



Connecticut Granger



Vol. 51, No. 6

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

MARCH 2011

We can achieve our goal



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

Schools of Instruction are well under way and many Grangers have expressed their concern as to the feasibility of securing 1 new member per month per Grange. I, with extreme confidence tell you it is realistic and obtainable; if we want it to be.

Brothers and Sisters we cannot wait any longer to seriously address the need for membership gains in every Grange in Connecticut. Our future relies on continual membership development,

growth and sustainability. The only way this is possible is if we go back to the basics.

A Community Grange MUST hold at least one legal meeting per month with a quorum of a minimum of 7 members, there are no exceptions. No quorum, no business can be transacted. This is clearly covered in the Digest; it is important all Grange Leaders familiarize themselves with the Digest, which is available at no cost on the National Grange website if you download a copy, or you can purchase a printed copy from the National Grange directly. Your Deputy Staff is familiar with the contents of the Digest and will be working with each Grange to ensure you are moving forward in accordance with the Digest and Connecticut State Grange policies.

All Granges are to be meeting in proper form; that

means if you meet in a hall it needs to be properly set. If you are unable to meet in your hall the Digest again outlines what is needed in these cases. I am concerned by Granges that are meeting more frequently in members houses. I understand it is currently for necessity in some isolated circumstances, but when this happens, visitors cannot visit, new members may not feel comfortable and proper procedures are not being followed. This is not acceptable on a continual basis. Every Grange needs to make every effort to conduct their business meeting as prescribed in the Digest and Manual.

Whether you use the traditional Manual, Alternative Manual or an approved Action Grange opening and closing, when done appropriately it is meaningful and efficient.

... Continued on page 3

Plan ahead for Grange Month

April has been declared Grange Month by National Grange President Ed Luttrell, with the 2011 theme: Connecting Communities Through Service. Community Granges throughout Connecticut are encouraged to participate in the month-long celebration by opening their doors to the public for family-oriented events focused on the contributions of the Grange in their communities.

The Connecticut State Grange has a number of events planned for the celebration. Kick off Grange Month, show your Grange spirit and have some serious fun at the Connecticut State Grange Rally Day on Sunday, April 3rd, 1:30 PM, at Cheshire Grange Hall.

This exciting event will have you cheering on the many fun and exciting aspects of the Grange.

Bowl your best game and support the teams at the "Bowl Across America" Bowl-A-Thon fundraisers sponsored by the Connecticut State Grange Youth and Junior Committees. This event will be held on April 9th, 1:00 - 3:00 PM, at Highland Bowl, 1211 Highland Avenue, Cheshire. The cost is \$20.00 per person which includes two games and shoe rental.

Camp Maud Isbell Berger, in it's 56th year, is hosting the annual Camp Berger Clean-Up Day on April 23rd, beginning at 9:00 AM. Located on scenic Park Pond in Winchester Center, volunteers are asked to bring

rakes, brooms, and cleaning supplies to help ready the Camp in preparation for the upcoming camping season.

The Social Connection Committee has lined up an evening of fun, food, intrigue, entertainment and surprises at the Connecticut State Grange Mystery Dinner. This event will be held at Cheshire Grange Hall on Saturday, April 30th, beginning at 6:30 PM. Tickets are \$10.00 per person, and include dinner, program, and a chance to win mystery packages.

... Continued on page 12



Marion and Ellsworth "Bud" Beecher

State mourns passing of Marion Beecher

Todd A. Gelineau, Master - Winchester Grange No. 74

Marion Beecher was Secretary of Winchester Grange for over 50 years, Lecturer of Mountain County Pomona for just as long, Secretary of the Connecticut State Grange for 32 years (in addition to 12 years assisting State Secretary Ellsworth Covell), Secretary of the Connecticut Agricultural Fair for 36 years, Material Coordinator for the Connecticut Granger for many years, and leader of the Mountain County Choristers and the Connecticut State Grange Choristers... the list goes on and on.

In 2010 Winchester Grange was pleased to present her with her 70 year seal... and she wouldn't want you to do the math.

If the late Donald Peck was considered "Mr. Grange" by many, then Marion Beecher could easily be considered "Mrs. Grange." (And yes, I can hear Marion laughing off that title). For all that knew Marion, there were only two things most important to her... Bud and her beloved Grange.

Even after all of her difficulties with health in recent years, the Grange remained so very important to her. She was one of the few residents at Laurel Hill Healthcare to have her own telephone. With that phone she was able to keep up on all of the news around the state and feel connected. She missed writing her monthly "Marion's Memos" and "Miscellaneous" columns for the *Granger*. One day last November she called and asked if there would be interest in printing a new column featuring pictures and short histories of some of the more notable members of the State Grange through the years. "Do You Remember" started running in the December issue and she was so excited to have Grange work to do looking up photos and writing the accompanying articles.

... Continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE...

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

Deadline for the APRIL 2011 issue of the Connecticut Granger: MARCH 5



Do You Remember?

MARION W. BEECHER

With the passing of Marion Beecher, we felt it would be appropriate to use her column to feature a collection of photos from her life. She completed one more edition of "Do You Remember" which will be printed in the April issue. Marion loved writing these articles. With only a short gap of time in recent years, her "Marion's Memos", "Miscellaneous" and now "Do You Remember?" columns were must-read features in this paper for decades. We hope you enjoy this look back at the life of one of the most remarkable and dedicated members in the history of the Connecticut State Grange.



Leading the Mountain County Choristers.



"Learning the ropes" from Ellsworth Covell.



Betty Jane Gardiner & Marion.



Marion & Bud in their familiar location at Winchester Grange.



Betty Jane & Marion in one of their many skits at State Session.



Bill & Bud dutifully perform in one of the many skits Betty Jane and Marion dreamed up in 1973.



1957 Beecher Installing Team - Back Row: Marion, Kingsley Beecher, Bud Beecher, Betty Jane Gardiner. Front Row: Betty Beecher, Olive Beecher, Sandy (Beecher) Phillips, Barbara (Beecher) English.



Ken Hale, of Cheshire Grange, and Marion pose for a photo at a meeting of the Assoc. of CT Fairs sometime during the 1980s.



Bud & Marion, Betty Jane and Bill Gardiner at the 100th Anniversary of West Hartford Grange.



Winchester Grange surprised Marion & Bud with a special 50th Wedding Anniversary program in 1996.



Marion being installed as State Secretary in 2004.

North Central Pomona No. 13



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

N. CENTRAL POMONA #13 guests of Stafford Grange.
Corr: J. Jordan Tolland Grange will provide the refreshments. The Legislative Committee is in charge of the program. The meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M.

TOLLAND GRANGE #51

Corr: J. Jordan

March 1: Meeting

Tolland Grange will meet at 7:30 P.M. on March 1 to discuss the state of Maine. The meeting will be held at St. Matthew's Church on the Green in Tolland. Let Worthy Master Robert West know if you plan on attending. Snow cancels the

meeting.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Apr. 9: Seed Catalogs are Here

At our January meeting we had the School of Instruction. Our new quarters are quite small and the challenge is really a challenge. We will do our best. February's meeting brought everyone's attention to Heart Health, how to recognize symptoms

of stroke and heart attack, and how to take better care of ourselves.

Somewhere in the not too distant future spring will really be here with its flowers, bird songs and rain, but as I write tis the snow is still very deep and I have a severe case of cabin fever.

We mourn the loss of Marion Beecher, and extend our deepest sympathy to Brother Bud.

State mourns passing of Marion Beecher

Continued from page 1...

After "retiring" as Secretary of Winchester Grange, she continued writing the famous Mini-Letters that all members receive at each meeting along with the "Annual Letter" sent to the members to "gently" remind them to pay their dues. In her letter last month to Winchester members she said, "I am able to do the mini-letter for every meeting, which is a source of satisfaction to me as it makes me feel 'a part,' and also as though I am helping a bit. And you know I'm nosy and want to know everything that is going on."

For so many years I relied on Marion to write these articles to honor the many distinguished members that have gone on before us and it is difficult to write an article about someone who meant so much to so many. She was a wealth of information about so many people and things. She will be greatly missed by all.

In this issue we are sharing a collection of pictures from throughout her life. We hope you enjoy them and be inspired to carry on Marion's work for the benefit of the Grange.

I recently spent some time talking with Bud and he said several times, "We had a lot of fun together, a lot of fun." I think everyone who knew her could say the same.



Marion escorting Bud to his station after being installed Master of the Connecticut State Grange.

We can achieve our goal

Continued from page 1...

When guests visit our Grange, our ritual when done well, impresses them, it does not "scare" them off. It is ALL of our responsibility as Grange members, not just Officers to make sure we are able to conduct all business to the best of our ability. I know we are proud of our heritage, whenever there is a resolution presented to change our ritual, it usually is voted down overwhelmingly. Brothers and Sisters, I commend each of you for your conviction to the preservation of our ritual, as it is as poignant today as it was the day it was written. But we cannot have it both ways; we cannot defend the preservation of the ritual and then not ensure its proper use and exemplification. It does not and cannot work that way. What we are saying is we expect every other Grange in Connecticut and the Nation to adhere to the written ritual, but we don't have to. If we are adamant to preserve our ritual, we had better be able to support that decision by exemplifying it to our best ability at every meeting every month. I am committed to preserving our ritual; I have informed each Deputy they are expected to receive their Code Reading Card within the next two

years. I feel it is important to understand and read the Code Book as it "fills in the gaps" of the manual. I challenge each Leader of each Community and Pomona Grange to commit to memory your part in the Opening and Closing, thus proving your support of the preservation of our ritual. You can do it, I know you can, all you have to do is believe in yourself and do it.

Now, let's address the reoccurring comment on visitations. I agree with each and every member that is concerned no one visits "like they used to." I will let you know now, I have informed the elected and appointed Officers of the Connecticut State Grange they ARE expected to visit, and visit regularly. There is NO formal visitation schedule for State Officers, yet. I encourage and Challenge all Pomona and Community Grange Officers and members to visit as well, as often as you can. I encourage Granges to invite members and the public into your Granges. Remember Neighbors Nights? Exchange Programs? I do, and we do not do enough of these programs anymore.

In my visitations someone

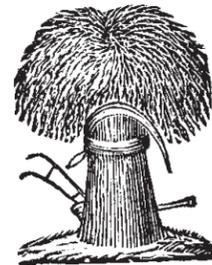
always mentions something they used to do. Plays, skits, dinner programs, the list go on. Why don't we still do those? We can! We have nothing limiting us, nothing holding us back. Why not join forces with another Grange, another organization, how about your local schools drama department. All we have to do is want to do it and we will find a way to make it happen.

I know this has been rather to the point, but I felt it was necessary, I feel all of the above have been excuses we have made for ourselves to justify our current conditions. I do not believe that is where any of us want to be, I don't believe it is where we will stay. I know we all want the best for our Grange and are willing to do whatever it takes to make it stronger, more visible, and more relevant. You know how I know this, because I believe in each and every member of the Grange, and the Spirit, Drive and Determination of each member will carry us to that next level.

I truly thank every Grange Leader and member for their time and effort; it does not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

Code of the Pomona Grange Preamble

It will be seen that the organization of Pomona Granges is intended to "strengthen and aid" the Subordinate Granges.



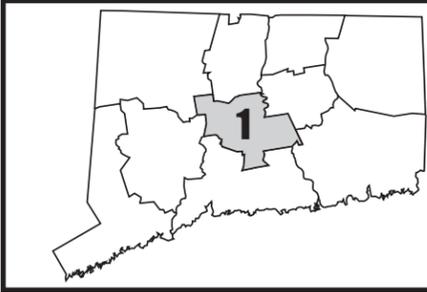
While the beautiful and instructive lessons of this Degree cannot fail to broaden the understanding and cultivate the moral and intellectual nature of all who receive it, at the same time the knowledge and culture there gained should be used by every member of the Degree of Pomona to strengthen and advance the interest of the Subordinate Granges. Pomona Granges are also required to take special charge of the business interests of the Order in their several districts. These interests are of vast importance and daily growing in magnitude, requiring the best wisdom of those to whom they are entrusted.

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

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DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS
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 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

Central Pomona No. 1



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

SOUTHINGTON GRANGE #25

Corr: Lisa Lamoureux
 March 12: Waffle Breakfast
 March 14: Irish Night
 March 28: 1st and 2nd
 Degrees – Meriden
 Attending

On January 10th, Southington Grange celebrated our 125th Anniversary. A good night was had by all and we enjoyed everyone company. I would like to 'THANK' Martha Trask and all the members of her committee (Mildred Bell, Chet Bacon, Mary Bacon, Cindy Legg and Ray Legg and anyone else that I forgot) for doing such an AWESOME JOB!!!!

On March 12th, we will hold a Waffle Breakfast from 8:30 to 11:30 and the cost is only... are ready for this.... \$5.00 per person. You get waffles with all the toppings that you can think of plus sausage, juice and coffee. Come down for a good breakfast on a cold morning and I am sure that you will run into some folks you haven't seen in a while and you will have a good ole time.

We will then hold on March 14th our Irish Night. Everybody is Irish for St. Patrick's Day. Don't forget to wear your green. Our 2nd meeting in March will

be held on the 28th and we will have the 1st and 2nd degrees. We will once again do these in conjunction with Meriden Grange. So, if you have any new members who have to take the degrees, please contact any member from Southington Grange and will give you the information. We would love to have you come and join us.

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 at 7:00 p.m. (EXCEPT JANUARY AND FEBRUARY – 2nd MONDAY ONLY UNLESS IT IS SNOWING. THEN MEETING IS CANCELLED AND RESCHEDULED FOR THE 4th MONDAY OF THAT MONTH) at the Southington Grange Hall located at the corners of Summit Street and Knowles Avenue in the Plantsville

Section of Southington.

WESTFIELD GRANGE #50

Corr: Phyllis Redford
 Mar. 3: Shamrocks, Harps & Shillelaghs
 Apr. 7: Easter Dates & Traditions

The February meeting, scheduled for "School of Instruction" was canceled due to the dangerous road conditions, especially in rural areas. We look forward to visitors on Feb. 17 from State Grange. It is always good to review what we sometimes do automatically. New ideas and programs can be inspiring.

Our Treasurer, Carol Jarzbek is hopefully recovering nicely after a second surgery in December. Our Overseer, Ila Smalley, many time Master at Mattabessett #42, Past Lecturer and Master of Central Pomona #1 in the 80s suffered a dramatic tragedy recently. Early on the morning of Sunday, Jan. 22, at about 3 A.M., a motorist driving along Saybrook Rd., in Middletown, noticed flames coming from a home set back from the road. Ila lost her home and everything in it

to an, as yet undetermined, cause. Fortunately she did escape with painful but not life threatening burns. After a week in Middlesex Hospital, Ila was transferred to Wadsworth Glen Rehab at 30 Boston Rd. in Middletown 06457 to continue her recovery. Cheer notes would be most welcome from her Grange family. Years ago, Ila lost her husband, John and soon after that, Johnny, her only child.

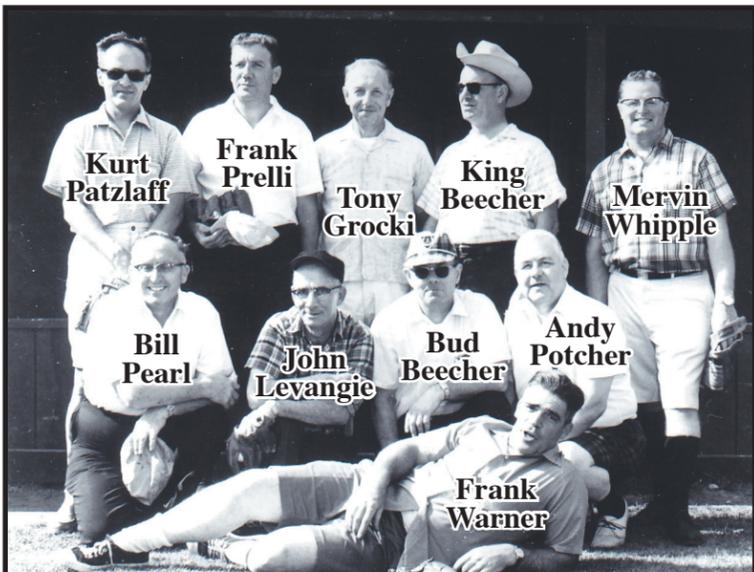
This has been a real "New England" winter... our program at the January meeting was "snowbound"... very appropriate for what was to come. Handouts were passed along to help our members present to "prepare," (if that was possible) for a winter which we will long remember. The calendar does promise that spring is just one day closer. Thank goodness!!!

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn
 Mar. 11: Every hat has a story
 Mar. 25: Ides of March
 Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

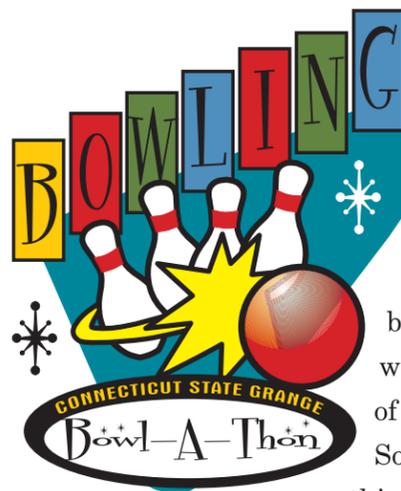
WINDOW TO THE PAST

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.



From the September, 1966 *Connecticut Granger*: Before the Grange Family Day ceremonies at Waterbury Municipal Stadium, State Grange officers pose at the Giant's dugout for an "official" photo. The "Comedy of Errors" played between the men and lady deputies got a bigger hand from the crowd than did the professional Giants vs. York ball game which dragged on to 22 innings. First row, Gatekeeper "Get up and go" Frank Warner. Second row, l. to r., Steward Bill Pearl, Deputy John LeVangie, Western Conn. Deputy Bud Beecher, Deputy Andy Potcher. Third row, Deputy Kurt Patzlaff, Assistant Steward Frank Prelli, Camp Trustee Tony Grocki, State Master King Beecher (just back from Texas) and Deputy Mervin Whipple modeling the latest in Grange sportswear. Joe Bell did a fine job of broadcasting the game which ended in a 5-5 tie.

Bowl-A-Thon2011



The Bowl-A-Thon will take place on Saturday, April 9th from 1:00 to 3:00 at Highland Bowl located at 1211 Highland Avenue, Cheshire. The price to bowl is \$20.00 per person which includes two (2) games of bowling and shoe rental. Something new this year... this is duckpin bowling. It is a

lot of fun. Letters should have arrived in all of the Granges with donation forms. If anyone has any questions they can contact Lisa Lamoureux, Jr./Youth Director at 203-868-8712.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

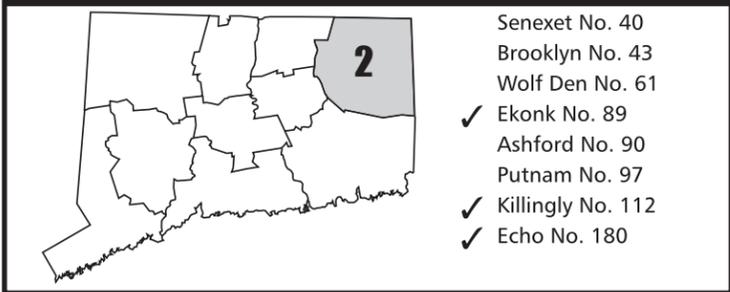
Hosted by MERIDEN GRANGE

SATURDAY, MARCH 12 • 8 AM - 11 AM

MERIDEN GRANGE HALL
 540 Broad Street, Meriden, CT

\$8.00 Adults • \$4.00 Children • Takeouts Available
 Breakfast will include pancakes and sausage, scrambled eggs and hash browns, along with coffee and juice.

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Mar. 12: Corn Beef & Cabbage 5-7 pm
 Mar. 19, Apr. 16 & May 21: Square Dances 7:30pm-
 Apr. 8-15 & 22: Chowder n' Clamcakes 5-7 pm \$8.00

"Cut Loose" was the title of our Feb. 7th meeting. We cut loose alright: temp. dropped, the roads iced over and everyone stayed home: to reconvene Feb. 28th and

"Cut Loose" again!

Sincere sympathy to Evelen Pelletier on the death of her beloved Henry. Henry was called Home at age 95, having lived every day like it was a gift; he was the gift!

The picture of Grange Founder, Oliver Hudson Kelley, mentioned in last months column, has been restored and rematted thanks to the generosity of Marion R. Emmons (paid all

News from the Deputy Team

Inspections • Code Reading • Ritual • Ritual Challenge • Support • Instruction

Todd Gelineau, General Deputy

The State Master has covered many of the topics that would normally be covered in this column. Please read his article very carefully. Brother Cameron is not prone to exaggeration. Problems with Granges not meeting properly are all too many. Not too long ago it was the norm for most Granges to meet twice a month. Over time, many Granges opted to meet once a month. By doing so, they have assumed responsibility for the complications that arise when open meetings, special events and weather make that one meeting difficult.

Deputies are receiving questions from many members regarding the proper way to meet when a Grange plans on having an open meeting or other special program rather than having a regular business meeting. Granges are permitted to open, close and conduct business in the presence of non-members. However, we discourage the same non-member (prospective members) from attending more than a couple of meetings this way. Having the ability to do this, Granges can easily conduct whatever business is necessary and shorten the reports and other non-essential business to allow for a special program or activity.

If it is not possible to hold a meeting on a particular meeting night, the Grange should hold a special meeting to satisfy the meeting requirement for the month. A special meeting may be called on any day that is convenient, as long as proper notice is given to the membership.

We know that this may be more difficult but the Digest is very clear on this matter. Please feel free to contact me or your Deputy if you have any questions.

Our thanks go to all of the Granges that have worked with us to schedule, re-schedule, and in some cases re-schedule Schools of Instruction. The weather wreaked havoc on our original schedule and we should be done with the Schools sometime in the Spring--- whenever that is!

Inspections are just around the corner and we have a few tips for you to remember: (1) Please review the Inspection Report form included in the current edition of the Blue Book. Please try to answer as many of the questions on the back of the form as you can. This will help the Deputy greatly. (2) Please gather the necessary financial information requested on the back of the Subordinate forms (a separate form will be sent to each of the Pomonas). (3) Please be sure to have your Executive Committee report **COMPLETE and FILED WITH THE STATE SECRETARY** prior to the night of inspection (preferably by the December 31 deadline). **Please have a copy of this report on the night of inspection for the Deputy.** Inspections will not be considered complete until a copy is furnished for the Deputy.

costs) and the Exley Family (donated the picture). It looks great! Reminder: at each Supper (Mar. 12th through April 22nd) bring non-perishable food items for distribution to local needy families and get a chance at a free pie from Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm!

Grangers serving those in need: in the last storm a roof in Sterling put an elderly couples home in jeopardy. Betsy Molodich, her daughter, Katie; her son, Andrew and Andrew's friend, Wyatt Jordan, drove to the other end of town and shoveled all of the snow off from the roof! A wonderful act of kindness!

Sterling's First Selectman has asked many volunteers to help the elderly with winter storm issues this season!

Certificates and seals have arrived from the State and National Grange and Feb. 28th we will set a date for a huge awards program (12 in all from 25 to 75 years)! I will give you details next issue!

The March 7th program ("Have a Ball") will also be the Complete Program on Presidents. Plan to come (7:30pm). April 4th, we will "Beat The Drums"!

Visit us anytime!

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

Mar. 7: Testing Your Smarts

Mar. 12: Square Dance

Mar. 21: Emerald Island (Must be Irish)

Apr. 4: 1st & 2nd Degrees

Apr. 18: 3rd & 4th Degrees

Apr. 9: Square Dance

This list of Killingly Grange activities may or may not be carried out at least until April as we are all either "snowed in", "snowed under", or not dug out!

Not many of us can remember a winter, especially a January, this bad. Even 1978 wasn't quite as bad- have you all had enough? Some of us haven't been out for a few days. Better to be careful.

In January we had a square dance and bluegrass. In February we had a White Elephant Sale and another Bluegrass concert.

ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

Apr. 12: Community Service Elementary School and Southwest Elementary.

Apr. 26: Evaluation We had our School of Instruction on January 15 by Deputy J. Allen Cameron.

Three of our members delivered 148 dictionaries to 3 local schools. They were Betty Lussier, Charles Lussier and Carol Hnath. The schools included Dorothy C. Goodwin, Annie E. Vinton

The winter has not been very cooperative on our Tuesday night meetings. We omit the second meeting of the month.

Ekonk Grange to host Family Day R.B. Dinner



Sterling Family Day 2010

free for preschoolers.

Questions can be answered by Chairman of the Sterling Family Day Committee, Mike Molodich, at 860-564-1117.

State Secretary



Edith Schoell
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

I am certain everyone is looking at the piles of snow and ice wondering when it will disappear. I have estimated the mountain at my house will be here until April! (I hope I am wrong).

If you have someone attending college, please contact the Central Office for scholarship forms. Letters

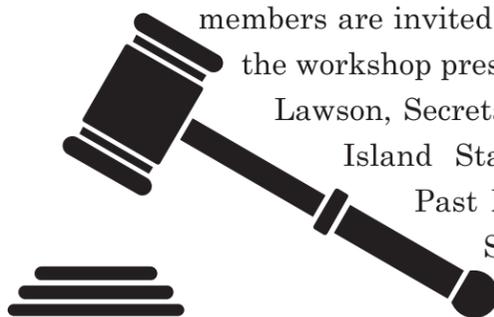
of recommendation are needed and you might want to give some thought as to who to ask. Things get put off and time has a way of getting by everyone.

In your meetings, I hope the Master is still asking "have the reports of the Pomona and State Granges been duly and promptly made?" Unfortunately several reports have not been received for the December quarter. Please check and get them in as soon as possible.

Resolution Writing Workshop on March 30th

On Wednesday, March 30th at 7:00 P.M., the Rhode Island State Grange is hosting a Resolution Writing Workshop at Rocky Hill Grange. The Grange is located at 1340 South County Trail (Route 2) in East Greenwich, RI. Connecticut

members are invited to participate in the workshop presented by Shirley Lawson, Secretary of the Rhode Island State Grange and Past National Grange Secretary.



East Central Pomona No. 3



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

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3

Corr: Noel Miller

March 3: In like a lion out like a lamb

The ground hog came and says its an early spring, after January snows our snow piles are as high as an elephants eye. Our parking lot has shrunk to three spaces. I wonder this year how our hall would have held up if we didn't fix the stage and back walls. with 3 feet of snow on our roof we might have been on the news with all those other collapse buildings. alot of our members are shut ins and recovering from illness, so we wish them good health and come back when its safe.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kay Ruff

March 3: Meeting 7:30 p.m. Inspection, (Skit Night); Potluck supper 6:00 p.m.

March 12: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7:00 p.m.

April 7: Meeting 7:30 p.m. Easter; Members make Easter Baskets - CWA Bake-off

March 3rd is our Inspection night. Deputy, Carl Bernhardt will be present for our inspection. Inspections will be different from what we have been accustomed to. The meeting is at 7:30 and will be preceded by a pot luck supper at 6:00 p.m. I hope that Carl and Marge will be able to be with us for the pot luck supper.

Committees are not required to have a written report for the deputy. We will be inspected on 2 separate evenings. The Secretary and Treasurers books will be inspected on one evening and on a unannounced visit the committees will be judged on their reports. I hope these winter snow storms will quit soon or we will be holding schools of instructions and inspections in June and July.

March 5th is the next meeting of East Central

Pomona at Good Will Grange Hall Naubuc Ave., Glastonbury, at 7:30 p.m. Glastonbury Grange is responsible for items for the Auction Table.

March 12th is our monthly Monti Carlo Whist Card Party. It will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Masonic Hall, 895 Main St., So. Glastonbury. We hope all will be able to attend and bring a friend or two with you. It is a fun evening and there is always plenty of refreshments.

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Diane Small

March 6: Six More Weeks?

March 16: A Little Green - Agriculture

April 6: Smiles

What is your explanation of Winter?? I know--get on a plane and fly to somewhere warm and sunny. However, as it seems most of us are here in New England with all the cold, snow, sleet, freezing rain and occasionally sunshine. The month of January gave us enough snow for the next several years and we are again experiencng even more snow for the start of February. No matter where you go, the piles of snow are like mini mountains. The light at the end of the tunnel is SPRING!!!!!! Please be careful walking, driving and anything else you do..

We are looking for six weeks until the start of spring -- March 20th. Let's see how this plays out. It will produce budding, growing lawns (that will need mowing), and those seed catalogs. Farmers will soon be planting vegetables and the road side stands and the farmers markets will be available. Can't you taste the fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, string beans, peas and all those other great vegetables. Flowers will be in bloom also.

In April we are looking for smiles, Smile at folks every day, it makes you feel

good. Do something nice for someone everyday.

A gentle reminder -- Daylight savings time starts on March 13th. Remember you have to set your clocks ahead one hour. Now you get back that hour of sleep you lost in the fall.

Don't forget the CWA contests. When you are knitting, crocheting and any other craft you do, do something extra for the BIG E, This is nice way to sit and enjoy the warmth of your cozy living room. Hot chocolate, coffee or tea goes well with this scenario.

For those of you who are Irish and many who become Irish on the 17th of March, don't forget to wear some green. Corned Beef and cabbage is the meal of choice for the Irish and any others who care to partake..

As the saying goes, "See you in the Spring".

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

March 5: Think spring!

I saw a robin outside our window with a sign saying Florida or Bust. I guess he came back to soon. This winter has been rough with storm after storm our driveway has shrunk by a third. I wish to thank Walter, Jon, Lizette, Frank, and Marcia for building the canopy over the side entrance, so far its has withstand two heavy storms and keeps the dips out of the stair well. It time to return to grange work your winter vacation has come to the end. we are having a Pomona School of Instruction this meeting so please all attend. Also dues are due if you have paid please due so now. Hope everyone is well and see you then.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Rita Schaefer

Mar. 10: "Easter Bonnet Green Way"

Mar. 26: Corned Beef Dinner

Mar. 24: "Spring Has Sprung"

Apr. 14: "April Showers"

All meetings are held weather permitting.

Well, there's not much to report. Maybe soon we'll see the sun. I guess the farmers were looking for "Poor Man's" fertilizer but didn't expect to get this much of it. Oh, well,

crops are going to be late this year. What's a few more weeks. I hope all of you have finally had some help with the work of Mother Nature poured all over the nation.

Now is the time to start our Grange projects. Not having a meeting, members do not know what the projects are.

Our Grangers did boat.

Hillstown Corned Beef



The Hillstown Grange #87's Annual Corned Beef Dinner will be held on March 26, 2011. Come and enjoy one of the few "family style" corn beef dinners in our area.

The dinner will be held on Saturday, March 26 at 6 pm. at the Hillstown Grange Hall, 617 Hills St. East Hartford. Plan early to order your ticket because this event usually sells out.

The Grange is a rural family fraternity founded in 1867, the nation's oldest general farm organization. The Grange is comprised of families and individuals who share a common interest in community involvement, agriculture, and working together in a family environment and has been serving the Hillstown area of East Hartford, Manchester, and Glastonbury for over 100 years.

For more information and to purchase a ticket please call 860-568-6268

Grange Growth Underway



Jeff Barnes
State Overseer
Overseer@ctstategrange.org

The Grange Growth Program is underway in CT. The teams have recently received training on the game plan and are ready to offer their help to any Grange that requests it.

This program is strictly voluntary, it will not be forced on any Grange. It will, however, if requested, take a sincere commitment on the

part of that Grange to be successful.

This team-based approach is working in other states with great success already. The idea is to help the individual Grange recognize it's strengths and assets as well as problems that it faces. To find out what is important to the members and to decide what they want.

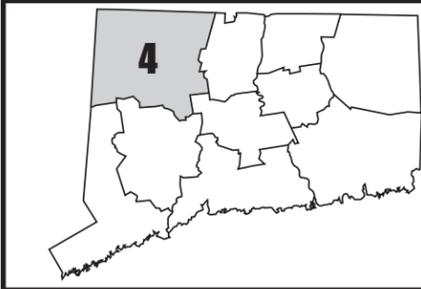
The Grange together with the team will discuss their desired future. They will be researching opportunities for Grange Growth in the community, find out what activities the residents are passionate about and then establish goals for the Grange. We know that the more your Grange is doing to meet the needs of your membership and your community the easier it becomes to attract new members.

Under the guidance of the Grange Growth Team the Grange will create a plan and then implement that plan to get attention for the Grange from the community to help it survive and grow. The team will also help make sure that the Grange is working on it's objectives. You will not be set adrift afterwards, we are in this together. We will Follow Up!

It is an established fact that out of the total population 2% are willing to join an organization, 22% are willing to join if asked. That gives us 24% of the population as perspective members.

As stated before, participation in this program is voluntary, but most Granges can benefit from it. We have nothing to lose and much to gain. We invite you to participate in this project and if you have questions please contact any member of the Grange Growth steering team: Jeff Barnes, Marge Bernhardt, Todd Gelineau, Jim & Lisa Lamoureux.

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

MOUNTAIN CTY. POMONA #4

Corr: Todd Gelineau

March 23: Day Meeting at Riverton Grange, 11:00 A.M., Lunch at Noon (\$5.00); Program: "Happy Spring"

Mountain County Pomona No. 4 is deeply saddened by the passing of Marion W. Beecher. Marion was such an integral part of the Pomona for so many years, it is difficult to imagine a Mountain County without her involvement. Even while a resident at Laurel Hill Healthcare, Marion was still able to assist Lecturer Sue Addison with planning programs and, of course, the writing of the Mini Letters all members receive at each meeting.

She served as Lecturer of the Pomona for so many years-- when I think of the Lecturer's charge in the dark during the Fifth Degree, Marion is the standard. When I think of Grange music, I think of all of the Mountain County Chorister Concerts she directed over the years. Marion's impact on Mountain County Pomona will be felt for a long time to come. We will miss her.

WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

Corr: Walter Murray

We were graced at our

January meeting by a visit from Worthy Subordinate Deputy Victor Salazar, who provided us an informative, enlightening and encouraging school of instruction. After this long, hard winter, we are looking forward to our spring planting and upcoming activities. We invite one and all to visit us at any of our regular meetings, held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM, at Whigville Grange Hall, 153 South Main Street, Burlington, CT. Come on down and visit!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

March 6: St. Patrick, Potluck Supper, 6:30 P.M.

March 22: First Day of Spring- Country Store, Ref. Men (James Mele, Chair)

As editor of the Granger, I have had to write about Marion and arrange the photo collection on page 2 of this issue. Going through the many pictures and thinking about the many offices and jobs she has held in the Grange through the years it is truly amazing how she could be so active and have such a profound impact on so many levels of the Order. While she

may have lived on West St. in Winchester Center, her home was just as much the beloved Winchester Grange Hall where she cooked countless dinners, directed scores of concerts, presented Lecturer's programs and served as Winchester's secretary for over 50 years. Her legacy to Winchester Grange is tremendous and we were so very fortunate to have her call Winchester



Jonathan Russell
Agriculture Director
Agriculture@ctstategrange.org

second contest. Those that do the best job of documenting their efforts to get non-grangers involved in this program will be the winners of our third contest.

So fellow members, if you look at this contest a little differently than past years you will see that it is a tool to advertise your Grange to the general public. So consider having a meeting to invite: local land trust, local community gardeners, local 4H clubs, local agricultural schools and the general public to grow the squash with you. Don't know how to grow squash, the seeds will come with instructions, need more help, call your ag committee. These are easy to grow and usually prolific plants. If you get outside interest, have a second meeting planned to collect your fruit and a third meeting to thank those who participated. If you have these meeting in conjunction with your regular meetings there should be very little extra effort needed.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

Picture it: a Grange Hall filled with a capacity crowd, the newspaper present and taking photos, and non-members asking questions such as "What does your Grange do for the community?" and "How can I join?". All of this is possible and easily attainable, simply with planning ahead.

How many times has your Grange decided to hold an event, waited until the last minute to promote it, and then wondered why it was not in the newspaper and no one from the community was attending? It's easy to get caught up in thinking about the work that needs to be completed today, and not think about what needs to be completed tomorrow and the outcome if those pieces are rushed or forgotten about all together.

Planning is one of the most important functions when promoting your Grange, its events and projects and yet it remains the single most neglected function in all of public relations.

New planning starts with the past. Take a look at the mission and vision of your Grange. What successes and failures has your Grange experienced historically? Maybe you've had a very successful community concert, but not as successful Neighbor's Night.

Taking action starts in the present. Evaluate what has worked in the past and make a list of those successes. Examine the challenges and note what improvements can be made for the future. Was planning done in advance, or was it rushed? Were the promotions prepared from the start, or submitted at the last minute?

Implementation and execution are important. A good place to start once your Grange has decided on an event or project is to

home!

Marion's Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, March 6 at the Winchester Center Congregational Church, just across the green from the Grange hall beginning at 2 P.M. A reception will follow the service at the Grange. Our thanks go to the Winchester Grange Ladies Third Degree Team for so graciously offering to

provide the refreshments for the reception with the assistance of the CWA. Our thanks also go to the Winchester Center Vol. Fire Dept. for helping with the arrangements for parking around the Hall. With the abundance of snow, it will be a challenge, but Chief and Grange member Peter Marchand assured me that he will have it all under control. Thank you, Peter!

Feeding the Hungry

Maggie Buck, State Ag. Committee

This year's seed contest is going to be butternut squash seeds. For those members who like a traditional Grange contest, there will be a decorated squash contest for display at State Session in October. Yes, your squash will need to be judged first at the subordinate and pomona levels first.

The main purpose of our squash growing contest, however, will be a State wide effort to grow butternut squashes for donation to the Conn Food Bank and its affiliated soup kitchens.

The Grange that grows the most pounds of squash will win our second contest. Those that do the best job of documenting their efforts to get non-grangers involved in this program will be the winners of our third contest.

So fellow members, if you look at this contest a little differently than past years you will see that it is a tool to advertise your Grange to the general public. So consider having a meeting to invite: local land trust, local community gardeners, local 4H clubs, local agricultural schools and the general public to grow the squash with you. Don't know how to grow squash, the seeds will come with instructions, need more help, call your ag committee. These are easy to grow and usually prolific plants. If you get outside interest, have a second meeting planned to collect your fruit and a third meeting to thank those who participated. If you have these meeting in conjunction with your regular meetings there should be very little extra effort needed.

establish a timeline, and post it for all involved to follow. Note important dates along the way, and do not miss them.

Never assume. Remember that members do have jobs, family responsibilities and a life outside of the Grange, and may not be able to devote all of their time to working on the Grange event. Be prepared, and be flexible. Delegate specific tasks, so that one or two people, or a small group, are not responsible for all the pieces. Plus, it's never wrong to ask for assistance when the tasks at hand seem overwhelming. Planning ahead saves time and money in the long run. Member burn-out is no longer an issue because you're working smarter. Many hands make lighter work. Remember to communicate your level of success to everyone involved and thank them for their help.

Deadlines vary from newspaper to newspaper, but the absolute latest to submit news and events should be 14 days prior to the event date. Some publications, such as magazines and certain daily and weekly newspapers, prefer news to be submitted 30 to 45 days before an event.

Posters and flyers are a great way to promote your Grange. Hang them throughout your community in libraries, grocery stores, book stores, laundry mats, on kiosks, etc., but be sure to hang them far enough in advance of your event to give the community time to see them.

You'll find that once you're Grange planning is orderly and organized, you'll wonder how your Grange ever accomplished its goals with the old chaotic approach. Planning ahead pays off with an improved bottom line, new members, and enthused existing members and volunteers - and that's what success is all about.

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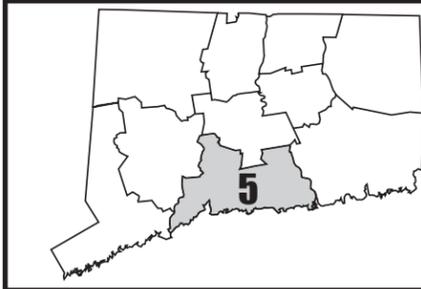
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New Haven County Pomona No. 5



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

NEW HAVEN CTY. POMONA #5

Corr: Don Lanoue

March 14: Regular Meeting

The January 10 meeting was in the charge of the youth where they put on an educational program about New Year's Resolutions.

The March meeting will be our talent competition and our School of Instruction by the State Master.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

March 2: Our Youth In Action

March 16: Competitive Program and Country Store

At our January 5th meeting, our speaker was Professor Gary Rose a political science instructor at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Ct. He is a noted speaker locally and nationally. He spoke on the 2010 election and its governance involvement upcoming on National and State issues.

Our January 19th meeting was cancelled due to the weather.

We are starting up our Monday craft nights, making holiday favors for our local nursing homes. The craft nights will continue on a regular basis in the months ahead.

Hopefully by the time you read this, our nasty winter weather will have calmed down.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Daniel Lauttenbach

March 10: "St. Patrick's Day" program - Joan; Open Meeting. Ref. Janet

March 24: School of Instruction, Carl Bernhardt, Deputy.

It's been a quiet month in Wallingford in as far as meetings were concerned.

Due to the snow we have had to cancel our meetings in January. I was at the hall last night to check on things. The hall was in good shape other than the parking lot is a skating rink and everything outside is snow covered.

This morning I tackled the snow build-up on my small porch and chopped the 5" thick ice underneath the snow with an axe. In the afternoon I was on the roof of my garage shoveling off some two feet of snow that had accumulated.

Hopefully the weather will moderate enough so that some melting will occur and help clear the parking lots and walkways and maybe hold a meeting!

OLD LYME GRANGE #162

Corr: Barbara Kulisch

March 11: Music is in the Air

March 25: Ag. Night

April 8: CWA in in charge with bake-off- Visitors

Old Man Winter has NOT been very kind to us during the month of January and we ended up having to cancel out! Don't think we were alone in our decisions this year!

Our Family Activities Committee chairman is hoping that everyone is busy doing their projects while we are all housebound with this snowy/rainy weather.

We looked forward to having our Deputy Carl Bernhardt, in to hold our twice postponed School of Instruction on the 11th of February.



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

In February, Gordon Gibson who is the Legislative Liaison for the State Grange testified at a hearing for HB5202, an Act Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds for Farmland Preservation. This is a committee bill that was raised by the Environmental Committee. The bill asks for bonding funds of \$20 million for the Department of Agriculture to purchase development rights of farms. In Gordon's testimony, he pointed out that Connecticut's agriculture industry is big business which provides approximately 20,000 full time jobs and contributes \$3.5 billion annually to Connecticut's economy.

The Farmland Preservation Program has been in existence for 32 years and has acquired, or has under contract, the development rights of 283 farms for a total of 37,262 acres. Unfortunately also in those 32 years we have irretrievably lost 225,000 to 250,000 acres of farmland to development. The goal of the program is to protect 85,000 acres of cropland and 130,000 acres of farmland in

CSG testifies for Farmland Preservation

Connecticut. In 2010 alone it preserved 16 farms for a total of 1,371 acres doubling its number from two years ago.

The Farmland Preservation Program is partially funded through the Community Investment Act which is derived from land recording fees. This is in addition to state bonds. These state funds are often used to leverage additional funding through the USDS Natural Resource Conservation Service. Jay Mar, who is the newly appointed USDA State Conservationist for Connecticut, recently commented at a legislative breakfast sponsored by Very Alive that he was very impressed with the amount of funding that Connecticut has been able to obtain over the years. Currently there are 13 towns and 6 counties throughout Connecticut with farmland protected.

By preserving these prime lands we are protecting the future of agriculture in Connecticut and our rural heritage.

Connecticut consumers will be able to buy more local products directly from farms or local farmers markets as well as businesses. This will be a plus for the farmers, our agricultural business, the environment and Connecticut's economy. For more information on the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Farmland

Preservation Program go to <http://ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3260&q=399016> or on the Connecticut Farmland Trust's web site <http://ctfarmland.org/>.

On March 16, 2011 the annual Agricultural Day will be held at the State Capitol. The State Grange will be hosting a display that the Agricultural Committee will be doing. All are invited to stop up at the Capitol and see the different displays by a variety of agricultural organizations and meet with your legislators.

On a national level, the U.S. Farm Bill reauthorization for 2012 is being shaped and will be a focus this year. This bill will set regulations and funding for farm related programs. For Connecticut, we will be represented at the National level by Congressman, Joe Courtney, of the Connecticut second district who has recently been appointed to the House Agriculture Committee. He will be serving on two different subcommittees; the Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Subcommittee and the General Farm Commodities and Risk Management Subcommittee.

Rep. Rosa DeLauro of the Connecticut third congressional district had been serving as chairman of the Appropriation's Agricultural Subcommittee where she remains as a member. Representative

DeLauro has been a strong agricultural supporter in the past and I expect she

will remain so. I will pass on information on the progress of this bill as it is received.

Gordon Gibson's Testimony

The following is testimony recently given at a hearing at the State Capitol in favor of increased funding for farmland preservation.

I am Gordon Gibson of Vernon, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors and Legislative Liaison for the Connecticut State Grange. I am speaking today in support of Committee Bill 5202, An Act Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds for Farmland Preservation.

Connecticut's agriculture industry is big business, providing approximately 20,000 full-time jobs and contributing \$3.5 billion annually to Connecticut's economy. Unlike other industries, farming depends on having the land base on which to operate. Factories and offices can be converted from one business to another, but once land is developed, it is lost to agriculture forever.

Thirty years ago the state launched a program to permanently preserve 130,000 acres of prime farmland. To date, slightly more than 37,000 acres have been preserved. However, there remains only \$5 million in unallocated bond authorizations. The pace of Connecticut's farmland preservation program has increased in recent years, but in part to funds made available through the Community Investment Act (P.A. 05-228) and the leveraging of state funds to secure federal funds, but without additional bond authorization the State's farmland preservation program will not be able to maintain its current pace when the remaining bond funds are expended late this summer.

Although more and more people are seeking locally grown food products, Connecticut is currently a net food importing state. On average, our food travels approximately 1,500 miles from farm to table, mostly by rail or trucks. As the price of diesel fuel rises the cost of transporting our food increases and this increase is ultimately passed along to the retail consumer in the form of higher prices at the grocery store. While Connecticut may never become a net food exporting state, we need to preserve our remaining farmland to feed our residents at all economic levels.

The Connecticut State Grange and its nearly 4,000 members thank the Environment Committee for introducing Bill #5202 to help preserve our diminishing farmland base throughout Connecticut.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

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 CTY. POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
Mar. 12: New London County's Got Talent- N. Stonington #138

We will be conferring the Fifth Degree in May, so if you have candidates, be sure and bring them. The date should be firmed up at our March meeting, but we are looking at the second Saturday in May.

We will hold our Talent and A-Number runoffs at North Stonington Comm. Grange on March 12. North Stonington has a great stage, and the refreshments are always terrific. There is a handicap ramp and a chair lift, so there is easy access for those who have trouble with stairs. The parking lot is cleared, but the piles of snow will probably still be there at Fair time. Oh well, they can add a snowman building contest to the list of entertainment.

It's time to strut your stuff again.

Come on, it's not so tough, Compared to all the snow we've had!

(I think we've had enough!)

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Joan Toomey

Mar. 14: St. Andrew Hall, 128 Norwich Ave., 7 P.M., Chaplain's Night, All About Water Towers

I wish we had our own hall again- I could paint the Westchester Water Tower with its flock of birds as a backdrop! I even have a mini quiz about 2 old birds in my head. Spring is here with all its glory. Pussy willow, spring wild flowers, rushing brooks and streams- sunny days. Soon we'll witness the annual concert of peepers and God's good earth awaken with new growth and HIS glory. As soon as it's dry enough we'll plow the soil and get ready to plant once again in life's cycle to nurture the soil, plant, enjoy the fruits of our labor and harvest. Thank God for His gifts and abundance. Happy spring!

LYME GRANGE #147

Mar. 3: Who goes to Camp?

Apr. 7: Will we have company?

Our January meeting was well attended in spite of the cold weather. 17 members and 2 guests- one with a guitar came!

Show and tell produced cruets, cat mats, counted cross stitch, quilts, knitted dish cloths, wall hangings, etc.

Our Feb. 3 meeting has been postponed one week due to the huge piles of snow surrounding our hall. Hopefully someone with a bucket loader can move some of it for us.

I hope everyone is surviving all this winter weather. When you are housebound it's a good time to knit those hats and mittens for the boutique at the Grange Hall at the Big E come September. Don't forget the CWA contests, perfect time. Try to survive!

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

Mar. 11: "I'd Like to Visit My National Parks"

Mar. 12: We host New London County Pomona

Mar. 25: "I'd Like to Visit With My Neighbors"- Potluck at 6:30 P.M., program of fun and games at 8:00

On January 14 we had our School of Instruction with Deputy East Jim Palmer and learned of all the changes for the new year. Then we took a quiz on icy driving and frostbite, two very timely subjects for this difficult winter. On January 28 we had a visit from The New England Spiritual Team. They presented an interesting program on paranormal occurrences in the area.

The March 11 program will be the Lecturer's program "When He Was President." Sue always does a great job on these programs and this one is not to be missed. Our potluck dinner and community outreach program has been changed from January 28 to March 25. We are hoping the snow

will have receded by then to a point where you can see cars coming from the side streets; but at this writing, with two different storms due in the next two days that probability seems rather dim.

Our mitten tree has been delivered to the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center along with several bags of food. The CWA collection this year will go to help put a new roof on the Wheeler Library. We will be holding our annual yard sale in August to support the same project. And if these snowstorms will just stop coming every two days, next time I'll tell you about fabulous February.

STONINGTON GRANGE #168

Corr: Jeffrey Barnes

Stonington Grange will be experimenting with a new start time: 7:30 P.M.! We'll see how it works out!

Although we had gotten 10 inches of snow on Wednesday our hall parking lot was well plowed and cleared for Thursday's meeting. Even temps below 20 degrees did not keep people away.

We welcomed our Deputy, Jim Palmer, and State Family Activities/CWA Director, Pat Palmer. Jim presented our School of Instruction which included a demonstration of the official Flag Presentation ceremony.

Andy Perry's legislative quiz that night was a marvel of trivia and research. I'm willing to bet big bucks that you didn't know that in Hartford it is illegal to have balloons with advertising, cross the street while walking on your hands, plant a tree in the street and to kiss your wife on Sunday. Also, in nearby Rhode Island it is illegal to throw pickle juice at a trolley, and you may not keep a flock of chickens in your motor home if you live in a trailer park. In Providence, it is illegal to wear transparent clothing! There was a total of 20 of these gems, all hilarious but apparently still on the books. So remember that ignorance of the law is no excuse!

Carl and Joyce should be back from their vacation in Aruba soon and since that groundhog didn't see his shadow on Feb 2, Spring can't be far away. Stay safe and please remember that in Devon it is illegal to walk backwards after sunset!

Caricature Program



The community is welcome to join the fun at Norwich Grange for an evening of art and caricatures featuring well-known illustrator Judy Tourangeau on Wednesday, March 9, 7:30 PM, at Norwich Grange Hall.

Norwich Grange Hall is located at 172 West Town Street, Norwichtown. (Exit 82 off I-395). For more

information, please contact Susan Kenney via e-mail at silkspray@gmail.com, or visit the Connecticut State Grange website at ctstategrange.org.

Family Activities



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

I'm beginning to think that the theme for this year should have had something to do with snow, considering there is an over abundance of it this year! I hope that all of you that are "iglooed" into your houses are taking advantage of all the "inside" time to work on your craft and needlework projects for

this year. Again, a reminder that they have to be completed and judged by June.

I have had some requests from members that are having trouble finding craft projects that fit the theme. If anyone has some sources, ideas, internet sites, etc. that might be helpful, please let me know and I will try to pass them on.

Keep Warm Thoughts!

State Lecturer



Marge Bernhardt
 State Lecturer
 lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Have you prepared your Complete Program yet? All of us Lecturers do this every time we put on a program. The subject of this years' program should be "When He Was President". This can be done on the events occurring during the term of any President of the United States except George

Washington and Abraham Lincoln. First you should present the program at your own Grange and then take it to any other Grange in the State. It's your choice where you go. If you don't know where to take it, I will gladly find a Grange for you that would really enjoy your program. As a matter of fact, I wouldn't mind having you come to my Grange. I could use a night off.

The full program must be submitted to be considered. All materials used must be included. The length should be between 30 and 45 minutes. The deadline for entries is October 1st and I must insist they be in on time. It is harder and harder for me to find judges. The competition has been so good lately that the same judges don't usually want to come back a second year.

If you can't think of how to go about doing this project, I am planning to put some of last years' entries on the State Grange Website. Hopefully they will be there by the time you read this. Why not take a look.

I've heard comments that this was a hard topic this year. Remember it can be on most anything that has happened in the course of our nations' history. Enter a date into your computer and see what you get.

The weather has been really messing up our schedule this year. I haven't gotten out anywhere near as often as I would like and believe it or not, I remember attending some Granges only to find out when the report comes in that I just wasn't there. Guess I'm imagining things. The point here is to urge you to get your reports in on time and make sure they are complete. I appreciate all your help. Keep up the good work.

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

Mar. 16: Green Acres

Excelsior Pomona #7 will meet on Wednesday, March 16 at Oxford Grange Hall at 7:30 P.M. The program is called Green Acres and is the Talent and A-Number Run-offs. Lecturer Jean is asking all Granges to participate.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our program for March 11th will be "Shamrocks" with Carole Mancini as hostess. If the weatherman cooperates, it will be our School of Instruction.

As with most Granges, we had to cancel both meetings in January. We apologize to our Deputy Eloise Osuch for canceling these meetings. We know she wanted to get it done before she headed to the sunny south for a well-deserved vacation.

I heard today that we are going to have this same weather for the next three years. Aren't we lucky!

To our members who are worried about the hall and all the snow on the roof. I went there today. Wish I had a camera- the icicles on the hall were just sparkling with some reaching from the roof to the ground. That being said- we have someone coming tomorrow to clear the roof and the icicles. Just hope this weather lets up a little in February.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Linda Coad

March 28: 7:30 P.M., Spring is near!, Ref: Faith Korpalski

April 2: Our Annual Indoor Flea Market, 9am-1pm, Contact Linda Coad for a table at \$20 each. This is always a good time, plus Bethlehem Grange and our vendors go home with extra cash. If you would like a table for tag sale, antique items or crafts call now as we always sell out early.

April 25: Inspection, 7:30 P.M., Ref. Ellen & John Samoska, Country Store

I hope you read this paper

front to back to see what all the grange's are doing. Even if you are house bound or busy working at a job, there are many things that you could do to support the grange.

Our Worthy State Master has an agenda to increase membership for Connecticut. It is simply to double our membership.

Remind your self of why you joined the grange to begin with. If it was for friendship, fellowship and community service then the same reasons are still viable. We need current members to ask a friend or relative if they would be interested. Going somewhere is always more fun with company.

Most of us are a few years older than when we joined and may not be as physically fit as then but we still have much to offer. We just need to get out to a meeting and ask "What can I do?" Or at least call and offer to assist.

WATERTOWN GRANGE #122

Corr: Mary Dubay

Mar. 4: Irish Celebrate

Mar. 18: March Madness

In March we have St. Patrick's Day, spring begins and daylight savings time begins.

The program for the first meeting in March is called Irish Celebrate. Sounds like the program will be singing Irish Songs which are very nice, wearing of the green and wishing all the members who are Irish a happy day.

Our second meeting is called March Madness, not sure what Lecturer Diane has in store for us.

One of our programs in the handbook for January 7, was called Big Winter Storm, and it was certainly that. Hard to believe all that snow. Then the ice storms, wow, what a winter.

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

Think Spring!

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Philip Rowland

March 4: Law Enforcement Issues

March 18: Pizza Party

After a winter of continual snow shoveling, it's nice that spring approaches. Thankfully, most of our meetings have been held on time despite the dreadful winter. Now we look forward

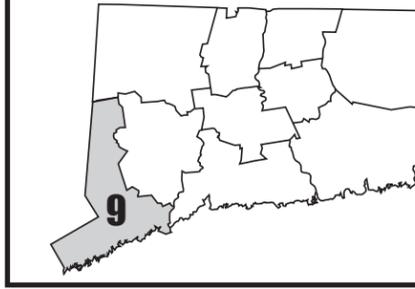
to resuming our two meetings per month schedule and maybe putting the shovels away.

The March calendar probably will be changed to include School of Instruction because of its earlier

postponement. Therefore, do not count on having the above listed programs. I do expect that the pizza party will be held regardless, it being a very popular event in the past.

Happy spring (I hope)!

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



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

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

Mar. 21: "Wear'n the Green", Meeting 7 P.M.

In January, we voted to amend our by-laws to change our regular meeting time to 7 P.M. on the third Monday of each month. In case of inclement weather, we will meet on Wednesday of that week. This should clear weekends for family and other activities including special Grange events.

Winter Saturday mornings from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M., our hall is the scene of the Fairfield Farmers Market. Come check it out and support local producers! Meanwhile the Fairfield Organic Teaching Farm, which includes a number of our members, is active in the area with presenting educational programs on gardening methods. During the growing season, they employ community garden style demonstration projects.

In March, we are planning a program of interest. All of our Grange friends are welcome at our meetings and activities!

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

Mar. 8: St. Patrick's and Going Green, Reuse, Renew and Recycle

Apr. 12: Open House and Neighbor's Night, Recruitment Party, Hors d'oeuvres and Goodies.

We're getting a face lift! For two evenings in late January, 10 Grangers shared camaraderie and pizza while painting the meeting room and all its doors and trimmings. Over the next few months the rest of the hall will be done- closet, bathrooms, upstairs, and kitchen. Come visit us: you'll see a nice, fresh, clean

new look.

There's more good news. Four new members have joined our force: Merci Federici, Loreen Beaudry, and John and Nancy Babyak. Elizabeth Miller took a demit from Cannon Grange to join Norfield, so that makes five. We also have a brand new fire alarm system. And to push our good news completely off the charts, the Winter Farmers' Market is doing so well that they're signing on for a second season, beginning on the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend. Last but hardly least, we'll soon be having planning sessions as we get ready for our Agricultural Fair on Sunday, September 11. We also plan to honor that special day in a meaningful way.

With all the good reports, we must close with the sad news that our Charter was draped for Fred Moore at our January meeting. Fred joined the Weston Voluntary Fire Dept. when he was only 18 years old. He was also a police constable, before Weston even had a force. As Weston's Fire Chief for many, many years, he brought the Department right up to the 21st Century. He was "Mr. Weston"-involved in everything. Fortunately for us, he was also a Granger. We felt his presence too.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

March 3: Business Meeting, School of Instruction

Silent Movie Night

Buster Keaton. Laurel and Hardy. Names that defined cinematic comedy in the 1920's. Film enthusiasts of all ages are invited to attend a Saturday evening double-feature of classic silent movies with live piano accompaniment hosted by Cannon Grange on Saturday, March 26 at 7:30 PM. Admission is \$8.00 per person, which includes refreshments. Cannon Grange Hall is located at 25 Cannon Road in Wilton, with free parking available at the Grange Hall, Cannondale Village and at the Cannondale Railroad Station.

March 12: Scrabble Party at 6 PM

Mar 17: Business Meeting with special program

April 7: Business Meetin

April 21: State Contests

It has been quiet around Cannon Grange due to all the snow we've had. We're looking forward to warmer temperatures when we can get back to more normal routines.

Scrabble Party on the second Saturday of the month begins at 6 PM with pizza and then let the games begin! Several boards in play until midnight. All are welcome.

Recently we purchased four new banquet tables to replace four that had seen better days.

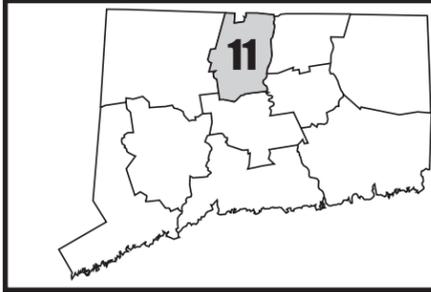
Our Fair Planning Committee begins its work in earnest in March. This year will be our 79th Fair at which time we hope to continue the tradition of welcoming nearly 4,000 area residents to our Hall and property to enjoy a first-class and authentic agricultural fair. Mark the date on your calendars: August 21, 2011.

Our Grange is a business partner with the Wilton Go-Green council, and will be participating in the May 1 event at which time we will be handing out packets of green bean seeds, directions for planting, and information about our Grange and our Fair: it's a win-win for saying who we are and what we do!

Our condolences to grange members, John and Shelley Dempsey on the recent passing of Shelley's dad.

Please note our meeting schedule. Visiting Patrons are always welcome--won't you join us?

Farmington Valley Pomona No. II



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

FARMINGTON VLY. POMONA #11

Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner

March 21: Clover Leaf Time

I'm sure everyone will be writing comments in their "Granger" columns about the weather we have been enjoying (or putting up with), so I won't. All I can say is let's hope for an early spring.

At this writing we are still trying to have our Pomona School of Instruction which had to be postponed twice! By the time you are reading this we will hope to have had held it- and that it went well.

Are you making good use of the cold days and evenings when you are confined to home? We know many of you are keeping your needle skills going by making things for Grange projects, but how about sending some "thinking of you" cards to shut-ins or service members. Have you thought of picking up the phone and having a nice little conversation with someone who would be thrilled to hear from you? How about making a list of things you could do to help your Grange- and follow through with your ideas. Time spent on such activities on a cold day could give you a very warm feeling! Try it!

TUNXIS GRANGE #13

Corr: Pam Covington

Tunxis Grange was able to hold their meeting in February. Our Lecturer, Al Kansas, brought a very lovely quilt that everyone enjoyed seeing and presented a very funny program.

Our new Deputy, Linea Erickson, and Maggie Schofield, visited us for a School of Instruction, and we had a nice visit with them. Linea did an excellent job of covering the new activities that Jody Cameron, our State Master, has planned. All of us look forward to having Linea and Maggie at future meetings. Congratulations to both of you on your state appointments as you both have worked very hard for the Grange and deserve to have them so much!

We hope to have a meeting in March, so please contact Doris Shaw to make sure we are meeting.

We have had an offer in

selling our hall, but it will take at least a month before the inspection can take place due to the snow. I know all of us are looking forward to spring!

CAWASA GRANGE #34

Corr: Maggie Schofield

We all want to wish our Worthy Master Art Rote a speedy recovery. He has been away from home a LONG time and is now at Cherry Brook Nursing. Heard he will be home hopefully in two weeks or so. We all love you Art, feel better soon.

Please send Art a card: Art Rote, Apt. 40, 21 Dowd Ave., Canton, CT 06019.

Hopefully soon we will have all our members back to our meetings. Bernice Wilson is homebound. We hope the warm "spring" weather coming will get her out soon. Feel better soon, Bernie! We love U 2!!

In March we made St. Patty's cookies for the Food Bank clients.

We are getting ready to order our Dictionaries for the third graders at Cherry Brook Elementary School. We have about 3 classes of third graders and they love to receive their dictionaries.

FunnyQuote: Heavyweight boxer Tony Galento, when asked what he thought of William Shakespeare, "I'll moider da bum."

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner

March 9: Graces in Charge

Like everyone we have had to cancel some of our meetings.

Our Master, Frances Sarnecki is very good about checking with all of us from time to time and giving information to us so we will all feel we are keeping in touch when we can't get out.

We urge our people to continue doing their community service projects and we hope each one is putting canned and packaged food stuffs aside to bring to Grange for the Simsbury Town Pantry. This is a project we have done in the past, but now is also a part of the State CWA project requirements. Let's all cooperate.

Several people have asked what kind of items (homemade) are needed for the Grange Building Country Store! We are happy with anything you

would like to make such as mittens, baby sets, Christmas ornaments, dish cloths, hand towels, scrubbies, bibs, stuffed toys, and full sized afghans as

well as baby afghans to name a few. Keep warm! Keep happy! Keep busy!

Victor Salazar hosts TeamSpeak Conference

TeamSpeak is a conferencing tool available online, nationwide. The program allows groups like the Grange to set up discussions that will allow participants to log on from the comfort of their own homes and be a part of a live discussion with others from across the country.

by Victor Salazar, Eureka Grange No. 62

On Thursday February 24th, I had the opportunity to run a "teamspeak conference" for the National Grange. The topic for that conference was the Junior Grange, and how the Junior Grange can contribute to community Granges.

The first part of the conference consisted of discussing the purpose of Junior Granges. Junior Granges provide a safe place for children to meet and and grow as individuals. It provides a place for juniors to learn leadership skills, make friends, and be active in their community. In addition, the Junior Grange serves as a great training ground for the juniors to learn Grange ritual, Grange protocol, and a true love and devotion to our organization.

The second part of the hour long conference consisted of discussion around how a Junior Grange can help an existing Grange to grow! First and foremost, an active Junior Grange can provide young and energetic Grange members when the juniors turn 14! In addition to the junior members themselves, the Grange has the opportunity to attract the Juniors parents who are not Grange members to join the Grange as well. This way, the Juniors parents will be active participants in the same

Community Grange Promo Materials Available!

New! Promotional Materials now available for Community Granges

With Grange Month right around the corner, it's time to start thinking about how you will be promoting your Grange to the community. The CT State Grange has developed a selection of Promotional Materials for Community Granges specifically for this purpose.

1.) CSG BRANDED BROCHURES: These full-color, tri-folded, brochures are printed on a 24/60 lb bright white paper stock, and have the Connecticut State Grange contact information listed.

QUANTITY/PRICES: 25 Qty - \$35.00; 50 Qty - \$55.00; 100 Qty. \$85.00

2.) CUSTOMIZED BROCHURES: These full-color, tri-folded, brochures are printed on a 24/60 lb bright white paper stock, and have customized information listed specific to the Community Grange.

QUANTITY/PRICES: 25 Qty - \$40.00; 50 Qty - \$60.00; 100 Qty. \$90.00

3.) PROMOTIONAL STARTER PACKAGE: This package contains all the essentials to promote your Community Grange.

PRICE: \$60.00 per package

Package Includes:

- 12 CSG branded Membership Brochures
- 3 CSG branded Junior Membership Brochures
- 10 CSG Branded Promotional Brochures
- 25 Comm. Grange "Inserts" for the Brochures, customized with your Community Grange information.
- 25 Comm. Grange Business Cards - customized with your Community Grange information.
- 5 Generic Grange Promotional Posters/Flyers - 8.5 x 11 - each a different design - suitable for hanging or use in a display.
- 5 Individual Grange Posters/Flyers - 8.5 x 11 - all the same design unique to your Community Grange, ready to hang in libraries, stores, etc. in your communities.
- 10 copies - 8.5 x 11 - Black and White -- Customized basic Press Release about your Grange (timelessly

organization that their children are in. Aside from all the membership opportunities, Junior Granges can provide a Community Grange with energy and new ideas. Juniors and Youth are full of ideas and energy for the Grange, we simply have to let them show that energy and not shoot down every idea that they suggest. Let them have a chance, they might surprise you! Last but not least a Junior Grange can provide a Grange with a purpose. If a whole Community Grange is actively participating in a Junior Grange, it will help that Community Grange to stay in action.

If a Community Grange has a reason to live and to be strong, it will provide more of an incentive for Grangers to grow the Grange and ensure its success. The Juniors will give the current Grange members hope and give them the motivation to preserve the Grange for the future generations!

Over all, I believe that the teamspeak conference was beneficial for all who participated. It gave everyone a chance to share ideas, learn from each other, and hopefully use that information to grow our individual Granges. I honestly believe that part of our growth as an organization needs to be in the Junior Grange! Without the inclusion of Youth and Junior members our organization will not be able to sustain itself in the future. With the help of youth and junior programs throughout the State, I know that the Granges here in CT are destined to grow!

Victor Salazar is a member of Eureka Grange No. 62 and is recipient of the National Grange's John Trimble Award.

written) ready to submit to your local newspapers.

These materials have been created to help you promote your Community Grange, and highlight the many great aspects of the organization. If you are interested in purchasing any of the above items for your Community Grange, please let us know by March 15th, to ensure delivery in time for Grange Month. Please send your requests to info@ctstategrange.org (or via phone at 860-626-5074) and we will be in touch regarding processing and payment.

Here We Grow Again!

Jody Cameron, State Master

I am pleased to announce we have officially trained additional Grange Growth team members. As of February 1, 2011 the responsibility and authority of the Grange Growth process has been turned over to the CT State Grange Growth Steering Team and the CT State Grange Membership Committee.

The G.G. Steering Team members:

- Jeff Barnes, Overseer CSG – Team Leader
- Marge Bernhardt, Lecturer CSG
- Jim Lamoureux, Membership Director CSG
- Lisa Lamoureux, Jr. & Youth Director CSG
- Todd Gelineau, General Deputy CGS

CSG Membership Committee members:

- Jim Lamoureux, Director
- Joan Perry
- Peter Keefe
- Carl Manning
- Karen MacDonald

Please contact any member of either of these teams to schedule a Grange Growth workshop for your Grange. They have a wide variety of tools to help any Grange in any situation.

Youth & Junior Grange



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

Greetings!! Well we starting to get the Bowl-A-Thon up and running. It looks like the event will be held on Saturday, April 9th. Time and location will be sent out to along with the donation sheets to the secretaries for each of the Granges. I hope that everyone will make an attempt to come and bowl. This will be a great opportunity to bring some non-members and show them what a good time we have in the Grange. This is also a great benefit. These young Grangers are our future, let's show them that we support them. Even if you cannot bowl, come and have a fun and see old friends that you may not have seen in a while.

If anyone has any ideas for a fundraiser or a gathering, or road trip, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the Junior or Youth Committees. We are open to all ideas and want everyone to participate. Until next month, keep warm!!! Spring is right around the corner.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Rita Shaefer

March 18: "Ides of March"
April 15: "Spring Break"

Not much to write about due to the weather.

The Juniors made cards and letters when they helped to pack the cookies to go to the soldiers overseas.

They are planning (maybe) to go to see maple syrup being collected. They also have a bowling date in the future if the weather clears up. They also plan to do some sledding.

They do have some new members that want to join the Junior Grange.

Everyone be careful during this snowy and icy

winter.

EKONK JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Sue Gray

The "girls" presented a wonderful program in January (realize that by this reading it is a loong time ago-but it really was worth mentioning)! That night 22 people enjoyed Junior Grange: wow! Feb. 25th was "Movie Night" with two age groups. The "younger" children had a Dino theme (movie "Dinosaur Train", dino craft & dino cookies to decorate) and then everyone enjoyed supper together. After supper, the "older" kids enjoyed a humorous movie appropriate for their age. It was, altogether, a fun evening! March 4th, "The BOYS turn" (they present the program)! April 1st we will decorate Easter Eggs that will be delivered to Convalescent Homes. This has been a winter unlike any Junior Grangers remember. Betsy & Mike have shared their farm hills with happy Junior sledders several times!

work. It often requires diligence and a little extra effort. But when a prospect decides to join the Grange it can be really rewarding.

Sometimes the best things in life are those that don't come easy. We should all commit to working hard in bringing new members into the Grange. The reward will e worth the effort!

Maybe it's a stretch, but I'm hopeful that when I sit down in early March to write for the April Granger, I'll be able to see our grass!

Membership



James Lamoureux
Membership Director
Membership@ctstategrange.org

It is early February as I draft an update for the March edition of the Granger. For the first time since New Year's weekend the thermostat has crept up to 40 degrees.

I have just come in from chipping ice for the last hour or two. My shoulder is sore and I've got the start of a blister on my hand. I'm sure many of you can relate.

Despite the hard work it was nice to stand back and see the surface of our driveway and sidewalk for the first time in quite a while. Hard work can definitely be rewarding.

It got me thinking that recruiting new members can be perceived as hard

awards, service projects, community displays, traditional pot-luck suppers and more. Be sure to check out the complete Calendar of Events on the Connecticut State Grange website.

National Grange will soon be distributing packets promoting Grange Month. The Public Relations Committee are also

distributing information to each Community Grange to help in their Grange month promotions. If you need help promoting your Grange's Grange Month events - such as writing press releases and articles, designing posters and more - the PR Committee is just a phone call or an e-mail away!

In Memoriam

Helen Litwin	Glastonbury Grange #26
Mary Kuzmickas	Manchester Grange #31
Marion W. Beecher, G.S.	Winchester Grange #74
Lucy Grohs	Winchester Grange #74
Henry L. Pelletier, G.S.	Ekonk Comm. Grange #89
Richard Kuhn, G.S.	Prospect Grange #144
Frederick Moore, G.S.	Norfield Grange #146

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 look forward to the coming warmer weather and the mud season, let us renew our faith in the Grange. We will look at denial. Forget the negative connotation of being in denial, denials go hand in hand with affirmations. We have probably all been guilty of the tendency to stop using

ideas we have already learned and move on to something newer and trendier. The old idea seemed to be great but somehow it did not last. Why? Because we were trying to build a spiritual experience on top of a weak foundation.

We all learn new ideas, they sound powerful. We try to place them into our way of thinking, but then it seems they stop working. That is because we are trying to place an excellent spiritual principle on top of our old beliefs. A new concept does not last because the old world view is still there, bubbling up from below the surface. Old negative thoughts rise into our consciousness, preventing us from becoming the person we really want to be. So we discard the idea and look for a new one, rather than deal with the underlying cause.

Denials remind us of an essential truth. Limitation only has power when we choose to let it. The limiting belief will sabotage any useful ideas we want to adopt. Denials have an erasable or dissolving tendency. They cleanse the mind. Denials are powerful tools to shape our lives. Use them. Speak them aloud. Clear the way for new spiritual ideas to take hold and advance your spiritual journey.

Social Connection



Joanne Cipriano
Social Connection Director
social@ctstategrange.org

Things are progressing for our Mystery Dinner being held at Cheshire Grange on Saturday April 30th. Our entertainment will include a play titled "The Missing Emeralds" written, starring and directed by Nancy Weissmuller. We all know of her talents, having seen many of her productions at the Lecturer's run-offs. If

you would like to be a member of the cast, please contact Nancy or me. We still need a few volunteers - so any help would be appreciated.

Party tip of the month: On Sunday I was watching an episode of Little House on the Prairie. Son Albert says to father Charles Ingalls "You're lucky you get to go to the Grange meetings - they must be exciting." Charles replies "most of them are but we have a few long-winded farmers." Are you that long-winded Granger?? Or the long-winded bore at a party. When we were born we were given "one" mouth and "two" ears for a reason. Try listening - you might be surprised at all the good things you will hear.

April is Grange Month

Continued from page 1...

will not be sold the night of the dinner - so if you plan to attend, get your tickets now. Tickets are available through each Pomona and from any member of the Social Connection Committee.

Community Granges will be celebrating Grange Month with open houses, lectures and programs, citizens'