how good Connecticut can be at having fun??? Why not pass the information on to your friends who have kids! Maybe they would like to bowl and then we can talk about the Grange. This would be a great way to introduce prospective Grange Members to the Grange. Remember, if you don't talk about the Grange, nobody will know about the Grange. This is a great organization and we should talk about it and promote it more. As soon as I have more details about the Bowl-A-Thon, we will send out information. Hope everyone stays warm. Talk

to you next month.

HILLSTOWN JR. #87

Corr: Rita J. Schaefer

Jan. 21: "Baby New Year"
Feb. 18: George Washington and Barak Obama

The Junior Grangers have been busy. They had a tag sale in conjunction with our Craft Fair. The weather was ideal for it.

They also have been doing outdoor activities. Now to get started for the new year and what's to come. Their director keeps them on the go!

EKONK JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Sue Gray

The Juniors did a wonderful job assisting at the Turkey Supper:

awesome group of kids! They held a can and bottle drive that day and thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Royce, the cans were turned into money by that evening! The Juniors had their own table at the Holiday Bazaar in December. Then December 10th they had their annual Christmas production. This year it was a Bugz Christmas; great show with lots of bugs-from beautiful butterflies to annoying termites-each with their own Christmas message! January 28th is the annual Family Game/Casino Night, beginning at 6:30pm. Santa came to both the Holiday Bazaar and the Bugz Christmas, much to the delight of all the children!



Santa made an appearance at the Ekonk Community Grange Holiday Bazaar. He had many children come sit on his lap that day and tell their wishes for Christmas! This is Brianna Sue Gervais, age 2. She was the youngest that day and is the youngest grandchild of Russell & Sue Gray.

In Memoriam

Francis Stevens, G.S.	Senexet Grange #40
Frances Eccleston, G.S.	Senexet Grange #40
Arlene Marcy, G.S.	Senexet Grange #40
Lois Litke, G.S.	Beacon Valley Grange #103
Mary Bridge, G.S.	Beacon Valley Grange #103
Anne (Sue) Magyar, G.S.	Litchfield Grange #107
Sigmund Evankow	Lyme Grange #147
Frances Lagel, G.S.	Lyme Grange #147
William "Bill" Palmer	Echo Grange #180
Charles Anderson	Hemlock Grange #182

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



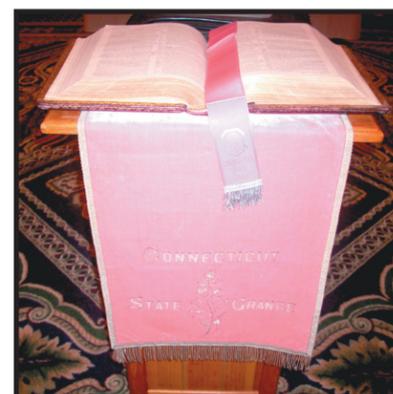
Amy Whitcomb
State Chaplain
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

As we begin this new year together, let us consider that faith matters. "A cheerful heart has a continual feast." - Proverbs 15:15. The thing about approaching any problem with genuine good humor and fun, as we do when playing a game, is that it brings us into the present,

opens our intuition and creativity, and gives us the inner freedom to improvise. This deceptively simple wisdom frustrates sports writers who want the team strategy before the big game. "We are just going to go out there and have fun," football players say. They know fun has a creative power all its own. Go forth into the unknown area, handle situations with unexpected grace, wit and joy, playing full out. We call this experience fun. Fun produces a unification of mind and body, fun is not trivial; it is essential.

I found out how essential it is when I was very young. I was scheduled to do a reading and when I saw the audience, I said not me and headed for the door. I was free to say "no", but not yet free to say "yes," to welcome the possibilities in the unknown situation with a spontaneous spirit of good nature and fun.

The exuberance and generosity of God's whole creation empowers an upbeat, playful spirit. "I tell you, do not worry about your life," Jesus told his fearful disciples." Consider the lilies of the field, they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these." Here is a first century version of "let go and let God." We let go and worry and make friends with the unknown by letting God and His upbeat playful lighthearted Spirit fill us, even with good old saint's preserve us- fun.



Membership



James Lamoureux
Membership Director
Membership@ctstategrange.org

Happy New Year! I hope everyone has been enjoying the holiday season.

As we enter the new year, the winter months of January and February can be a quiet time for many Granges. Perhaps meeting attendance isn't quite as

high and often times there aren't as many public events because of heating costs and winter weather risks.

What better time to evaluate and plan your membership recruiting strategy and review your membership materials? Have you taken the time to go through the information packets from our new Public Relations Committee? In addition to electronic options, newly designed membership brochures have been created and they look great!

Will your Springtime events that are open to the public include invites to potential candidates? Will

your press release announcing events include wording that your Grange is welcoming new members?

Did your Grange receive a charitable donation around the holidays? When sending a thank you note, why not consider inviting the individual or organization to a meeting if they aren't already Grangers?

In January, Lisa and I are planning to attend the Northeast Leaders conference in Albany NY. We'll share more of what we learn upon our return.

Remember, there's never an off season when it comes to recruiting new members!

Until next month, I hope you enjoy everything that New England has to offer in the Winter!

New Enfield Grange Meeting Location

Faith Baptist Church
182 Broad Brook Rd. (Rt. 191)
Enfield, Connecticut