



Connecticut Granger



Vol. 52, No. 3

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

DECEMBER 2011

An amazing story to tell



Jody A. Cameron
State Master/President
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It was with honor Jodi Ann and I represented the members of the Connecticut State Grange at our National Grange Convention in Tulsa, OK November 5th through the 13th. The session started with a 5.6 magnitude earthquake that shook the 11 floor hotel. Fortunately there was no damage to the hotel.

Jodi Ann served on the Taxation and Transportation and I served as Chair for the Grange Law Committee. Serving as a Session Chair was truly a learning experience, I now understand the importance of properly writing resolutions, therefore I have encouraged our Legislative Committee to hold at least two workshops, one in the east and one in the west, to address this important issue and help develop better leaders through the resolution process.

The Delegate body of this State Grange voted to send 6 resolutions to National for consideration. Resolution # 2, 3, 13, 17, 25 and 31. Resolution #2 and 3 were written into the Grange Growth and Development's Policy Statement, # 13 and 31 were adopted by the Delegate Body and #17 was withdrawn by me. Please refer to either your session's booklet or last month's

Granger for the details on these resolutions.

Ed Luttrell was again elected National Master and our own F. Phillip Prelli was re-elected to the National Grange Board of Director and remains its Secretary. Priest Archon Dan Bascom Installed the Officers of the National Grange using the revised Installation Ceremony and did a very nice job.

I stated in my President's Address to this State Grange, I oppose and do not support the use of this revised ceremony in Connecticut. After seeing this revised version, I FIRMLY stand by my statement. One resolution presented to the Grange Law Committee was to do away with the Passwords in their entirety as it is being used less and less Nationwide, this was defeated. We protect our password that is optional but we allow the beautiful lessons of our Installation to be altered and not for the better in my opinion. What's next, the 6th Degree? How about the 7th?

This revised version took 40 minutes. A full Installation takes just around one hour. Other than the minimal time savings, I did not see how changing the words improved the beautiful lessons, again my opinion. I am puzzled as to why the Delegates to the National Grange felt this was necessary.

Don't misunderstand my intentions here, we do need to continually review our policies and procedures, I am all for progress, I am all for growth. We as leaders, at all levels, need to stop

taking the easy road by cutting programs and departments. We need to think progressively, think ahead to the impact and footprint we are leaving for those yet to come. Let's stop thinking backwards, when we are faced with

these challenges, let's brainstorm on how we save these programs, with changes, rather than cut. As we continue to cut programming at any level, we are making hard to secure new members.

I will be working with our State grange Executive Committee and Directors to find ways to GROW our

present programming and participation. We have an amazing story to tell everyone, it is each of our responsibility to continue to write that story by challenging ourselves, our leaders and membership to think "out of the box" and ask you how we can grow. I ask each of you, how can we help?

Ekonk's Home At Last



Pictured left to right: Ekonk Community Grange # 89 member Susan Griffiths, Past Master Russell Gray, TAVHI President, Bill Czmyr, Grange member David Griffiths, and American Legion Post # 15, Commander, Mark Czmyr on Veterans Day as the Grange presented a check for \$1,241 to the Home At Last Campaign for homeless veterans in Jewett City. Supper chairperson Sue Gray was unable to attend.

Ekonk Community Grange # 89 of Sterling donated the profits from a recent Roast Beef Supper to the Jewett City American Legion Veterans Housing, Inc. on Veterans Day, announced William J. Czmyr, Jr., TALVHI President. "We are indeed most grateful for this generous gift of \$1,241 to our homeless veterans project which we will use to help furnish one of the eighteen apartments now under construction", Czmyr added.

The gift was presented by Past Grange Master, Russell Gray, accompanied by members David Griffiths, an Air Force Veteran and his wife Susan Griffiths all of whom worked and helped promote the event. "Our Grange has become a community service organization where we help many local projects and we certainly look upon the TALVHI Project as meeting a special need to serve those who have honorably served our country", Gray noted.

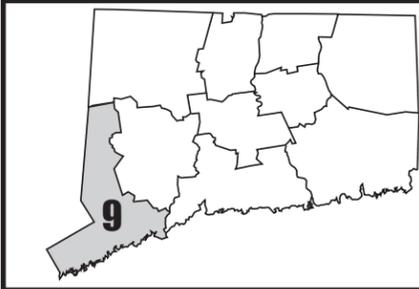
The event took place at the Grange Hall in Sterling in mid-October and was well attended by supporters from Sterling as well as many towns throughout the region. Susan Gray of Sterling was the chairperson. TALVHI officials attended and explained the importance of the project.

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Deadline for the JANUARY 2012 issue of the Connecticut Granger: DECEMBER 5.

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



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

FAIRFIELD COUNTY POMONA #9

Corr: Robert Sendewicz

Dec. 7: Christmas Program

The Christmas program will be held at Norfield Grange Hall. A 6:00 P.M. pot luck supper will be followed by the program including a cookie exchange, toys for tots and a country store.

Come to Fairfield County and enjoy some winter fun. Caution, there may be snow.

REDDING GRANGE #15

Corr: Marge Sendewicz

Dec. 12: Christmas Ideas. 6:30 p.m. supper

Dec. 26: No Meeting

Jan. 9: Healthy Ideas

In October we draped our Charter in loving memory of sister Jenny Bessel. Also that month we took in two new members, Derek Crofut and Robert Mitchell. At the end of the month we held an enjoyable Halloween program and costume party. Thankfully just before the snow storm.

Our Christmas meeting in Dec. will feature a \$2.00 grab bag if you wish to participate. There is also a rumor that Santa will show up. This will be a good time to visit us. In case of snow call first.

This is a wonderful time of year, with all the holidays, and we at Redding Grange wish all of you "A Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year".

HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: Susan Carol Sulier

Hi fellow Grangers and welcome to December, the most sacred month of the year, when Christians celebrate Christmas (the birth of the baby Jesus in Bethlehem) and Jews celebrate Hanukkah (the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem).

At this year's State Session, which was attended by our Master George Ward and First Lady Gloria, Joan Ziegler resigned as a Deputy and was replaced by (my favorite soloist) Geno Piacenti. Joan, thank you for your dedication to our beloved fraternity, it has

been most appreciated. Geno, congratulations on your new post, undoubtedly you will continue to serve the Grange with same integrity and dignity you exhibit in your daily life.

Our November program, "Thank you for serving" was dedicated to our brave veterans, who risked their lives to protect the greatest nation in the world, The United States of America.

On December 3rd, we will be having our "Annual Christmas Fair"; we hope to have a good turnout of Grangers and the general public.

Our "Annual (on-site) Christmas Party", consisting of great food (pot luck), a sing-a-long, jokes, grab bags and tons of holiday spirit, is scheduled for December 9th.

On a personal note, for Christmas my husband Tom and I host our traditional holiday buffet for our close friends and family. It is our way of showing them how much we appreciate and love them and to pay homage to the Blessed Mother and her boy child, Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In closing, wishing everyone a very "Merry Christmas" and a very "Happy Hanukkah" and praying your holiday will be filled with love, health and "Harmony".

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

Dec. 19: "Christmas Party/ Meeting", 7 P.M.

In October, we divided our meeting between a regular and committee format. To facilitate discussion, while the Grange was put at ease, we broke into committees to consider Fair planning, executive committee issues, and needed repairs. After returning to the Fourth Degree, each respective group reported. A work session to begin work on windows was scheduled.

James Cochran and Heather Soltesz became members of our Grange by means of the Welcoming

Ceremony. We continue to grow!

For December, we will have an informal Christmas Party, with light refreshments, allowing time for mandatory reports and any item requiring a vote by the membership. RSVP to any of our officers.

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

Dec. 13: Christmas Party Buffet Supper, 6:30 P.M., Cookie Exchange

Jan. 10: Keeping Warm for Winter, Astronomy Night

The Halloween storm hit Weston and Westport hard, but Norfield Grange was up to the challenge. Thanks to the Kimberly Family and others, and the fact that we had power and heat, the hall was open from 9 A.M. to Noon for the next three days. Residents were welcome to stop by to charge their cell phones, use WiFi for their computers, and warm themselves with coffee, tea or hot chocolate.

And speaking of coffee, the Norfield Grange Coffee House is now open, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 A.M. to Noon. This successful enterprise is again being sponsored by The Weston Forum. The Winter Farmer's Market is also in full swing, open on Saturdays, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. It will run through April.

At our October meeting we voted to send \$25 to the Connecticut State Grange to help pay for raffle tickets for past Deputies. We also voted to provide a \$500 scholarship for one graduating high school senior, and two scholarships for next summer's Camp Berger.

Last but hardly least, we have welcomed 24 new members to our Grange since last October- more than any other Grange in the State! Master Randy Miller

and Ted Coley received an award at the State Grange Convention Celebration Banquet in East Hartford, and were "invited guests" of both the State and National Masters. It's going to be really hard to beat that one! But we'll keep trying!

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

Dec 1: Bus Meeting - 7 PM

Dec 15: Holiday Party with musical entertainment. Bring a non-perishable food item for the Wilton Food Pantry - 7 PM

Jan 5: Bus. Meeting - 7PM

Feb 2: Bus. Meeting - 7 PM

Mar 24: Silent Movies with piano accompaniment (Saturday evening) - 7:30 PM (admission fee)

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members who come to us as a result of our annual Agricultural Fair: David Anspach, Kevin Hynes, Gail Lavielle and Robert McConnell. All have been active with our fair, and we are delighted to have them as members! Coming on December 15th will be our Holiday party with wonderful refreshments and musical entertainments. Please bring a non-perishable food item that we will bring to the Wilton Food Pantry for

those families in need.

Get well wishes are sent to Mary Offinger who recently broke her ankle in an icy porch step at home.

We recently received word from the US EPA that our WasteWise recycling program and results from 2010 have been cited for excellence and we will be presented with the Partner of the Year Award in the Non-Profit sector. We are one of 1700 WasteWise Partners nationwide who are tracking recycling efforts to reduce our solid waste footprint. EPA's Region 1 in Boston will present our award object. We believe we are the only Grange organization in the country that is participating in this nationwide program sponsored by the US EPA.

Looking ahead into 2012, -please save the date of March 24th when our own John Mucci will be bringing the thrill and excitement of more silent movies and his dazzling piano accompaniment. More details about that after the new year, but circle the date on your calendar!

We send warm holiday wishes to all our neighbors and friends. Please note our meeting schedule above. Visiting Patrons are always welcome--won't you join us?

Redding Costume Parade



Winners of the Redding Grange #15 Costume Parade, Marge Sendewicz, Bob Sendewicz and Marianne Nielsen.

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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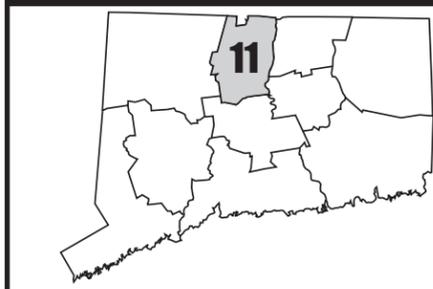
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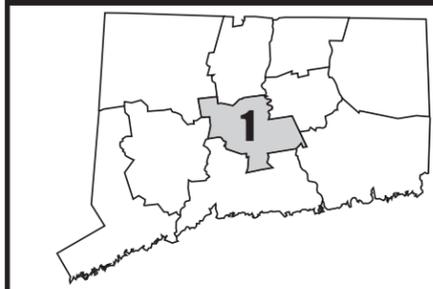
Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11



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

No reports were received from this Pomona.

Central Pomona No. 1



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

CENTRAL POMONA #1

Dec. 8: 7:30 P.M., Hemlock, Potluck Supper at 6:00 P.M.

Our next meeting of Central Pomona is Dec. 8th, Thursday at 7:30 P.M. Potluck Supper at 6:00 P.M. The program is on Santa is coming to town.

The CWA table is sweets for Santa. We are exchanging gifts of \$10 for a man or woman (labeled). Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

SOUTHINGTON GRANGE #25

Southington Grange #25 invites animal lovers to have their pet's photo taken with Santa Claus, Sunday, December 11th, from 11 am to 2 pm at the Grange Hall.

Located at the corner of Knowles Ave. and Summit St. in Plantsville, the Grange will be decked out for the holiday season. Bring the family--hot cocoa and cookies will be served and there will be a holiday craft for children. Freshly cut Connecticut grown spruce Christmas trees will be available for sale. You must pre-order. Call 860-681-4179 to reserve your 6- to 8-foot tree.

All pets must be on leashes or in carriers. There is a nominal charge for photos. All proceeds will benefit the Grange.

MERIDEN GRANGE #29

Dec. 9: Christmas Story Party & Secret Santa-Come join us.

Jan. 13: New Year Resolutions

Jan. 27: Music night if needed

We have a new member at Meriden Grange named Richard Wojciechowski. We are happy to have him join the Grange. He worked in animal shelters and loves animals. We gave thanks on Veterans Day on Nov. 11 for all the Veterans. We had dinner Nov. 12 at Meriden Grange.

On Dec. 9 we will be telling the famous Christmas story and having a party and exchange \$10 gifts from Secret Santa and having a Christmas party. Come join us.

On Jan. 13 we will have New Years resolutions for the new year 2012 to start a perfect year. Jan. 27th, neighbors are invited for Music Night if we don't have a meeting on Jan. 13th.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Dec. 9: Christmas Stuff

Dec. 23: Omit (For Christmas)

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

A sounding board for local issues



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

We had 51 resolutions submitted by the Granges or committees at this last State Grange session. This is more that we have seen in quite some time. These resolutions covered many topics from Grange related to community and state related issues.

This last year the state budget was a hot topic and this was reflected in the resolutions. The delegates voted to support saving the two historic ferries that cross the Connecticut River in Rocky Hill and Glastonbury. They also voted to support continuation of the Connecticut Technical Schools and to continue to support the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station that was threatened in the last budget. The delegates discussed the sales of invasive species of plants in the state and some safety issues such as the blocking of handicapped entrances and walk times

in crosswalks.

In response to tropical storm Irene, the delegates voted to encourage the state to work with utility companies to better prepare for future emergencies. It was noted that some towns were without emergency 911 services during the power outages of Irene. This was also apparent with the outages that happened after the October snowstorm.

The delegates voted to allow North Central Pomona to merge with East Central Pomona. The delegates also approved a state dues increase. There were many resolutions on Grange processes so the delegates decided to look into revising State Grange by-laws. There was a resolution to allow Granges to select alternative delegates to State Grange and another to allow use of the Obligation Ceremony. Both of these resolutions were adopted.

Grangers should also be aware of local issues in their communities. Many towns just held local elections. The news reported that turnouts were very poor. There were many towns that could not get enough people interested in local positions so that many candidates

had no competition. In one town there were two budget related questions on the ballot. Both of the questions passed, but due to the low voter turnout, both items failed because of the percentage of town voters were not high enough to be a legal vote. Local elections are just as important as state and national elections. Local officials are the ones that directly affect your pocketbook. They set tax rates and determine budgets. They decide if schools can have a new roof or fire departments can get some new equipment. Your local boards have a say in the development in your towns through your zoning which could assist with tax revenue.

Your Grange can become a sounding board for local issues. Talk about what is happening in your towns at your meetings. Invite town officials to speak on local projects and invite the public in to meet with the local officials and hear about the projects. Encourage all to vote. Not just for the "big ones", but also for your local elections and budget votes. The Grange roots have always been deeply involved in political issues.

Important National Digest Change

November 20, 2011

Patrons,

There was action taken by the delegates at National Grange that each Community Grange must be aware of.

There is a change in article 6.2.4 Code of Subordinate Granges, it was amended to read: 6.2.4 Whenever the membership of a Subordinate Grange declines to fewer than 13 members or fewer than four members of either gender, the Charter shall be suspended or revoked pursuant to article V of the By-Laws of the National Grange.

This change was immediate and is in effect. It is important your Grange review your membership records to make sure you are in compliance with 6.2.4 as written above. If you are in violation, it is imperative you contact me as soon as possible so we may discuss and develop action plans to stabilize your membership.

Fraternally,
Jody A. Cameron
President

National by the Numbers

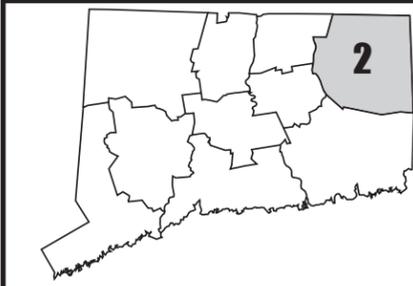
by Jodi Ann Cameron

During our time at National Grange Session in Oklahoma I took note of a few things and compiled this list:

- 1** Candidate from CT taking 7th degree
- 2** New Priests, High Priest and Priest Annalyst
- 3** New National Officers
- 5** Members from CT at National
- 6** Resolutions sent from CT and acted upon
- 7** Honored as "Heroes of the Grange"
- 7** New State Masters
- 9** Days in Oklahoma
- 14** Hours of Committee Meetings
- 16** Hours of Breakfast, Luncheons, Dinners, or other Special Programs
- 16** Honored in Memorial Service, including Marion Beecher & Duane Wetmore
- 19** Distinguished Granges recognized, 3 State Granges & 16 Community Granges
- 23** Hours of Sessions Meetings
- 37** Number of States represented by delegates
- 46** Earthquakes during our Stay in Oklahoma. They ranged from 1.9 to 5.6 which was new record quake for Oklahoma.
- 67** Delegates representing the States
- 209** Resolutions acted upon by committees and delegates.

There were still many things that could not be measured like the hours of visiting with friends new and old, and the lessons learned past, present, and future.

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



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

QUINEBAUG POMONA #2

Corr: Joan Perry

Quinebaug Pomona Grange will be celebrating its 125th Anniversary on May 20, 2012 at Echo Grange. We are looking for pictures and any memorabilia that may be borrowed for copying and then returned. If anyone has something that we could use, please contact Tom Perry at 860-377-9060 or Carol Hnath. Thank you very much.

SENEXT GRANGE #40

Corr: Joan Perry

Senexet Grange #40 will be having its annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Pie Sales before each of the holidays. Let's hope that we don't have a snowstorm on either of those days. Here's hoping that all of you have a wonderful holiday and a good new year.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Elsie Johnson

Dec. 14: Christmas Program, Ref. Christmas Cookies

Winter is coming. Leaves raked, lawn mowers are being cleaned and put away. Those who have wood stoves are busy getting wood cut and stacked. Hope you remember to clean the chimney. We planned the last potluck supper until spring and a Halloween night with costume judging and prizes. Lessons on laptop computers and how to use them are being offered at the Senior Center. You can sign up for it.

You may see a bear out there- they are foraging for winter. Lots of deer are also about, and skunks, possum and coyotes. Be careful about putting your pet food outside.

Tabs and Campbell's coupons are still coming in. Thanks.

Dictionaries for the third graders at the school have been ordered. Hope the State Session went well.

Get your flu shot. Stay well.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Dec. 3: Holiday Bazaar, 10-2

Dec. 5: "Let there be peace on Earth" 7:30 P.M.

Dec. 9: "Jingle Bells" Christmas program, 6 P.M.

The "Home at Last" Supper was a great success! We will have presented the check before the next Granger (hopefully around Veterans Day). Mae Flexer, our State Rep, was present as were many veterans. A wonderful display was arranged by Avery Tillinghast and Bill Czmyr (veteran) was on hand to answer questions and pass out information on the facility being built in Jewett City for veterans without homes.

It was an honor to have our Grange place Best of Show in the Community Service contest. Perhaps by next issue we will have heard how it placed at National judging!

Congratulations to ALL who won awards at State Grange this October!

We were thrilled to have one of our active youth (Ethan Jordan) win Outstanding Young Farmer! Well done, Ethan! Speaking of our youth, Shelley St. Jean received a scholarship!

Next time you visit Ekonk, please look down at our flooring: we are very proud of the appearance of our facility. We had a great crowd at the Halloween party, but the hayride and haunted house had to be cancelled due to the October Blizzard!

As of this writing, 36 children plan to participate in the Christmas musical play, "A Place in the Christmas Choir." The cast will include Santa and Mrs. Claus, numerous cats and dogs and elves! We are also pleased with the growth and activity in our

Junior Grange! We will have chowder 'n clamcakes at the Holiday Bazaar on Dec. 3; lots of other good food also!

Happy New Year from all of us at Ekonk!

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

Dec. 5: Scientific Weather Facts

Dec. 19: Tis the Season, Potluck at 6 P.M.

October is now past and over. Where has the time gone?

Our candlelight installation was very memorable. We will be doing the Obligation on our new member at our November meeting.

The Cameron/Barnes Installing team did an excellent job and we hope the new members will have received some input on how good the Grange can be for

them.

All former officers were re-elected and installed with the exception of Assistant Steward Bernadette Schuster (a new member) fills that position and Glenna Bruno the new Steward and Margaret Tomalo becomes the new Gatekeeper, relieving Treasurer Phil Greenleaf of an extra "hat".

We still have our Saturday Square Dance each month and bluegrass as advertised.

We soon will be getting our Thanksgiving baskets ready- so try to bring a food article for it. In this time of need, those receiving them will appreciate the gift. The Grange will be doing a community Service.

Anyone wishing to learn what the Grange is about, come visit one of our meeting nights on the

first and third Monday of the month at 7:30 - or ask a member for information. We will be happy to oblige, our potluck suppers are a good time to visit.

ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

Dec. 13: "Christmas Craziiness"

Dec 27: Omit

We were fortunate with the last snow storm. We did not lose power. We feel sorry for those that did.

We will be sending out our penny collection this month to a worthy organization.

Our second meetings in Dec, Jan, Feb and March will be omitted.

In the spring will be having our usual supper. Lets hope we have a mild winter.

Ekonk presents dictionaries in Sterling



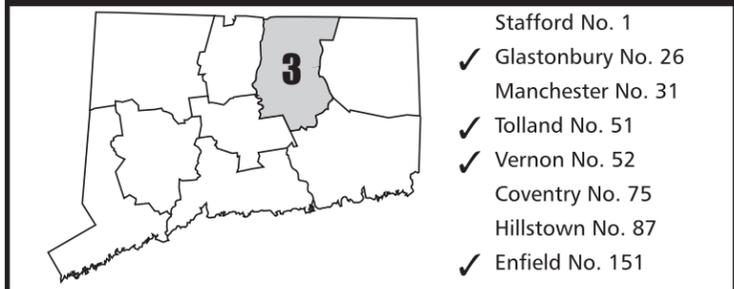
Pictures of Sterling Community School third graders taken after they were presented dictionaries courtesy of Ekonk Community Grange. Community Development Director, Rebecca Gervais, did the presentations. First Selectman, Russell M. Gray, was in attendance and James Molodich of Sterling took the picture. 55 third graders received the dictionaries.



Ekonk helps homeless veterans

Bill Czmyr was on hand at Ekonk Grange's "Home at Last" Supper held in November. Proceeds from the dinner were donated to "Home at Last" which is building a facility in Jewett City for homeless veterans.

East Central Pomona No. 3



GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Dec. 1: Meeting 7:30 p.m. Holiday, Books for Kids, Pot Luck - Bob Nordstrom and helpers, Business meeting 6:00 p.m.

Hi Members, I just returned from the Ct. State Grange Session and I only wish there were at least 2 or 3 members from Glastonbury Grange at the session to become as inspired as I am.

The meeting was very uplifting and more of our members need to hear what was reported by all the committees and officers. The State Masters/ Presidents report needs to be heard by more members. I want to bring more of his words to Glastonbury members. Following are two areas of his report that I have permission to quote.

From his "Community Involvement". "I think we can all agree one of the fundamental responsibilities of a Community Grange is to better the community in which we serve. Our Granges do amazing

work. Members give thousands of hours of their time and talents individually every year, and collectively this number climbs into the hundreds of thousands."

"It is time our State Grange implement a state wide Community Service project. The Family Activities Committee built into their program support to local food banks. I hope all Granges participated in supporting both the committee's initiative and your local food banks. If we can all change the lives in our communities, just imagine the difference we can make by going from the Power of One to the Power of Many."

"As you will see in the proposed budget, there is no surplus for us to draw from to institute new programs. I challenge you to look for ways to obtain our goals in bettering our communities on a state wide level. There is money out there; there are ways for us to accomplish greatness in each community. You will hear later in this session that we are in the

process of formulating a 501 (c) (3) Foundation; this foundation will enable us as a State Grange to assist our Community and Pomona Granges in serving your communities to the fullest."

Words from his Membership Development and Retention Section: "We are beginning to address the issue of membership retention. We believe it is the responsibility of the State Grange to develop social activities that strengthen the programming of Community and Pomona Grange. In 2011 I established a new Committee, the Social Connection. This team has out done themselves! They have held two very successful events, the Mystery Dinner was sold out and the Competitive Night drew a capacity crowd. On July 16, 2011 we held a joint picnic with our friends to the east, The Rhode Island State Grange, as part of the National Grange sponsored Grange Day Out. This event was well attended with around 200 from both states in attendance; it was a picture perfect weather day, good food, good entertainment, and best of all good friends. Events like these are essential to membership retention. Every Grange can and should offer programs that brings its members together in a social setting, think out of the box, don't be afraid to

try something new and have fun."

Next month I will pick out a couple more sections from his address. I did bring back to Glastonbury Grange 2 or 3 copies of his address. I hope members will borrow them and read them and pass them around for all to read.

TOLLAND GRANGE #51

Corr: J. Jordan

Dec. 6: Potluck

Tolland Grangers will be meeting at 6 P.M. for their annual Christmas Potluck dinner. The place to be determined soon.

We wish all Connecticut Grangers a happy and healthy New Year.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

Dec. 2: It's Holiday Time!

We hope that all survived the November power outages and are now calmly in the holiday mode. Vernon Grange had to cancel their November meeting a week because of the outage and changed their program to emergency preparedness. Using the Red Cross online suggestions we all discussed our experiences and shared ways we could have been more prepared. We also went over preparing for a pandemic flu. This made an excellent program and with it being fresh in our minds, a good time to take inventory of what is in our

homes and back up plans in case of emergencies.

Our holiday program should be fun and relaxing before the big rush. Holiday tips will be shared and our wacky gift exchange will take place again. Everyone brings something they think is totally useless or funny and then we have a yankee swap grab bag. Though one year, Gordon Gibson got a giant calculator which came in handy a couple years later when he gave it to his cousin who was losing her eye sight!

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Dec. 10: Old Time Toys; Refreshments: Everyone bring some Christmas Cookies.

I love driving along the back roads and seeing all the beautiful Fall colors. This is definitely my favorite time of year. Neither freezing nor sweltering, just cold crisp air and the smell of fresh apples outside and wonderful warm aromas from the kitchen inside. Time to clean out the garden and get it ready for winter and plan for next year. Thinking ahead to our program for December, what did you play with when you were a kid? What toys did you want Santa to bring? Bring your memories with you to our December meeting and tell about it. If you have any pictures from that time bring them too.

WINDOW TO THE PAST

This month's picture...



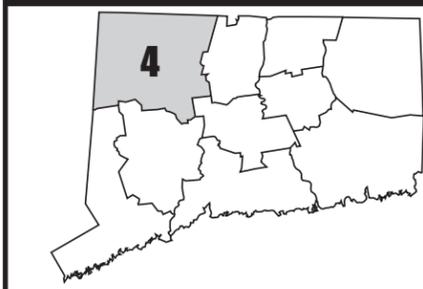
Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a story to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of the faces and places as we look through the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



Last month's picture...

Responses from November's Pic-- So far, we have heard from Janet Haller of Wallingford Grange, and Mildred Briggs of Killingly Grange. What we have so far: Past Voting Delegates photo at one of the CT State Grange Sessions in the mid-1970s. (maybe 1974 or 1975?) Left to right: National Grange Master John Scott and his wife (wife's name?), either Lida Ives or Helen Wilcox (not sure which is correct), Past Master Al Beckwith with wife Gretchen, Don Peck, Bob and May Mitchell, Emma Keetch, King and Betty Beecher, Bill and Mary Pearl and on the right end Frank and Peggy Prelli. It looks as if either Frank Prelli or Bill Pearl are both wearing a Pink and not a Gold sash.

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



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

MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd Gelineau
Dec. 12: "New Celebrations"- Christmas Meeting. Originally scheduled for Winchester Grange but the location most likely will have changed to Eureka Grange Hall in New Hartford due to unforeseen circumstances in Winchester.

The next meeting of Mountain County Pomona will be our annual Holiday Party with a \$5.00 gift exchange and our collection for the children at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford. Due to furnace issues at Winchester Grange Hall, the meeting will likely be relocated to Eureka Grange in New Hartford. This is not definite so please watch for notifications to each of the Subordinate Granges by the Pomona Secretary or contact Master George Russell (860) 824-7056.

WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

Corr: Debbie Brown
 The Whigville Grange held a well attended meeting in November. With a great program on Cranberries, and a few Thanksgiving jokes Lecturer Helena got us off to dreams of our Holiday feasts. We can happily report that our membership has grown by four! Christmas in Whigville will take place on Sat., Dec 3 from 10-3. Live music is new this year. Cookies, food, a teacup auction and shopping opportunities are included, along with free admission. Please come and enjoy a stress free holiday event, no parking problems or long check out lines. May you all have a safe and blessed holiday season, from your Brothers and Sisters of Whigville Grange.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Dec. 13: Christmas, Ref. Shirley Lemieux

Dec. 27: Meeting Omitted for the Holidays

Jan. 10: A New Year, 6:00 P.M. Potluck Supper

It's been anything but a quiet month at Winchester Grange. On Nov. 15 our newly appointed fundraising/hall rental committee met at the hall to work out plans for fundraisers and hall rentals. Following the meeting, our member and Deputy Fire Chief Peter Hurlbut checked on the furnace (as he does almost daily) to make sure everything was okay. Unfortunately this time everything was not okay and after inspection by a technician it was declared deceased as it had sprung a very big leak in the combustion chamber. This furnace was original to the hall in 1952 and was built by Sherwood Berger (yes, of the Camp Berger family). It served the Grange well for nearly 60 years and now is being replaced. It, of course, was coated with the remarkable fire retardant (of the time) asbestos, creating an additional project and expense before the new furnace can be installed. Between getting quotes, arranging for abatement and scheduling installation, it's been quite stressful time!

Our second meeting in November was moved to the new Firehouse in the back of the building and we hope repairs will be complete for our first meeting in December. If not, we will take the firemen up on their generous offer to host our meetings until things are "back to normal." We hope it's all resolved before freezing weather sets in permanently for the season!

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE

#100

Corr: Myrtle Hayden

Our Harvest potluck dinner was enjoyed by members and guests alike. We had lots of good food and conversation (mostly about the Autumn Snowstorm and power outages). Later in the evening State Session Awards were given out. For Website Participation to Barbara Prindle, the Lecturer's award to Bill Kroeger and for Community Service to Barbara Bartram. Bill Schnell received his 65 year seal and spoke about his time in the Grange and all the fellowship. Myrtle Hayden and Country Spice played and sang for us with everyone joining in when they knew the words.

Taghhannuck continues without yearly participation in the Dictionary Project and dictionaries were on hand to be donated to the 3rd graders from Sharon, Warren and Cornwall. Out total sponsorship over the years now totals 432 students.

Our December 8th meeting is the Cookie Exchange. Everyone brings 4 dozen of the same cookie and we make up 10 plates to go to Ella's Kitchen. There is also enough so that everyone brings home a plate of cookies.

We placed second this year at the Bethlehem Fair. Our membership committee is in charge of the Oct. 13 meeting with all trying for new members.

Our October meeting was cancelled because of freezing rain.

We are now meeting once a month at 7:30 P.M. On October 30 we held an open house for all running for office and a meet and greet for all the candidates.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Shirley Moore
 Riverton did not have a meeting in October and has now recovered from our first major snowstorm. The power has been restored but not in time for our November 4th meeting. Our hall is in good shape with no bad effects from

the storm. At this writing we are looking forward to our meeting on Nov. 18th when we will have our annual Thanksgiving supper in charge of Bill & Tillie Jackson and Shirley & Rujo Moore. The planned pot-luck will be held at 6:30 with a regular meeting following and a program entitled THE MAYFLOWER.

On December 2 we will be having a meeting with

refreshments in charge of Mary Lou and Peter Keefe. And then on the 16th, we will have our Christmas meeting beginning with a pot-luck supper at 6:30 in charge of Maureen and Phil Prelli. A children's program will be put on by the Youth Committee. This is always an interesting evening devoted to the children and grandchildren of grange members.

State Secretary



Edith Schoell
 State Secretary
 secretary@ctstategrange.org

As I try to write this article, I hope all our Grangers are doing well after Storm Alfred. The clean-up continues since more branches seem to find their way down after a strong wind. I have a tree that looks like it should be on a shipwreck island! Branches every which way.

At our recent State Session the delegate body voted to increase the quarterly dues paid by Subordinate Granges to State by 50 cents. The increase is 50 cents per member, per quarter, or \$5.75 (\$23.00 per member/year). this will begin with the payment due March 31, 2012.

At the session we learned that several Granges had taken in new members. The State Master is still urging all to get one new member per member, during the coming year. We had one quarter with a net gain so let's have more on the plus side. Applications are available through the Central Office.

New Members

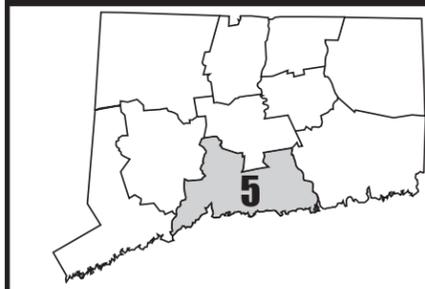
We welcome the following new Fourth Degree and Junior members to the Grange! Has your Grange brought in new members? Have you told us about them? Let us know and we'll print their names in an upcoming issue.

- Robert StoreGranby #5
- Derek CrofutRedding #15
- Robert MitchellRedding #15
- Donna BakerWolf Den #61
- Percy BakerWolf Den #61
- Linda KinneyTaghhannuck #100
- Katie CoadBethlehem #121
- Walter CastingsBethlehem #121
- Kathleen CarrollGreenfield Hill #133
- James CochranGreenfield Hill #133
- Stacy RuttenbergGreenfield Hill #133
- Becky PurcellGreenfield Hill #133
- Ann FranzenGreenfield Hill #133
- Jack FranzenGreenfield Hill #133
- Heather SolteszGreenfield Hill #133
- Crystal DameN. Stonington #138
- Mary Louise RaymondProspect #144
- Lisa SavageNorfield #146
- Barbara GrossNorfield #146
- John McConnellCannon #152
- Gail LavielleCannon #152
- Kevin HynesCannon #152

JUNIOR GRANGE

- Alana MessierEkonk Jr. #101
- Emily BonnerEkonk Jr. #101
- Natasha IgnacioEkonk Jr. #101
- Russell SharpeEkonk Jr. #101

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



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

NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

Corr: Don Lanoue

December 4, 2001 Open Meeting at Cheshire 4:00 PM.

Our October meeting was on the 24 of the month and we were all asked to com on costume. Though not everyone came in costume Marge was nice enough to let them know it. We had many games and readings about Halloween. A great time was had by all.

Our December meeting will be Sunday December 4 at 4:00PM. This will be an open meeting with a \$3 grab bag and a potluck supper to follow. All are always welcome to our meetings.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Jane Miller

Dec. 7: Neighbors Night - Old Degree Work

Dec. 21: Open Meeting- Card Exchange -\$3.00 Grab Bag; bring your favorite Christmas dessert

Cheshire Grange received a number of awards at the State Session in October making us all of proud of the work we do. Our November 2nd meeting was cancelled due to the snow storm as we had no power at our hall. Our annual Thanksgiving dinner was enjoyed by all and our thanks to Marge Bernhardt and her committee who undertake the dinner planning each year.

We hope see many of you in Cheshire as we have planned a program around degree work as it was done in the old days. It is a far cry from what we do now. We have the props and the speaking parts used and know this will be of interest

to everyone.

From all of us at Cheshire Grange we wish you all a very happy holiday season.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Daniel M. Lauttenbach

Oct 13: We were to have a program "Thanksgiving Day in Canada" but was postponed to next month on our meeting on November 10th. We had a business meeting instead.

Oct 27: "Harvest Time" Pot Luck Supper @ 6:15pm. The weather for the afternoon and evening wasn't too promising since the weather people were discussing the possibilty of snow. But we did have our pot-luck supper. There was lots of good eats to go around and everyone enjoyed the dinner. Unfortunately when we were finishing up and cleaning up it was starting to snow. So we decided to shorten up the meeting and conduct business that needed to be done and left early for the night. Turns out it was probably the smart thing to do since less than a day and half later the infamous Oct Northeastern with its snow came roaring through. People are still out of power a week later.

On Oct 2, 2011, George W. Bolt past master of Wallingford Grange passed away. He will be remembered for work on Marcus Cooke park, as master in the 3rd and 4th degrees and running the chicken barbecue pit for more than 35 years at our fair among other things. He will be missed.

Our Next Meetings:

Dec 9: Christmas Program, Open Meeting,

Xmas Card Exchange, \$3 grab bag. Ref: All members

Dec 23: Christmas. No Meeting.

NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35

Corr: A. Tolette

Dec. 6: Holly and Ivy, Bring food for Food Closet

Jan. 3: Winters Remembered- Youth

Here we go again. Hope everyone is warm and comfortable. Mother Nature sure has been on a rampage this whole year. Hopefully 2012 will be much kinder to all.

Emily had a nice Thanksgiving program for us on Nov. 1. We really do have a lot to be thankful for.

I remember going ice skating on Thanksgiving Day. That hasn't been possible for years. Let's not start now. Best wishes for a happy, healthy holiday and a great New Year.

OLD LYME GRANGE #162

Corr: Barb Kulisch

Dec. 9: Pot Luck Supper at 6:00pm, Christmas Is.....

Dec. 23: Omit--Happy Holidays!

Jan. 13: Lecturer Assigns A Topic.....

Jan. 27: Snow Date for January 13th

State Session is over as we all begin the coming year with the State Master giving us the new theme, CREATE, WIN, GROW! How many members will we add to our membership in 2012?

Our members had a treat on Friday the 28th of October when Past Lecturer, Richard Chapman, filled in for Sis Kulisch who was away that evening. They learned a lot about the Statue of Liberty collected \$5.00 in the New York, Statue of Liberty quarters! YES!

We have taken on a new community service project this year with the American Hereos & have purchased 8 Guidepost monthly magazines for

those soldiers who have returned from the war & are in hospital's! We will send care packages the first of the year! Letters by

all members will follow! Old Lyme Grange #162 wishes all Grangers a Happy Holiday & a Healthy New Year!

Tag Sale anyone?



Joanne Cipriano
Social Connection Director
social@ctstategrange.org

K-O! K-O! K-O! The Social Connection needs your help. One of our activities for the year 2012 is to have a Grange state-wide tag sale on Saturday – April 28 for the benefit of the American Liver Association. That is to have one in each Pomona. We are looking for a Grange in each Pomona to step up and volunteer to have the tag sale at your Grange.

A few facts about liver disease (1) 1 out of every 10 Americans is affected by about 100 types of liver disease (2) That is 30 million people – the number of people in the United States living with diabetes and cancer combined (3) 60% of the people have no history of alcohol abuse and (4) nearly 17,000 people are on the waiting list for a liver transplant.

I'll be sitting by the phone and checking my computer for your reply.

Our last adventure for the year 2011 was the "Granger of the Year" Contest. We had seven entries. Each one a definite winner. In the end, the judges named Sue Gray from Ekonk Community Grange the winner. We congratulate Sue, we all know how involved she is in Grange work.

Our Spring fun activity will be a Roast – the victim Phil Prelli. We will Start with a dinner and then have our program. Full details will be in the Next issue of the Granger. Get your tickets early. I'm sure it will be a sell-out.

A healthy and Merry Christmas from the members of the Social Connection – Joanne – Barbara and Betty Jane.

National Officers

Elected in Tulsa, OK at the National Grange Session

Master. . . . Ed Luttrell Sandy, OR
 Overseer . . . Jimmy Gentry. Statesville, NC
 E.C. Chr. . . . Betsy Huber Lemoyne, PA
 E.C. Sec. . . . Phil Prelli Barkhamsted, CT
 E.C. Duane Scott Ft. Atkinson, WI
 E.C. Joe Fryman. Blair, NE
 Lecturer . . . Pete Pompper Myrtle Beach, SC
 Secretary. . . Judy Sherrod Knoxville, TN
 Chaplain . . Barbara Borderieux Palmetto, FL
 Steward. . . William "Chip" Narvel Dover, DE
 A.S. Roger Bostwick. Ozawkie, KS
 L.A.S. Beth Merrill Antrim, NH
 Treasurer . . Dwight Baldwin Kellogg, IA
 Gatekeeper. Christopher Johnston. . . Durand, MI
 Ceres. Linda Chase Dunstable, MA
 Pomona . . . Christine Hamp . . Nine Mile Falls, WA
 Flora Pattie Lee Belvidere, IL

ASSEMBLY OF DEMETER

High Priest, Bruce Croucher NY
 Priest Archon, Dan Bascom NH
 Priest Annalyst, Jim Owens ME
 *New elected officers are in bold.



Do You Remember?

Do You Remember
will return next month.

New London County Pomona No. 6



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

NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Dec. 10: "We Need a Little Christmas" Norwich Grange #172

We will be having our Pomona School of Instruction as part of our program on December 10. This will be followed by our holiday program. It has been a long time between meetings, so please come out and support your officers. What better time than the holidays to get together with friends?

It's time for the holidays, time for some fun,

And it's time for Pomona again.

So come to the meeting, there's work to be done,

Sure hope we will see you again.

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: P.J. Toomey

Meetings on 2nd Monday of each month, St. Andrew Hall, 128 Norwich Ave., 7 P.M., unless noted otherwise.

In November we set aside time to repair or build new or existing stone walls and fences. That's when Opa and Papa did it and we try to carry on the tradition. Good fences do much more than keep your animals in. They mark your boundaries and contribute to being good neighbors. They can be simple such as flowering bushes, rose and hedgerow. Now is the time to plant trees and shrubs. Protect new plantings with a burlap wrap.

Soon Thanksgiving Day will be here and the cold of winter and snow arrive. It's time for me to finish up Christmas presents and get packages in the mail to our scattered loved ones all over the USA.

Evergreens always stood for everlasting life and looking forward to spring

in great anticipation for its return. Churches are decorated with boughs of holly, mountain laurel, ivy, local greens red or gold bows. Don't forget to hang mistletoe in your farmhouse and pluck off one white berry each time you steal a kiss! Also scatter rosemary and cedar branches about for a wonderfully festive fragrance.

It's the time of year to watch for sales on gardening tools. Clean up all the debris from storms. (This year we have plenty following Irene and 18 inches of October snow). Put non-diseased material in your compost pile and please consider digging up or buying a living Christmas tree and planting it outside when the holiday is over. Opa used to fuss a lot about doing so but we ended up with such lovely, pine, firs, and cedar trees about the farmhouse yard.

Colchester extends a very Merry Christmas to all!

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Dec. 9: "I'd like to visit... Bethlehem" Meeting at 7:30, followed by program and party

Dec. 23: No Meeting, Merry Christmas/Happy New Year

At our October 14 meeting, First Selectman, Nick Mullane, led us through the complexities of our town ballot and urged us all to vote on Nov. 8.

On Oct. 28 we held our annual Halloween party with nearly 50 people in attendance. There were costumes of every description and young and old enjoyed the costume parades and games. Downstairs the refreshments were plentiful and the cup social provided

a plethora of goodies for the eager ticket holders.

The Grange partnered with the Connecticut Academy of Martial Arts at the annual Pumpkin Festival to raise money for the charity. Over \$140.00 was realized for the bake sale. The money will be donated to the Wheeler Library fund and the North Stonington Fire Company.

December is a busy month for everyone, we know, but please come to our annual holiday party on the 9th. We will have a brief meeting followed by the program and party. Santa will be there with gifts.

If you are bringing a little one, please bring a wrapped gift for Santa's bag clearly marked with the child's name. And if my power will only stay on long enough for me to get this article out, next time I'll tell you about nice November.

LYME GRANGE #147

Dec. 1: Christmas Party, 3rd Annual Roast Pork Dinner, Awards Night

Jan. 3: Music Night

Feb. 2: Will he see his shadow?

We received a lovely note from our oldest member Virginia Gardner - at 97 years young. She also sent a nice donation to our Grange. She came to us via Clinton Grange, then East Haddam.

Our second annual Craft Show & Luncheon was a huge success. We added a Quilt Show this year, good food - wonderful crafts for sale and marvelous quilts to see.

We were lucky - did not lose our power.

December brings a delicious Roast Pork Dinner, Awards Night and lots of fun.

Jan. music night - oh my! Wonder what will show up? Pots, pans, harmonicas, combs, tissue paper-guitars? Come and see. A flute maybe?

We hope everyone will have a most wonderful holiday. Stay well and hope the weather behaves itself - no more power outages.

A new membership tool now available...



Joan Perry
 Membership Director
membership@ctstategrange.org

Hi, I want everyone to know that we now have available to all Granges, a small poster that can be used to list people and their occupations. This tool can be used to hang in your hall or it could also be used as a poster when your Grange is having a membership event. Please, as I have said before, just use the person's

first name to honor any privacy issues. I think that it should prove interesting to all active members, to see the diversified occupations that are in the Grange. We have more posters if you need them.

Our job is not only to get new members, but to keep the members that we already have. Let's be good neighbors to all of our Grange members. The Grange cannot grow if we can't get along with the members in our own Grange. The Grange can't survive if we don't work together instead of pulling in different directions. Remember, we can all agree to disagree sometimes. It doesn't mean any of us is wrong.

If anyone has ideas to use for membership, please email them to me or call me at 860-928-4229. I'd love to hear from you.

I want to wish each and every one of you a festive holiday season with my best wishes.

Southington #25



Southington Grange #25 recently inducted three new members. From left: Maurice Robitaille, Jr., with sponsor, officer Adam Marzi; Dolores Robitaille with sponsor Lyn Johnson; Joe Duplessie with sponsor Guy Boissonneault. Backs to camera: officers Mildred Bell, John DeSantis, Chet Bacon and Mary Bacon.



News from the Deputy Team

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

Todd A. Gelineau, General Deputy

Early in October a letter went out to all Granges regarding Executive Committee Reports. We would remind all Granges that E.C. Reports should now be submitted to the General Deputy, NOT to the State Secretary to allow for verification before it is filed with the State Grange. Unless you are on a different fiscal cycle, the reports are due by Dec. 31.

The Deputies Ritual Challenge will involve the opening & closing of the Grange this year and you are already entered! All Granges will be scored by the Deputy when your inspection is conducted this year... so you have nothing additional to do!

Schools of Instruction will be getting underway soon and we encourage all members to attend one of these meetings to learn more about the ritual and how to present it properly.

Happy Holidays to all!

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

Excelsior Pomona does not meet in the month of December, so we would like to wish all members a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Dec. 9th will be our annual Christmas Party-supper promptly at 6:00 followed by our meeting and program. Reservations are a must. We will have a \$5 grab bag.

At State Session, we were proud to receive the Silver level Honor Grange Award and a Should Auld Acquaintance Certificate. Also Lecturer Joanne Cipriano received an Honor Lecturer Certificate.

Now we wait to see what the Man upstairs has in store for us weather-wise for the winter!

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Linda Coad

Dec. 12: Christmas Party at the Painted Pony; Canned Food Collection

Dec. 18: Exchange Officers/ Neighbors Sunday Meeting; 2PM Christmas Country Store; Ref: Rob and Skip

Jan. 22: CT Wildlife Update; Sunday Meeting 2PM; Ref. Buzz and Linda

This year we are holding three Sunday Meetings. 2PM seems to be a good time during winter when many people do not care for evening traveling. We welcome all visitors that would like to attend.

WATERTOWN GRANGE #122

Corr: Mary Dubay

Dec. 2: I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas

Dec. 16: Christmas Party
First in December we have Pearl Harbor Day, we honor those that have served in the Armed Forces

in all capacities. Then of course we have Christmas, Joy to the World. We keep busy with shopping for presents, putting up the Christmas tree, parties, family get-togethers and the one and only Santa Claus.

Our first meeting in December is called "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas"... kind of reminds you of Bing Crosby. Our second meeting is our Christmas Party which is closer to the holiday. There will be a grab bag, a Christmas Country Store, singing songs. We love to sing and we are getting better at it.

At the 127th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange, Watertown was awarded Second Place for the Deputies Ritual Challenge and received a certificate for our Community Service. Barbara Robert and Mary Dubay were delegates at the session.

Watertown Grange would like to extend to all our fellow Grangers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Come and join us when you can, our door is always open.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Dean Perry

We had a very successful Roast Beef Dinner on October 8th. Nearly every seat was filled and we almost used up all our food. This time we had many more people helping and it was a pleasure to have them. Afterwards there was a hootenanny with Jeff Case and his friends.

Our Halloween Party was canceled due to the freak snow storm which wreaked havoc in this area as over much of Connecticut.

We plan on making and distributing food baskets

for shut-ins and people in nursing homes in the week before Thanksgiving.

There will be a regular meeting Wednesday, December 7 at 7:30 P.M. at the Bridgewater Grange Hall. This is the only meeting on the first Wednesday of the month. The Grange Hall will be closed for the winter months and any Grange activities will be in members' homes.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Phil Rowland

Dec. 2: Antiques and Collectibles Night- Show and Tell

Dec. 16: Christmas Party, Potluck Supper, 7:00 p.m. Bring a grab-bag gift (\$4.00)

Looking back, it has been a rather grim Fall season weather-wise, with a diet-

hitting hurricane and a severe early snowstorm. Sandwiched between these events though, was our Harvest Celebration which cheered us aplenty. With pony rides (large pony) for kids, small animals for petting, a three-piece country band, and loads of refreshments it was a fun time for all. Thanks

go to Master Maggie Buck and Lecturer Jill Zitnay for putting this delightful event together.

The December program looks to be a delight also. Haven't had a "collectibles" program recently; that should be fun, and the Christmas Party is always a winner.

Happy Holidays!

New Haven is Spooky!



The ghosts and goblins of New Haven County Pomona gather for a group photo at the October meeting.

Family Activities Committee

First - I would like to say a very large THANK YOU to Cindy Anderson for the beautiful hot air balloon centerpieces for the State Session banquet.

Second - Thank you to all the Granges that donate food for the Hospitality Room.

The 2011-2012 information packets were distributed to the Pomona CWA/Family Activities Chairmen at the session. If you have not received yours, please contact your Pomona Chairman or myself. I hope that everyone has started to work on their needlework projects for this coming year. We will "CONTINUE TO SOAR" this year so that you can get to work on your craft projects as well. This year we are replacing the Dress-A-Doll contest with a Decorate A Basket contest. Size limit is 12" x 12". Have fun.



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

The CT CWA/Family Activities will be hosting a Hospitality Room at the New England Leader's Conference which will be held in CT the first weekend in January. January 6-8. As such we will again be asking for donations.

Happy Holidays to all and keep stitching.

Conn. Farmland Trust Seeks Accreditation

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission is now accepting public comment on the Connecticut Farmland Trust's (CFT) application for Accreditation. With an office in Hartford, CFT is Connecticut's only statewide land trust and the only land trust dedicated to the protection of agricultural lands.

"Achieving Accreditation will show our partners and potential supporters that we meet national standards for protecting land and will make us one of only five Accredited land trusts in the state - and the only one with a statewide focus," says Jim Gooch, Executive Director of the Connecticut Farmland Trust. "CFT is a very efficient and effective organization. For every dollar raised, we leverage 34 dollars in conservation and our administrative costs are only 13% of our budget. But having the wherewithal to steward this land and keep our promises forever means more than being good right now - it requires a strong foundation built on best practices."



"CFT's task is especially challenging," notes Gooch. "We protect the land to ensure it will always be used for farming. People need to be able to do 'stuff' - till, plant, fertilize, harvest, sometimes even build - while at the same time we need to make sure the best soil is always protected. And not just for today's farmer or tomorrow's, but for the sake of the food we'll need 100 years from now."

There are over 120 land trusts in Connecticut; only four of them - all with a local focus - have attained accreditation. The Commission is accepting public input until from now until January 2, 2012 on how CFT complies with its national quality standards, which can be seen at www.LandTrustAccreditation.org. To learn more about the accreditation program or to submit a comment, you can contact the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 113 Spring Street, Ste. 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.



Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

The Public Relations committee is offering a total of seven contests this year. There have been a few changes to the six contests from last year to hopefully make them more appealing for Granges to participate. We also added a brand new contest as well. Let's take a quick peek at each one.

1) "Spot On" - 60-Second Grange Video Commercial Contest: 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. For 2011-12, the Commercial time has been extended to sixty (60) seconds in length, including any tags. Also, entries must reflect either the theme "Community Grown" or "Create, Win, Grow."

2) "Spreading the Word" - Connecticut State Grange Website Participation Contest: Spread the Word about your Grange, its projects, activities and events by submitting content to the Connecticut State Grange website. Submissions can be articles, photos, calendar events and scrapbook items (such as newspaper clippings and historical data). Submission period runs from November 1, 2011 - October 1, 2012.

3) "Show Us Your Stuff" - Grange Marketing Contest: One of the best ways for the Grange to reach the community is to spread the Grange name. Show us a collection of the ways that your Grange promotes itself in the community through its marketing efforts. The possibilities are endless. Some examples include:

- Hosting and then publicizing an Agricultural Fair
- Community Displays and Booths at local non-Grange sponsored community events
- Signage in your community
- Participation in internet activities such as having an individual Grange Website and Social Media such as Facebook and Twitter
- and more!

To enter, submit a report of NO MORE than 12 pages containing a description and photos/scans on how your Grange promotes itself through marketing. Note that this contest is not a community service contest, although it incorporates community service fundamentals. Entries should concentrate on the promotional aspects of the projects your Grange participates in.

4) "Convey the Message" - Best Grange-written Press Release

Contest: An engaging press release with an interesting 'hook' or angle is an excellent way to gain exposure for your Grange and can lead to publication in newspapers, magazines and on the internet. Show us how your Grange uses Press Releases to capture an audience. Entries must be an ACTUAL press release written and used by your Grange, should be less than 500 words in length, and follow the proper style and format as described in the Connecticut State Grange Public Relations Tool-Kit booklets.

5) "Let's Advertise" - Best Grange Event Poster: Set your imagination loose! Let your mind run wild, but be sure that your artwork relates to your Grange event. Submissions must be an ACTUAL poster designed, executed, and used by your Grange for an event. Posters should be a minimum of 8.5 x 11 in size (no limit on maximum size), and may be in either black and white, or color, and can be computer designed or hand-drawn.

6) "In the News" - Best Newspaper Article Contest: Research has revealed that the news media is responsible for influencing the thoughts and behavior of the general public. Here's an opportunity to show how the Media has helped promote your Grange through the written word. Entries must be an ACTUAL printed or published newspaper article written about your Grange.

7) "Creating a Buzz" - Connecticut State Grange Social Media Participation Contest: New for 2011-2012. Create a Buzz about your Grange, its projects, activities and events by setting up a proper Facebook or Twitter Page and then managing its contents. This contest is open to all Community Granges, Pomona Granges and Junior Granges. Pages must be active at any point within the period of November 1, 2011 - October 1, 2012. Pages must be set-up according to the guidelines specified by the Connecticut State Grange, and be in compliance with the Terms of Service of Facebook and/or Twitter.

All of the details, rules, and information for the contests can be found on the Connecticut State Grange website at www.CTStateGrange.org, and are also available in the BlueBook. The deadline for all of the Public Relations contests is October 1st. Entries should be mailed to Robert Charbonneau, 102 Spring Street, Meriden CT 06451, or sent via e-mail to publicrelations@ctstategrange.org.

We hope that the variety of contests will appeal to Granges of all sizes - as the saying goes, there's something for everyone.

State Lecturer



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer
lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Happy Holidays to All. This is the time of year when we place special meaning on family activities. Our own families are important to all of us. But, in the hustle and bustle of the season let's not forget our Grange family. Most Granges have parties or special activities of their

own. Why not take advantage of this to invite a friend or neighbor who is alone to join us in our celebrations.

This is also a good time of year to get started on our Lecturers' Projects. Why not write that letter to a soldier. Many of them do not receive mail from home. They are defending our country. Let's let them know that we care.

It is also a good time to start our Auld Acquaintance projects. Many people in convalescent or rest homes have outlived their family and friends. A visit, a table or tray favor, or some entertainment can make a big difference in their lives. However, please don't do this just once. They need to be remembered all year long.

Enjoy the season. Be healthy and safe. I'll see you around the State.

Community Service



Jeff & Debbie Barnes
Community Service
Co-Chairpersons

Congratulations to Ekonk Community Grange on their 1st place entry in Community Service this year. Their new major project was helping provide a "Home at Last" to help veterans have a place to live in Jewett City, CT. Their report has been sent to National Grange for competition and we wish them good luck.

Again this year we should all be very proud of the good work being done by the Granges in our state. We want to take this opportunity to thank all the dedicated chairmen who sent in their Community Service reports.

We received reports from 28 Granges. Total volunteer hours from Grange members was 74,107-1/2 assisted by an additional sum of 9,004 from non-grange members for a grand total of 83,111-1/2 hours. This is based on 50% of our subordinate granges. Would the numbers have doubled if all of our Granges had reported? Unfortunately, we will never know, and that's why we encourage all Granges to report next year.

The Dictionary Project continues to be very popular. Also support for local food banks, blood banks, shelters, foster children, veterans and soldiers. In short, if it betters your community it's worth doing. Does your community know what your Grange is doing?

If a member of your Grange did not pick up a new Community Service report form for the coming year. Please contact us and we will happy to see that you receive one.

We look forward to reading your reports next year and we encourage all Granges to adopt a ne community service project for 2012.

Granges with membership of 51 and over:

- 1st place: Ekonk Community Grange # 89
- 2nd place: N. Stonington Community Grange # 138
- 3rd place: Cheshire Grange # 23

Granges with membership of 50 and under:

- 1st place: Prospect # 144
- 2nd place: Stonington # 168
- 3rd place: Lyme Grange # 147

Youth & Junior Grange



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

EKONK JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Rebecca Gervais

We are thrilled to report 4 new members: Alana Messier, Emily Bonner, and Natasha Ignacio are all new to Grange! Welcome girls! Russell Sharpe (grandson of Russell and Sue Gray) has been coming with his sister and will be a fun addition.

21 of us enjoyed a few of fall hours on a hayride, a hike in the state forest, and back on the hay wagon to the Grange for ice cream sundaes. The path was a bit muddy in spots, but nothing to dampen our spirits., and we had the ice cream to look forward to.

18 of us and friends went to Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm's Corn Maze. We all had a great time, and the ice cream was awesome! We appreciate the tickets that were given to us. Thanks Jon! (and Rick and Elena) The Turkey Farm is such a fun place to visit. Lots of animals, a neat corn maze, delicious goodies....and so clean! We could've spent

all most all day. We voted to do Bake sales to benefit St. Judes. We hope to have our first one in December.

Also in December, we plan on going caroling to a Convalescent home, and have our Christmas program. We have started rehearsals for our play. It is titled, A Place in the Christmas Choir. 36 people were at our November meeting, and that was AFTER several left following the rehearsal. We are a lively and busy bunch.

We've love it if you stopped by. Feel free to call and see what's going on.

In Memoriam

- Jenny Bessel Redding Grange #15
- Marie Peterson Taghannuck Grange #100
- Sally Bradley Greenfield Hill Grange #133
- Myra Wheeler, G.S. N. Stonington Grange #138

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

Thank you

The family of Duane K. Wetmore would like to express our sincere appreciation for all the cards, calls, remembrances and words of encouragement on his passing.

It really is amazing how many lives he touched and how much he will be missed, but mostly how much you all meant to him.

Thank you again.

Chaplain's Message



Amy Whitcomb
State Chaplain
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

Greetings to all of you at this holiday season. As we prepare for Christmas and all of the traditions, let us take time to pray and meditate even when there remain many things to be accomplished. Try lighting a candle and letting your mind wander to another place of peace and tranquility. Thoughts of the holiday have to do's will subside and you will begin to feel in charge of your world. Focus on the light of the candle and let it remind you the light of Christ within yourself. Life and

light are manifestations of God. Two of the ways God is present in our lives. Christ's life and Christ's light took form as the Baby Jesus. Christ's light and life will take form in you as you manifest the love He has for you.

Each of us has the same Christ potential as Jesus. To the extent that we replace human willfulness with willingness to let God be God in us, our lives give expression to our Christ nature. When you contemplate the implication that you too could be the Christ, as Jesus is, deeply rooted fears will not keep you from embracing your Christ nature. Give thanks for the experience. You will understand Christmas as you never have before. You will understand it from the inside and you will experience it within your heart.

It is not possible you recreate this experience but Jesus reminds us "the wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it come or whither it goes, so it is with every one who is born of the Spirit." The words Spirit and wind come from the same Greek root, perhaps you can appreciate the similarity.

We may not be able to reproduce deep spiritual experiences, but we can create an environment where such Spiritual experiences are more likely to happen. Whether we call it stillness or silence I believe our goal is waiting upon God. I believe that upon some level each tome of waiting does bring us to an experience with God. That experience may not be conscious but none the less that experience is real. This Christmas will come again and we need to hold fast to our time and space.

Words of thanks from the Grays

Words simply cannot express what I felt when I was named "Granger of the Year" at the Celebration Banquet at State Session. Grange has been a huge part of my life for literally as long as I can remember.

Four generations are now active in Ekonk Community Grange No. 89 and our family have been active members for seven generations. We have so many, many wonderful dedicated Grange volunteers in our state that I am humbled to have been singled out.

Thank you!
Sue Gray

Thank you to all Grangers and Granges for their cards, prayers and thoughts for my mother, Marion Emmons. As of this writing, she is back home and pain free. Our family was truly touched by the timing of the wonderful article on my Dad, Austin Emmons in the "Do You Remember" feature. Mom was in Rhode Island at a rehabilitation hospital when I showed her the article. God Bless! Sue Gray

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*PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)			

Wishing all a blessed holiday season
Jody, Jodi Ann, J. Allen and Jaimie Cameron

Unto us a child is born!
Geno Baccantini & Karen Macdonald

Happy Santa Day from
Meriden Grange #29

May the blessings of this Season bring you joy and peace.
Gordon Gibson

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Phil & Maureen Prelli

There's nothing sadder in this world than to awake



Christmas morning and not be a child." - Erna Bombeck

Merry Christmas to All
Jeff & Debbie Barnes

"Let it Snow, Let it Snow" (just kidding)
Jim & Pat Palmer

Happy Holidays from the officers and members of
Coventry Grange No. 75

Happy New Year from your Friends at
Stonington Grange #168

Happy Holidays from the Officers and Members of
East Central Pomona #3

Happy Holidays
Ray, Cindy, Amanda & Andrew Legg

From our Grange to Yours - Merry Christmas
Beacon Valley Grange No. 103

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year
The Percoski Family

Happy Holidays from
Eloise Osuch and Malcolm MacDonald

Christmas Blessings and the best to come!
Killingly Grange #112

Merry Christmas!
Rob & Maggie Buck

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and safe holiday season
Carl & Marge Bernhardt

Happy Holidays from
Higganum Grange No. 124 P of H

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Grange Friends
Jane & Ruel Miller

Good Health - Good Friends - to all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Lyme Grange #147

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all
Ray Ruff

Holiday Greetings
Meehan Family of Prospect Grange

Season's Greetings from
Ruth & Scott Bill Kirst N. Stonington Comm. Grange #138

Happy Holidays from
Noel & Marcia Miller & Family

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from
Bethlehem Grange #121

Whigville Grange wishes one and all the merriest Christmas and the healthiest new year

Season's Greetings
Terri Fassio

Happy Holidays from
The Knaths

Happy Holidays from
Central Pomona #1

May the Holidays be filled with all the best of good things
Betty Jane Gardiner

Remembering Christmas in Connecticut in memory of
Diane Legg

May your Christmas be merry and bright
Joanne Cipriano

Wishing you blessed holidays and good health & happiness in 2012
Cawasa Grange #34

All of us at Norwich Grange #172 wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season