



Happy Thanksgiving!

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Connecticut Granger



Vol. 50, No. 2

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

NOVEMBER 2009

State President



Robert Sendewicz
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

Our State Session is behind us now and there will be much information about it in the December edition. Depending on when it was held, the Pink sash meeting may also be over. If it is the state committees have already met and set up all the programs for next year. All this information will now go to the printer for the Blue Book.

The Deputies will now be setting up schools of instruction in their Pomona. That is when the Community Granges will get their Blue Books and State Directories. This is where you, the Grange

members, can meet with the State Master face to face. I look forward to meeting you and discussing your concerns of the Grange and answering your Questions.

Normally the Pink Sash meeting would have been held after the National Grange conference, but because of the late dates this year it was held before National. So all the information I have to pass on to you, from National Grange, will be done at the schools of instruction. As I said I will also be available to address any concerns you may have. I want to talk to you.

Sister Marge and I are now getting ready to attend the National Session. This will be the last National Session that we will attend as delegates for Connecticut and I want to thank everyone for the opportunity you have given us. These sessions involve much work but they are

also enjoyable and we have made many friends throughout the country. We will be doing our best to represent Connecticut and the northeast region as we have a common interest in what happens in our region.

I cannot stress, too strongly, the importance of keeping up with our Grange work. That means actively attending our meetings and participating. You can also help a neighboring Grange by visiting them once in awhile. I encourage all State Officers and Pink Sash members to visit neighboring Granges. I can remember my earlier years in the Grange what a joy it was to have someone from the State Grange visit us. I can tell you they really do appreciate it.

Sister Marge and I wish all of our Grange family a Happy and Enjoyable Thanksgiving Holiday, and remember those less fortunate than us during this season.

Donate your time and talents



Gordon Gibson
Legislative Director
legislative@ctstategrange.org

Most towns in Connecticut held their municipal elections November 3 and the newly elected officials will soon be sworn into office. Many of these officials will not receive any pay for their work and others will receive a small sum of money that is more of an honorarium rather than anything approaching reasonable compensation for their

time. Some of the newly elected officials see their new positions as stepping stones to higher offices in the future, but for now they are volunteering their time for the good of their town. Certainly there will be differences of opinion as to what is best for each town and there will be situations where everyone agrees on what should be done, but there will be differences of opinion as to which are the higher priorities and how much the town can afford to do in any one year. Still, everyone is interested in improving their town. Much time and expertise in many different fields will be needed to research the various problems the towns will face in the

coming year. The Board of Selectmen or the Town Council cannot do it all by themselves. They will need the help of volunteers to serve on the various boards and commissions that will address in detail the issues their towns are facing. The immediate question facing most Boards of Selectman and Town Councils is who will be willing to fill the many vacancies on the boards and commissions in their town. There are similarities here to our Granges at all levels.

Anyone who has ever served as Master can tell you of their problems finding members willing to serve on the committees in their Grange. They ...continued on page 2

Pink Sash Meeting

Sunday, November 1

The Pink sash meeting will be held on Sunday Nov. 1, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. in the Cheshire Grange Hall. Deputies will meet upstairs and committees will meet downstairs.

The CWA committee will bring desserts and I would like the other committees to bring some sandwiches. I will supply the coffee, tea, milk, juice, plates, napkins and utensils.

The meetings shouldn't last more than an hour and we will break for refreshments. After that we will all meet upstairs for the general meeting. Everything should conclude well before 5:00 p.m.

I know there are some who will not be able to attend as I have tried several dates but please do your best. I would like to know in advance those who will not attend and if you need to report please send a written report.

Thank you all for all you do.

Bob

No Subscription increases in 2010

Todd Gelineau, Connecticut Granger Editor

First, I must announce there will be **NO CHANGE IN SUBSCRIPTION PRICES** in the near future. There was a great deal of discussion about the future of the Connecticut Granger at the recent State Session due, in part, to a resolution calling for a \$10 subscription price. All of us at the Granger were under the impression we were coming very close to going beyond interest income to cover the increased cost of producing and mailing the paper. As a result, a change was adopted by the board of the Granger calling for \$5.00 for non-100% Granges and \$4.00 for 100% Granges.

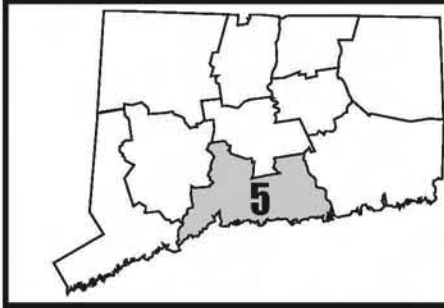
After State Session, State Treasurer Phil Bergquist examined the investment accounts of the Connecticut Granger Trust Fund and found that while our interest income is down more than \$10,000 this year and our expenses are up slightly, we are not in danger of using principal to cover our expenses.

Part of the problem is State Grange financial statements that are confusing and misleading. The day to day finances of the Connecticut Granger are handled by Granger Secretary/Treasurer Edith Schoell. The Trust Fund accounts are handled by the State Grange and Treasurer Phil Bergquist. I have asked Brother Phil to prepare a consolidated financial statement at the close

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New Haven County Pomona No. 5



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

NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

Corr: Charleen Dimmick
Dec. 6: (Sunday) 4:00 P.M. Cheshire, Christmas Program "An Old Fashioned Christmas" Potluck Supper to follow program. \$3.00 Gift Exchange.

Jan. 11: Regular Meeting at Totoket. "Our Youth and Young At Heart"

The September Program was about holidays in September. Some well-known, others not so much.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Charleen Dimmick
Nov. 18: Turkey Dinner, 6 P.M.

Dec. 2: Neighbor's Night
Dec. 16: Christmas Party, Open Meeting, \$3.00 grab bag. Card exchange. Everyone to bring a favorite Christmas treat.

Jan. 6: Our Reps in Hartford
Jan. 20: Garden Pests

We had wonderful weather for the fair and the dinner was well-attended. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this event a success.

NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35

Corr: A. Tolette
Nov. 3: Be Thankful-Bring Food for Food Closet

Dec. 1: Winter Drawers On- Bring food for Food Closet

Not much to report this time. The change to two year terms of office let us skip this year for installation. Strange to us but hopefully easier for the installing teams.

Ed Halkovetz has received a 65 year membership seal. There will be more awards before the year is over. Hope you treated the "Trick or Treaters" before they tricked you.

Be thankful for all

things great and small.

OLD LYME GRANGE #162

Corr: Barbara Kulisch
Nov. 13: November Things

Nov. 27: Omitted- Happy Thanksgiving

By the time you read this article, State Session will be over & another Grange Year is upon us. At our September 11th meeting, we made several suggestions to the Lecturer as to what we would like to do for the year & have also chosen our Community Service Projects for the 2009 & 2010 year. We feel that we will make a difference in the children's lives with their School Wish List.

We are in the works of getting in the handicap ramp that is so needed at our Grange Hall, not only for Henry, yet for many of our own Grange Members. Due to Henry's Chemo treatments, he has not been able to attend the meetings as his legs are not strong enough to support him climbing stairs. This is still a work in progress & we hope they will be in by the fall.

We are working hard to get new members & are very happy to know that some of "Our Winter Members" are relocating to Ct.. That will hopefully bring back her daughter & maybe even her husband?

Our doors are always open, come on down!

No Subscription Increases

Continued from page one...

of the current fiscal year. It is hoped that a statement containing the day to day and trust fund finances will present a clearer picture and keep us better informed.

Our primary goal is, and has always been, to have the Connecticut Granger reach as many Grange homes as possible at the lowest possible price. We were

very concerned about any price increase as it would strain Granges even further at a time when National Grange dues are on the climb again.

We will continue to closely monitor the trust fund income and will re-examine the need for price adjustments at the end of the subscription year.

Donate your time and talents

Continued from page one...

can also tell you that how much any committee accomplished depended on how much interest and commitment the committee members had to their work. If they had the interest and commitment, they could always find the time to do the job. The same thing happens when the Board of Selectmen or the Town Council is filling vacancies on their local boards and commissions. If the people appointed have the interest and commitment, the board or commission will do a good job and the town will be better off for their efforts. If the appointees accept the positions without commitment, the board or commission will accomplish very little.

Most of us have thought that our town should do something about some issue, or criticized how something was or was not done. But did you do anything about the issue? Did you volunteer your time and expertise to help solve the problem?

Have you ever served on a local board or commission? Much of our work in the Grange is based on improving our communities. We can always accomplish more when working together with like minded people than any of us can working alone. Let your elected officials know you are interested in a particular area or have the expertise and skills to help solve various problems in areas that interest you. Don't worry about political affiliations. In many towns the boards and commissions are appointed so that there will be representation from both major parties along with the unaffiliated voters. Your local officials are looking for people who can do the job, regardless of their political party. Our ritual admonishes us that, "There is work for all, and the idler has no place among Patrons of Husbandry." Then, when something good has been accomplished in your town, take pride in saying, "I helped get that project done."

Welcome to all new Secretaries



Edith Schoell
 State Secretary
 secretary@ctstategrange.org

Our year is underway and there are many challenges for all of us.

We must take a good

look at where our Granges are headed, and try to remedy any glitches. We have revitalization teams willing to come to your Grange and help you on the right path. Please utilize their services.

Fore the new Secretaries on board, welcome. You probably have many questions so please ask, either your previous secretary, or contact me at the Central Office.

Remember "you become the organ of the Grange" and prompt attention to your duties will make them easier.

To those Secretaries who have stepped down, thank you for all your work over the years. Please be willing to assist your successor in her new position. Remember when you were new on the job?

Have a Thanksgiving filled with many blessings.

Ask someone to join the Grange

Ted Beebe, State Membership Comm.

By the time you read this, State Session will be

over and the winners will have been announced.

We hope all Granges have used some or all of the

material we have offered throughout the year.

I know of some Granges that have taken in new members this year.

Make a list of potential new members and send them a letter inviting them to a meeting. Often they are just waiting to be asked. Let them know all about what the Grange has to offer.

We hope there will be lots of new members in the coming year.

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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 Weissmuller
Dec. 14: Dashing through the Snow- Colchester Grange

Jennifer Johnson and Linda Coats presented a powerful program at our September meeting. They explained how one woman has spearheaded a program in Zambia, Africa that is bringing hope to people who had no hope. The Chikumbuso project has built a school and brought jobs and money to a group of people devastated by AIDS. Mrs. Coats and Mrs. Johnson have visited Zambia and they had pictures of the school and people there. They brought with them beautiful bags, bracelets and eyeglass cases made by the ladies of Zambia. The bags, woven from plastic grocery bags of many colors, are said to last for years. Many in attendance purchased the various items. Money earned goes back to Zambia to help more families.

Hope to see a big crowd at our December meeting. Colchester will hold a brief meeting at 7:00, followed by our meeting at 7:30.

So now it's time to greet the fall,

With yellows, reds and browns.

Please come out to Pomona,

And we'll chase away your frowns.

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Joan Toomey

Well, the end of August and September we made up for the lousy weather of spring, June and July. I was at least able to start fall cleaning with the assistance of Pam. Bob cleaned all the outside windows while he was applying a new coat of white to this old house we call home. Pam and I took care of the inside glass and at least the wax dried! We have put away our

harvest and cleaned the cellar, woodshed and barn. Hopefully we will be ready for winter before the first snow.

Our Grange has had a busy year. We've attended many community events, done 3 or 4 tag sales, volunteered at local fairs, collected food for pantries and made sleeping bags for the homeless.

We will strive to keep busy this next year. Come and visit...

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

Nov. 13: "A Spoonful of Sugar" Sue Bolen- Talk on Swine Flu

Nov. 27: No Meeting- Happy Thanksgiving

Jody Cameron and his excellent team installed Master Robert Miner and his slate of officers on September 11 in an impressive candelight ceremony. Jason Miner was in charge of refreshments, so, as usual, we enjoyed a veritable feast.

On September 25 we learned about a unique form of diagnosing illnesses from Dr. Carol Stanton from the Wellness Center in Westerly. It piqued the interest of many in attendance.

On Nov. 13, Sue Bolen from the American Red Cross will give a talk on the H1N1 virus (Swine Flu). This topic is certainly timely and we hope many will attend this informative program.

Looking forward to December, be sure to circle the 11th. It is our annual Christmas party beginning at 7:30. Another enjoyable evening is caroling around town to our Golden Sheaf members. it is not only fun because we get to see friends whom we have not seen for a while, but we end up at a local restaurant for pizza after the singing is over. Please join us. And

if the little mouse who has taken up residence in my attic will just leave me a few things unchewed, next time I'll tell you all about outstanding October.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Dick Chapman

Nov. 5: Color Us Brown with the CWA

Dec. 3: Color Us Christmasy

Winston Churchill once said "I cannot pretend to feel impartial about colors. I rejoice with the brilliant ones and am genuinely sorry for the poor browns." Well, we'll have a little fun with those "poor browns" during our November program to be presented by the CWA Chairman Kathy will also cover what's new in her department as well as promoting their now famous 50¢ table.

We're working on creating a historical plaque for our hall and our Nickels for the Needy project is off to a great start

Let's Celebrate again- November 13 happens to be National Indian Pudding Day! Atg meal time, early Americans at it first- we eat it last with vanilla ice cream on top- some even love it for breakfast with half & half. Yum, yum.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

STONINGTON GRANGE #168

Corr: Jeff Barnes

Nov. 12: A is for Apple

Our November meeting will feature the Lecturer's Complete Program. Come learn how many things "apple" applies to. We hear that there are hundreds and she will try to prove it!

We have received and approved two membership applications from some neighbors who have been formerly "Friends of the Grange." They will be very welcome as active members. We plan to perform the Obligation Ceremony at our October meeting.

Congratulations are in order to Debbie Barnes on placing second on her latch hook rug in New England competition at the Big E. Good job! We also had some members help out at the New England Grange building store during the fair.

Lyme Grange No. 147 Honors Members



Penny Sisk and Ronald Purinton receive their 50 year Golden Sheaf Certificates.

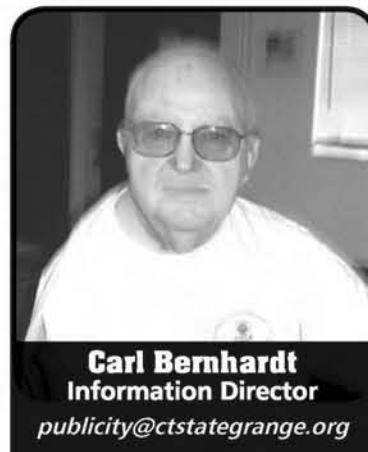


Alione Stark Cone receives her 60 year seal.



Rosemarie Fox (left) and Ruth Young receiving their 65 year seals.

Off to National



Carl Bernhardt
 Information Director
 publicity@ctstategrange.org

Last year at this time we were all preparing for the arrival of the National Grange in Cromwell. This year we can relax for a new hosting committee is in charge. Connecticut will still have a small delegation attending National in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

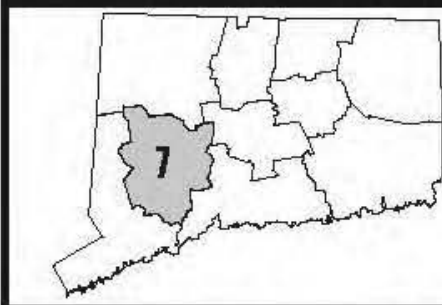
All of the Granges should have started planning their year's activities. In

your plans you should include your advertising campaign for the year. This should include getting your meeting announcement in the local newspapers as well as spreading the word to all your friends and neighbors.

For those Granges that own their own halls, do the residence in your town know where your hall is located? One of the best ways to advertise its location is by placing a large Grange Emblem on the front of the hall. The National Grange Store has a 21" by 26" Town Marker Sign available for \$30.00 plus shipping. All of the halls I have seen have the name of the Grange posted on them, but only a few have the Grange Emblem as well.

Another method of advertising the Grange is by making posters and placing them in the windows of your local stores or supermarkets. One of the best places to put these posters is near the store's entrance or exit. Those members that have access to a computer can use them to make their posters. If you need assistance in getting started making these posters, just contact me.

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

Nov. 18: Backyard Adventure

Excelsior Pomona will meet on November 18, 2009 at the Prospect Senior Center at 7:30 P.M.

The theme for the program by Lecturer Jean Meehan is called Backyard Adventure. Visiting Pomona members are always welcome. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

We have started our theme of "Old MacDonald's Farm" and have enjoyed a program on "Cats." Our November 13 meeting will be "Turkeys." Pat and Ron Fischer will supply the refreshments. November 27th we will be decorating for the holidays.

On November 7 we will host the annual Roast Beef Dinner and Bazaar.

We need volunteers to man our table and items to sell. All donations will be appreciated. We could also use some help in the kitchen.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Linda Coad

Nov. 23: Turkey Dinner & Awards Night, Country Store; 7:00 P.M.

Bethlehem Fair saw about 100 entries in the Lillian Merrill Baking Contest, sponsored by Bethlehem Grange. However, only two Granges put up displays. At a time when there are not many venues to showcase what the Grange is and does, this is great advertising and a way to earn a cash prize. Hopoeffully next year there will be more interest.

WATERTOWN GRANGE #122

Corr: Mary Dubay

Nov. 6: Harvest Time

Nov. 20: Turkey Platter

In November we have Veterans Day, a time for

us to honor our veterans of all wars with parades and laying of wreaths at the Veterans Memorials. Also we have a favorite holiday, Thanksgiving. This is a time for family get-togethers with turkey and all the trimmings and to give thanks along the way.

Our first meetings program in November is called Harvest Time, by the Lecturer. Goes along with the time of the year, Fall or Autumn, a colorful time to be sure.

Our second meeting is called Turkey Platter which of course goes along with the holiday.

Barbara Robert and Mary Dubay were elected delegates to the 125th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange to be held at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Meriden, CT.

Our CWA Chairman Malinda will have a table at the annual Roast Beef Dinner and Bazaar held at Beacon Valley Grange.

Since our last report we have had two tag sales and Master Sharon Thanks all who helped in any way.

Watertown Grange would like to wish all our fellow Grangers a Happy Thanksgiving. Come and join us when you can, we love company.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Phil Rowland

Nov. 6: Wonders of Fall

Nov. 20: Thanksgiving, Turkey & Potluck Supper, 7 P.M.

Lecturer Jeanne reliably presents interesting programs, so do not wonder or worry about the one planned for Nov. 6. Then on the 20th, Loretta has promised to take a turkey, counting on others to furnish the fixins'. Should be a blast!

Hall work continues by a Troop One Eagle Scout candidate. The whole

basement floor has been repainted and it looks great; windows are to be redone next.

The Grange's donation

to the Cat-Nap Project has been delivered to State.

Evelyn Hill is improving after a hip fracture and has returned home. She

has been missed at Grange meetings!

Happy Thanksgiving to All!

Congratulations to all!



Marge Bernhardt
 State Lecturer

lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Congratulations to all our winners at State Session. We had the largest number of entries in all the contests since I became your Lecturer. Believe me when I say the judges had a really hard time and in a couple of instances they changed their minds and then changed them back again. The biggest winner was our Grange. You all benefit from the entries.

WHAT DOES THE GRANGE MEAN TO YOU?? The following is the 1st place winner in the essay contest.

"At age 5, I joined the Juvenile Grange. It was the place to go and have a good time. I wasn't thinking about the ritual.

Age 14, I joined the "big Grange" by now an important part of my life.

Now 73, I don't know what I would be doing if I didn't have the Grange. It gives me a purpose in life. Being Lecturer keeps my mind active thinking of programs to put on. Helping with community service projects fills my days which otherwise would be lonely.

No matter what your age, the Grange has a place for you."

This First Place Essay was written by Joanne Cipriano of Beacon Valley Grange. Other winners in this contest were 2nd - Sue Gray, Ekonk Community Grange; and 3rd - Barbara Kulisch, Old Lyme Grange. An Honorable Mention was

given to Helene Forrest, Hillstown Grange.

Winners in the Complete Program Contest were 1st - Russell Gray, Ekonk Community Grange; 2nd - Sue Pianka, North Stonington Grange; 3rd Maryanne Stone, Manchester Grange. Honorable Mentions were given to Barbara Kulisch, Old Lyme; Debbie Barnes, Stonington Grange; and, Joanne Cipriano, Beacon Valley Grange.

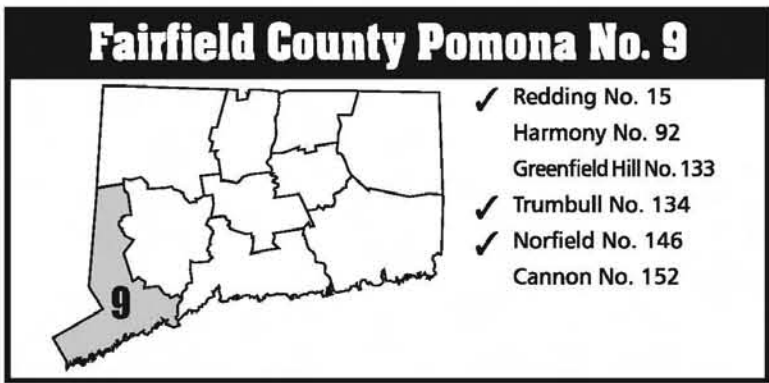
Don't wait until the last minute. Now is the time to start thinking about next years contests. Your Lecturer will have a complete list by Nov. 1st.

It was nice seeing so many of you at State Session. By the time you read this, we will probably be on our way to National, but when we get back I hope to see you around the State.



Above - Members receive their certificates for participation in the 2009 Lecturer's Department programs. Below - Members reprise their roles in the 2009 NE Lecturer's Conference program.





FAIRFIELD CTY POMONA #9

Corr: Karen Macdonald

November gets us all in the mood for the holidays thinking, recipes remembered, songs, visiting family and friends and celebrating. Granges always have so many activities to come in from the chills and enjoy fellowship and fun.

Please check your new Grange calendars to mark upcoming events including holiday parties.

REDDING GRANGE #15

Corr: Marge Sendewicz

Nov.7: Tag & Bake Sale.— 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Nov. 9: Salute Our Veterans

Nov. 23: We Give Thanks

Dec.14: Christmas Supper- 6:30 p.m. \$1.00 Grab Bag

Now that the State Session is behind us we at Redding Grange are ready to start this year's Grange work. And what better way to start than with a tag and bake sale. Come to our hall and pick up some sweet treats and maybe that elusive item you have been looking for. You might find that perfect gift for someone.

If you can't make the tag sale come to one of our meetings and join in on the fun. We welcome all visitors and give them an enjoyable time. This is especially true at the December meeting and supper. There is a good chance that Santa will show up with goodies for all. Be in a singing mood because we do a lot of caroling.

Bob and I will be in Grand Rapids Michigan from the 15th to the 22nd of this month. I guess you know why but we'll be back for Thanksgiving. Speaking of which, we wish you all a Happy Holiday.

TRUMBULL GRANGE #134

Corr: Sue Sulier

Hi, fellow Grangers and welcome to the month of November, when we spend quality time with our loved ones while feasting on the traditional Thanksgiving fare of turkey, gravy, dressing, mashed potatoes and candied yams. Of course, no Thanksgiving dinner would be complete without partaking in delicious homemade pumpkin and apple pies for desert.

Now onto the Grange stuff—

Congratulations to our Overseer, Pat Gerckens who is being honored as the AARP CT's 2009 Volunteer Specialist of the Year. Pat was selected for this prestigious award because of her dedication in assisting the AARP's mission in CT, through her advocacy work and her position as the Southwest CT Zone Coordinator for the AARP Driver Safety Program. As us Grangers know, Pat is very active in many other volunteer organizations, including the Grange. Pat is most deserving of every award she has received and we are all very proud of her.

More Good News – Our Fran Dougherty recently had knee surgery and is doing so well she hopes to again be able to attend our meetings.

We recently celebrated the joint birthdays of our Treasurer, Valerie Barrachina and Harmony Grange's, Gilbert Standley.

Our Connie Birois has moved and is now a first floor resident of St. Joseph's Manor in Trumbull.

Featured CT AARP Column #5 - Are you confused about health reform and how it may affect you? If so, the AARP now has a dedicated Webpage, www.aarp.org/

getthefacts that provides seniors and others with non-partisan information about this important topic that affects us all. The page is updated regularly with new information so you can stay informed and keep abreast of all the latest developments happening in Washington, D.C. If you still have questions, call toll-free: 1-866-AARP-449 (1-866-227-7449).

In closing, I wish you all a very Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving, filled with great food, great conversation, and most importantly love.

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

Nov. 10: Neighbor's Night, Supper 6:30, Country Store

Dec. 8: Holiday Supper, 6:30, Santa, Grab Bag

Join in the "Catnip Capers"



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

Ruth Herbele, State W.A. Committee

Another Big E is over, and as usual, all the Granges came through with flying colors. All six states say, "Thank You!" Now it's time to start creating all over again- a good way to keep from being bored.

Our regional meetings are underway. There are still two in November - on the 7th at Good Will and on the 14th in Cheshire.

At our Installation of Officers in September, we were fortunate to name Randy Mille,r Master, Marge Sendewicz, Overseer and Sue Sulla, Lecturer, as our top officers once again. We're off to a wonderful start! Bob Sendewicz was our Installing Officer, assisted by Marge Sendewicz. It was good to have Joan Ziegler back at the piano, as accompanist.

At that meeting a motion was passed to send Ted Coley to the State Session. And it was also announced that two of our Grangers won second prizes at the "Let's Celebrate" contest at Pomona. Marge Sendewicz won two prizes: one for her yarn-on-canvas toilet paper cover and one for her crocheted baby blanket. Betty Miller won a second prize for her handmade

knitted scarf and hat. Congratulations to both!

We draped the Charter for Arlene Nowak, whom we mentioned last month, and for Mary Condors, the much loved sister of Tony Lagana. Mary and her husband once owned the Shack Restaurant in Darien, and Mary was a familiar and happy presence at many of our past suppers and parties.

We must end with some disquieting news. Sue Sulla (as of October 3) is now resting at Honey Hill Care Center after hemorrhaging and being rushed to Norwalk Hospital. And Matt McCullough, son of Charlie and Peg McCullough, is back flying a helicopter in Iraq for the second time. May God keep both of these precious people safe.

This year's theme is "Catnip Capers." Guess you know who likes cats. Judging will take place on Friday, July 23, 2010 in Cheshire Grange Hall. Items will be left and judged in private. At 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, July 24, all items will be displayed, with awards, for public viewing. This way, the judges will not need more helpers. Mark your next year's calendar so you will have the day open.

Our ten classes in the needlework contest remain the same. We will again include the Dress-A-Doll category. This is only for our state and members of the Grange.

A great big thank you to all who made "Cat Nip Theme" gifts. Those were

for Foster Families. They were pajamas, toothbrush, and toothpaste in a cloth bag, sizes from babies to teens. Also, we can't forget all the gifts for Covenant to Care. It's always very heart warming to see the racks filled with gifts at State Session. Keep up the wonderful work.

Keep those hands busy, and needles flying, working on items for the Needlework and Craft Contests.

Remember, when you have all that craft and needlework material out, please make an extra item for the Grange Country Store in the New England Grange Building at the Big E. It will be greatly appreciated.

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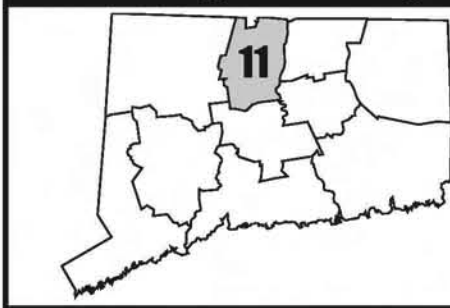


MAIN OFFICE:
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BRANCH OFFICES:
270 Broad Street, Manchester • 55 Curtis Street, New Britain



Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11



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

FARMINGTON VALLEY POMONA #11

Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner
Nov. 16: "Pumpkin Season"

A number of our people were involved in the activities at the Fall Big E and were happy that the country store in the Grange Building had its best year ever.

Most of our Granges were well represented at the State Grange Convention and were recognized for accomplishments. Our Pomona Delegate was Bob Brockett.

We are well into the "pumpkin season" as the Lecturer will tell us at our next meeting.

The new Pomona Handbook has been distributed- come visit us!

GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: Vivian C. Shaw

Nov. 13: Thanksgiving Program

Nov. 21 & 28: Christmas Tag Sales, 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Nov. 28: Public Setback Card Party, 7 P.M.

Judge was Sue Addison from Winchester Grange. First place winners of the State Baking Contests at the 2009 Granby Grange Agricultural Fair two

crust Apple Pie Contest- Carol Innes. Adult baking contest Cardamon & Cherry Braided Bread- Lois Newmann.

Junior Baking Contest Cinnamon- Crumb blueberry coffeecake Victoria Sweet.

Coin guessing won cake by Nancy Silkey.

Grocery Basket raffles by 1- Teddy Cutler, 2- Carol Innes, and 3- Lila Innes.

TUNXIS GRANGE #13

Corr: Pam Covington

Al Foster, our new Lecturer, is doing a good job!

The last program was on fruit and vegetables and the lesson learned was be sure to wash them to get all the pesticides off them. I had never realized it was so important to do this and I learned a lot on this from the program. Well done! We are all looking forward to see what the next programs will be!

Please check with our Master, Doris Shaw to see which week the meeting will be as we are not always sure!

CAWASA GRANGE #34

Corr: M. Schofield

We had a meeting on

October 1 and Sister Lin had a nice program. Sister Maggie had her hidden pictures again. It looks so simple.... but!

We have a delay on the anniversaries and Community Citizen Award, the dates are not yet resolved. Our bills are paid and the treasurer is smiling so I guess we are okay.

It was good to see Sister Jane and Brother Thad at our last meeting.

Hope everyone has a happy and healthy month ahead.

The Queen, speaking on her Mother's death: "We can shed a tear because she is gone, or we can smile, because she lived."

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner

Nov. 11: "Bet Thankful"

Betty Gardiner was our delegate to the Connecticut State Grange Session. We receive our Honor Grange Bar. We were pleased to place third with our Community Service Report. Congratulations to Chairman Al Kansas and the small number of people who made the report possible. Our Lecturer received her certificate as did the CWA for the things they accomplished. It was a good year for us.

Our winter card party schedule will be announced.

Meetings which take place at one o'clock with a brown bag lunch at noon, are going well.

The holiday season is upon us! We wish everyone a joyous and bountiful

Thanksgiving.

W. SUFFIELD GRANGE #199

Corr: Pam Covington

Nov. 10: We Give Thanks

Our Sept. 9 meeting had a good turnout of members and everyone had a good time! We were glad to see our members come out for the luncheon we have and they all stayed for the meeting.

We had a safety program that included some interesting things- dryer safety, falls, and remember school buses are now in use. Summer is over and schools are in session. This is also true of children on foot can appear between cars!

We hope you can come to visit us sometime as we all have fun!

Community Service

We are always amazed by the generosity of Grange and community members who give of themselves each year. This past year over 101,000 hours were give to better our communities and beyond. That's right 101,000 hours. What an impact on those you helped.

We are pleased to report Prospect Grange received first place for their report for Granges with members 50 and under, and Ekonk Community Grange placed first for grange 51 members and above. Ekonk Community Grange was awarded "Best in Show" by the judges.

As the holiday season approaches now is a good time for your Grange to reach out to those in need or those who just need a little lift. Remember, sometimes little project, or simple acts of kindness make a greater impact than large scale projects. There are many ways to give a little extra

this year, we know finances for many are slim, but just visiting a shut in and being a friend to someone is all it takes. Simple acts of kindness, that's it. You will lift someone's spirits and you too will feel like a million bucks. True kindness costs nothing.

It is our goal for 2010 to have 100% of all Granges submit a completed Community Service Report. We will be recognizing all Deputies who's Pomona has 100% reporting at the next State Session. As we stated earlier 35 Granges reported over 101,000 hours, we are excited to see what this number looks like with every Grange reporting their hours. What a statement to the public that will make. It will truly show them we are here, we are relevant, and we are working, and working hard for each community to which each Grange is connected.

not do anything for the farmers because dealers could do anything they wanted with the price.

Gordon Gibson spoke a while ago of milk from California. This milk would be a week old before we would get it. I saw a farm in Idaho that had 14,000 cows and I heard of a farm in California that had 30,000 cows. There is no way that could be done here. Their biggest problem was getting rid of the manure. The thing I do not know is if all the milk is used for something and with the increase of population, why we have the problem.

The next time you buy milk, remember the dairy farmer.

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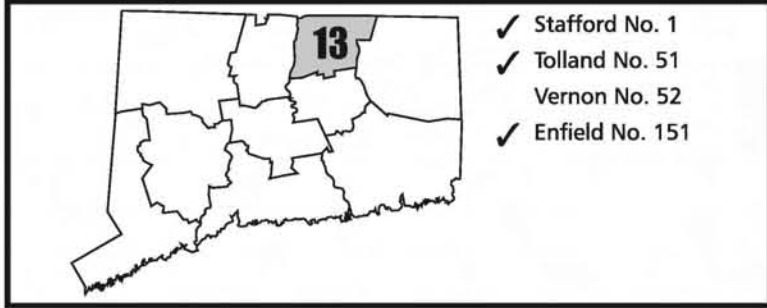
Ernest Finch
Agriculture Director
agriculture@ctstategrange.org

Poor Dairy Farmers - When I say Poor Dairy Farmers, I mean they are producing milk at a cost of \$3.50 per gallon, and they are being paid \$1.00 per gallon. I saw a lady at the State Capitol on Agriculture Day in March who told me

they lost \$10,000 in the month of February. They milk around 1,100 cows. I receive the Lancaster Farming paper, and they told of a meeting in Garclonville, PA where farmers were looking for answers. They expected about one hundred people, and it turned out to be around five hundred.

A lady farmer at this meeting that had bills of \$50,000 because her son was in the hospital and she had a milk check of \$15,000. There was a federal order passed in 1930 or 1931 to help farmers get a fair price for milk, but this order did

North Central Pomona No. 13



NORTH CENTRAL POMONA #13

Corr: J. Jordan

Nov. 12: Guests of Enfield Grange

The November meeting will be held at Enfield Grange Hall and the Agriculture Committee will be in charge of the program. There will be a potluck supper before the meeting. If you are interested in joining us for the evening, call Worthy Master Nancy Strong and let her know of your intentions. Happy Thanksgiving from all of us North Central Pomona Grangers.

STAFFORD GRANGE #1

Corr: Edward J. Festi

Nov. 17: Speaker- David Bartlett from Stafford Historical Society speaking on the Patten School Restoration Project.

Our October 20 meeting was Neighbor's Night with Ashford, Enfield, Tolland and Vernon Granges invited.

Kathy Hartley spoke about the medical issues with her pet donkeys. Tufts Veterinary School came to her aid to solve the mystery of the donkey's illness.

At our November meeting we will be told about the resettlement and renovation of the one room Patten School. David Bartlett from Stafford's Historical Society will tell us the story.

TOLLAND GRANGE #51

Corr: J. Jordan

Nov. 3: Thankful to be 123!!!

Come celebrate Tolland Grange's 123rd Anniversary of being organized. The refreshments are sure to be wonderful. So join us in the hall on the green at 7:30 P.M. Happy Thanksgiving to all of you from Tolland Grange #51.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: N. Strong

Nov. 6: Friday - Meeting

We are proud of our younger members, Jennifer Schirmer and Gretchen Hendrick, who won this year's Grange Scholarship. They are both wonderful, energetic, bright young ladies. Jennifer is also this year's winner of the stuffed animal contest at Eastern States. This will be her 3rd year winning first place.

Our next meeting will be November 6th. We will have Bob Hurd, Chairman of the Vernon Historic Properties Commission, who has helped secure the former County Home School as an Art Center for the Town, which he will talk about. We will be awarding him with the Grange Good Citizen award.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Nov. 14: Delicious, Peel & Slice- Turkey Potluck, 12:00 Noon - Don't be Late
Dec. 12: Ruby Red- Add sugar & cinnamon, Cookie exchange, bring 2 dozen to share

As I write this the leaves are just starting to turn and the smells of autumn are in the air. Our turkey potluck is open to friends and family, ask someone to come and join in a wonderful meal. Our program on apples will continue with what's delicious? We missed Louise, Judy, Joe, Julianna and Russ at our September meeting and hope you all are on the road to recovery. Also on the disabled list is Ann Smith who had a bad fall, and Richard Ference who is recuperating from knee replacement surgery. Get well wishes to all and we hope to see you soon.

Our booth at the Four Town Fair took second place. Thanks to all who donated items for display and everyone who helped set up.

Grange Growth Summit Pt. 2



Grange members (including Connecticut's Jeff and Debbie Barnes) gather for a group photo following the final 2009 Grange Growth Summit in Wytheville, Virginia.

Jeff & Debbie Barnes

We are pleased to submit this report on the Grange Growth Summit which was held in Wytheville, VA, September 11 - 13. This is a beautiful part of the country and we enjoyed perfect weather and great accommodations.

The Summit was well attended by 35 Grange members, representing 9 states, including State Masters of DE, PA, NJ, TN, VA and WVA. Also Ed Lutrell, National Master, Membership Director Rusty Hunt, National Lecturer Judy Sherrod and 2 State Membership Chairmen.

The Summit opened Friday evening with a workshop titled, "Choose Your Altitude." This was based on the "FISH" philosophy which all of us in CT are familiar with. We will note that attitude is crucial because leaders set the direction and members adopt the leaders' attitude. Also every member needs to feel important and have the right to be productive.

Saturday's activities began at 8 AM. We were divided into 3 teams of 11 members each. One team was to stay at the Wytheville Meeting Center for an experiment in building a new Grange from scratch, while the other two teams would visit existing Granges to implement a revitalization program.

By good luck we were assigned to revitalization teams and were placed on opposite teams. We

each had very different experiences.

We received scouting reports on the VA Granges to be visited. Both had low active membership, although they usually did have a quorum at meetings. They were not currently doing any major community service work, hadn't taken in a new member in a long time, met once a month and their Lecturers' programs were poor or lacking. Each of these Granges were located deep in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Remotely deep!

Team leaders were chosen by Rusty, Ed and the State Masters. These Leaders would act as facilitator at the revitalization meeting. Among the other team duties, Debbie was elected her team recorder and Jeff was "entertainment" for his.

We met our respective Granges around noon time and after about a 15 minute social time we were treated to a pot-luck dinner. These meetings had been planned long in advance and invitations and flyers had gone out in the communities about a special meeting at the Grange halls. Jeff's team was met by 6 Grange members and 9 guests and Debbie's by 10 Grange members and 4 guests.

The facilitator for Jeff's team quickly made good use of the large number of visitors by giving a history of the Grange and the reasons for its original secrecy.

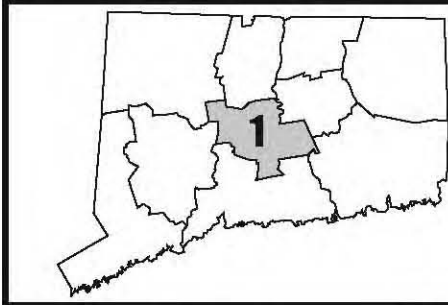
Members and non-members eagerly gave responses to questions about community involvement and projects the Grange could sponsor. Much discussion followed and more social events and a lack of local medical care were noted as community needs. A Community Day, already scheduled with the local fire department, could be used as a membership drive. By the time we were wrapping up 3 membership applications were filled with a promise of 3 more soon. The VA State Grange will make follow-up visits and maybe concentrate on helping with good ritual work.

Debbie's team adopted a stricter format for the meeting. 1) Why the team is here. 2) What are the needs of your Grange? 3) What are the issues of your community? 4) What are the solutions? 5) Prioritize the top 3 ideas. 6) What is the next step?

Discussion was low and hard to draw out until one of the guests offered to type a newsletter for the grange if supplied with materials. It would be part of the solution for community outreach. This seemed to energize the room. It was also discussed that the Lecturers' programs were lacking or nonexistent. The National Lecturer, Judy Sherrod, offered to help out by sending Lecturers' materials to a designated Grange member. This Grange has been a leader

...Continued on page 8

Central Pomona No. 1



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

CENTRAL POMONA #1

Corr: *Dianna Clark*

Dec. 10: Potluck Supper 6:00

December 10th- Potluck Supper 6:00. Hemlock Grange, and meeting starts at 7:30. Bring a \$5-8 gift to exchange. Mark the gift for a man or woman.

The CWA table is Christmas decor. The program is on Christmas Fun, and we should have a lot of fun times. Merry Christmas to everyone from Central Pomona.

SOUTHINGTON GRANGE #25

Corr: *Jim Lamoureux*

Nov. 7: Waffle Breakfast

Nov. 9: Business Meeting

Nov. 23: "Give Thanks"

Autumn greetings from Southington Grange! Now with summer over, I am sure that everyone is winding down the gardens and getting ready to bundle up. On November 7th, Southington Grange will host a Waffle Breakfast. Why not start your weekend off right with a hot waffle topped with chocolate chips or perhaps strawberries and whipped cream? Or maybe even fruit. There are many varieties and we will have them. Stop by for a delicious breakfast.

On November 9, we will have a regular business meeting and then on November 23 our program will be "Give Thanks". Martha Trask is our new lecturer and she is putting together some great new programs. Why not come down and see that they are all about. Martha is a newer member who is putting 150% into her new duties!!! She is going have us working and volunteering our tails off. Go Martha!!!!

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 7:30 p.m. (at the Southington

Grange Hall located at the corners of Summit Avenue and Knowles Avenue in the Plantsville Section of Southington.

MERIDEN GRANGE #29

Corr: *Diana Clark*

Nov. 13: Veteran's Day

Dec. 11: Christmas Story and Party for Neighbors

We celebrated Columbus Day on Oct. 9th and had a short play and we invited all the neighbors to come for our Halloween Party-trick or treat, refreshments served and party favors.

We had a dinner on Oct. 10th and was a success, as usual.

On Nov. 13 we celebrated Veteran's Day and honored all veterans. Dec. 11 we will have a Christmas Party for neighbors and invite everyone to attend and honor our Savior's birth. Merry Christmas from Meriden Grange to all Granges.

WESTFIELD GRANGE #50

Corr: *Phyllis Redford*

Nov. 5: Holiday Craft

Dec. 3: Stories Behind the Carols

Jan. 8: "The North Wind Doth Blow..."

All is well at Westfield #50... attendance at our October meeting was 53% of our total membership, Treasurer Carol Jarzebek was with us for the first time since her surgery in the spring, and two members were honored for long membership. Alice Kelly is now a Golden Sheaf member for fifty years a Granger, and a sixty-five year honor goes to Charles McInerny. Congratulations!!!

The second planting of Grange sunflower seeds produced two healthy, fast growing plants... each with a single seed head measuring 8 3/4" diameter.

We will be meeting in a Sunday School Room for the winter months... warm and cozy and visiting Grangers

are always welcome.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: *Maureen Sanbord*

Continued from page 7...

in community issues in the past, notably successfully resisting the construction of a new prison in their town. They had won the National Community Service Award many years ago. We left feeling sure that 3 membership applications were forthcoming.

The team given the task of organizing a new Grange in Wytheville did not fare as well. Four thousand mailings promoting the organizational meeting had been mailed to 7 rural route districts prior to the weekend. It is very sad to report that only 1 person showed up. Eleven eager recruiters were left with no activity.

Debriefing and much discussion followed back at the Meeting Center. We hope to learn how things are going with our new VA friends as time goes by. Explanation and use of the New Grange Builder Kit and suggested

Nov. 13: Thanksgiving

Nov. 27: Omit-

Thanksgiving

Coffee and refreshments

will be served following the meeting.

Grange Growth Summit

process for starting a Community Grange ended the day at 9 PM. We were very interested in a new membership application that National Grange will design on tri-fold paper for your Grange. You supply the picture and information you want. Might also note here that National Grange is currently fighting 400 companies who are using the Grange name. This name protection effort is going to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and goes on and on.

Sunday morning wrap-up included a demonstration of recording a Team Speak program, the computer-generated broadcast from National Grange. Also instructions for finding information from National on-line and a National Grange Communications Tool kit for using; Facebook, YouTube, Podcasting, Twitter and Blogging.

We sincerely thank the CT State Grange for this opportunity to learn and experience. We find that the problems we have in CT are common to all states that have Granges. Most important is membership growth and retention through energized subordinate Granges. Looking back on the weekend, we offer these personal observations which we believe are required for a revitalization program to be successful:

- An extremely dedicated team.

- A Grange that is sincere in asking for help & will stay focused.

- An understanding Subordinate Lecturer who will adopt programs promoting his/her Grange. And most important,

- a good showing from the community at the initial revitalization meeting.

Again, Thank you for this opportunity,

Proposed Session Schedule

The following is a proposed schedule for the 2010 State Session prepared by the State Grange Board of Directors. Delegates to the October Session received a copy of this schedule and were asked to comment. Please review it and send your thoughts to the State Master or any member of the Board of Directors. Some changes to this proposed schedule are already being considered as a result of the discussion in October.

THURSDAY EVENING

7:30 P.M. - Open

Roll Call of Officers, Roll Call of Granges, Introduction of National Representatives, Committee Assignments, Introduction of Business without Debate.

9:00 P.M. Close

9:15 P.M. Committee Meetings

FRIDAY

9:00 A.M. - Open & Introductions, Roll Call of Officers

9:30 A.M. - Master's Address, Reports of State Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Committee/Board of Directors, Legislative Committee, Agriculture Committee and Committee work as time permits.

12:00 P.M. - Luncheon- CWA Presentations & Awards; Membership

Awards; Information & Publicity Awards

1:30 P.M. - Business Session / Election of Officers

5:00 P.M. - Close

8:00 P.M. - Sixth Degree

SATURDAY

9:00 A.M. - Opening & Introductions, Roll Call of Officers

9:15 A.M. - Workshop

10:00 A.M. - Report of Deputies-General, East & West

10:15 A.M. - Business Session

12:00 P.M. - Youth/Junior Recognition Luncheon

1:30 P.M. - Business Session

3:30 P.M. - Report of Camp Berger and Connecticut Granger

4:00 P.M. - Workshop

5:00 P.M. - Close

7:00 P.M. - Celebration Banquet - Lecturer's Program

SUNDAY

9:00 A.M. - Opening & Introductions - Roll Call of Officers

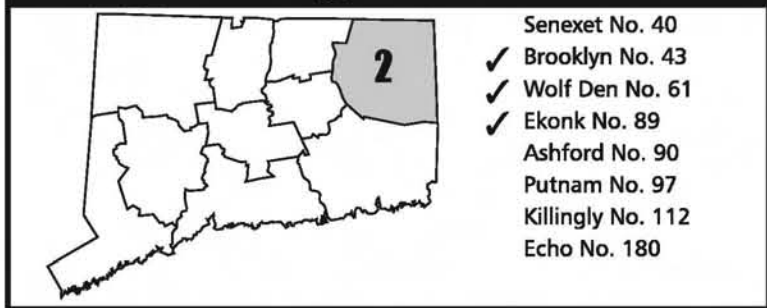
9:15 A.M. - Worship/Memorial Service

10:00 A.M. - Business Session

12:00 P.M. - Close

1:00 P.M. - Installation of Officers

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: *Elsie M. Johnson*
Oct. 14: Fall Event- Youth Comm.; Ref. Apples- Plus
Oct. 28: Potluck, 6:30; Halloween Dress Up- Prizes
Nov. 11: Election Time- Legislative Committee

Fall is upon us. Leaves are falling down- raking and garden clean-up, apple picking, Fairs- Big E, State Session-- busy season. Schools are in full swing.

We ordered dictionaries for the third graders. Tabs and cans are still coming in. Thanks to all.

Our Grange Hall is coming along well. Moving back in and the new room will be nice.

Time to pay dues. Check the new handbooks for coming events. Think about the holidays coming. Don't forget shut-ins. Send a card or visit if you can.

EKONK COMMUNITY GRANGE #89

Corr: *Sue Gray*
Nov. 2: "Thrifty Farmers" meeting/program 7:30 pm
Nov. 7: Grangers enjoy Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm Corn Maze! Bonfire at Molodichs: Katie in charge! Families welcome. Call Katie for details at 564-

1117.
Nov. 21: TURKEY SUPPER 5-7 pm \$10.00

Our October 30th Halloween Haunted Trail Hayride/program has set the theme of Ekonk Grangers this fall ("Ceaseless Activity")! Oct. 9-10-11 Grangers rallied in force to support the annual "Scramble" of bikes held on Molodich Farms. From 7 am breakfast until supper: hungry bikers and their families were fed by Grangers! Mike Molodich added apple crisp to the menu (a great addition)! This is a major fundraiser for our Grange and much needed to add to our depleted treasury!

Rebecca Gervais & Betsy Molodich headed up our Fall Fruit & Nut Fundraiser. Thanks so much to them and their assistants. Great products, reasonably priced!

Decorated pumpkins were part of the Oct. program & the pumpkins were donated to the Sterling Seniors!

J. Allen Cameron conducted his first meeting and did the Welcoming Ceremony as we welcomed Sarah Phaiah to our membership! Sarah's bubbly personality is sure

to add much to our active membership!

Rick Hermonot (Environmental Awareness Director) gave an interesting report on the "AgVocate" Committee recently formed in Sterling. Sterling is one of six towns selected for this pilot program. This committee hopes to branch out and ultimately form a Sterling Ag Commission, to serve as a voice for farmers and agriculture.

Barbara Cameron was

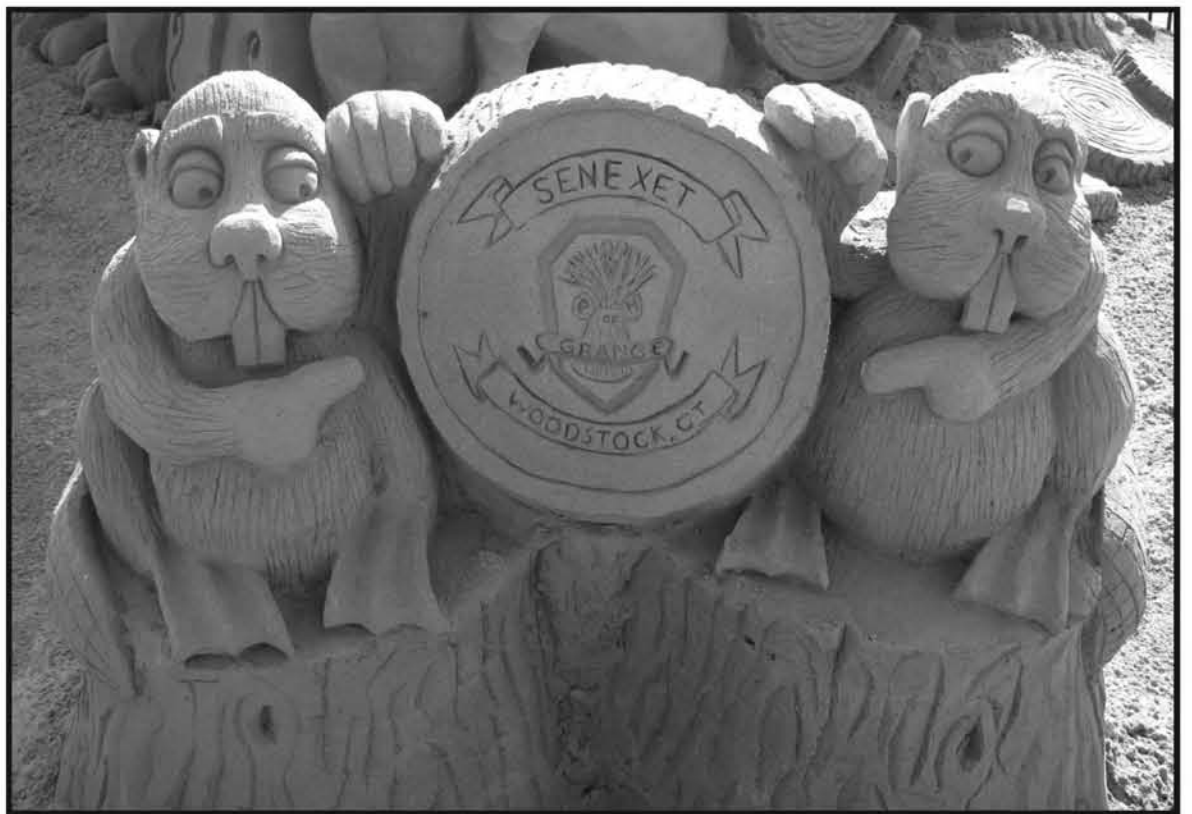
pleasantly surprised when her six children threw her a 75th birthday party at the Plainfield VFW: great food and fellowship abounded. She had not seen two sons for a few years (one flew home from Alaska and one from Arkansas)! While Barbara stepped down as our Chaplain, she is extremely proud to have watched her grandson be installed President!

Special thanks to Marion R. Emmons who donated

the new exterior storage room door, replacing the former double doors. The State Police and Insurance Company both urged the safety necessity for this after a break in. Marion continues to be a major Grange donor and her efforts are much appreciated.

15 Ekonkers enjoyed the Pomona "Stew and Story" recently. Feel free to visit anytime; the Hill is a friendly place to be!

Senexet honored in sand



Senexet Grange was recently honored by Woodstock Fair as a featured organization in its annual Sand Sculpture. Above, beavers hold a medallion with the Grange emblem. Below (left) the sculpture in progress and (right) the finished giant sand sculpture.



We were "Dared to Do"

Edith Schoell, State Historian

In reviewing history it sometimes is nice to recall what messages have been given to our Fraternity. If you have been attending State Sessions "for years" you will recall High Priest of Demeter, Woody Tucker enjoined us to "Dare to do." And it is fitting to take a portion of Duane Wetmore's comments to remind us of our task ahead.

"You and I must decide in which direction we want the Grange to go and the convictions that will make it possible to attain these goals. Do you want to continue the ideas and ideals that have been followed for so many years, or are you ready to make changes as we prepare to go into the twenty-first

century.... let us take the new ideas with a good road map, to show us the direction and be totally committed to see the journey to completion. In our journey so far, we have had to overcome obstacles in our pathway, and the future will undoubtedly be no different. But the future is our to mold as we see fit, if we but, "Dare to do." The door to the future is about to open for all of us, and while it may appear to be too big and heavy for you to open by yourself, if we all work hard, we can open it together. Once the first door is opened, you might be surprised how easy it will be to open each succeeding door and how gratifying the end results will be."

Connecticut State Grange

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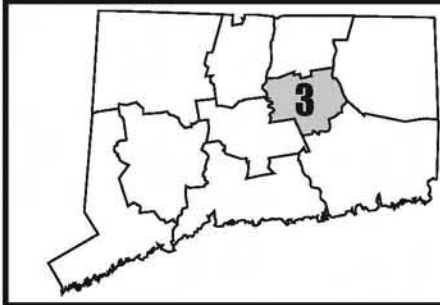
YouTube

www.YouTube.com/CTStateGrange

myspace.com

www.MySpace.com/CTStateGrange

East Central Pomona No. 3



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

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3

Corr: John Waterhouse

Nov. 7: Meeting, 7:30

Dec. 5: Meeting, 7:30

The new front doors have been installed! I think they look just great- thank you to all who helped raise the money needed- we are most grateful for your support.

The November regular meeting of East Central Pomona #3 will be held on Saturday, the 7th at 7:30 P.M. The title of the program is "Warm and Cozy." Sounds good to me. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kay Ruff

Nov. 5: Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Happy Thanksgiving; Refreshments: Queria Sullivan, Doris Monaco

Nov. 14: Monti Carlo Whist Card Party 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 3: Meeting 6:00 p.m. followed by our Holiday Party

Our card parties for the season have begun. We need more folks attending the card parties. Do try to attend and bring a friend or two with you. There is always plenty of delicious refreshments. It is a fun evening of visiting with neighbors and enjoying plenty of refreshments and sociability.

Please note that our December meeting is at 6:00 p.m. for those that can make it. The Holiday Party will follow the meeting. Remember that in place of the exchange of gifts we bring in childrens books that are delivered to the Glastonbury Social Service Department. As I am typing this on September 27th the meal for the party has not been decided. I am sure it will be really good, and also a fun evening. Hope to see you all there.

I wish each and everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Rita Schaefer

Nov. 12: Peace Comes With a Price

Nov. 14: Holiday Craft Fair

Dec: Christmas Party (tba)

Well, Autumn has finally arrived. The trees are showing some color and, of course, we are still having our many storms. If they don't get out of the system snow will be just around the corner. There seems to be plenty of pumpkins around and the apples are being picked. Oh! For a good fresh apple pie.

We will be making a Thanksgiving dinner again this year with the South End Food Bank. We did the Town Bank last year. We did 20 dinners. Probably will go to 80 dinners.

We did have our Agricultural Fair and in spite of bad weather we had a great many exhibits which we were happy to see even our Juniors exhibited.

We lost one of our 60 year members, you hate to see them go.

We had good baked goods and craft items.

Some of our new members have been coming and will offer a chair. Wish more of them would come.

We did have our installation with Manchester Grange at our Grange.

Probably by the time I write the next column we will be shoveling the white stuff.

Well, do enjoy Thanksgiving and thank the Lord for His blessings.

MARLBOROUGH GRANGE #205

Corr: Ruth Posuniak

Nov. 5: 11 AM - Marlborough Cong. Church Youth Room

Ref: Pauline Collette; Thanksgiving Food Basket Collection - Donate a puzzle for a Health care resident.

Marlborough Grange donated a box of tee shirts and sweatshirts to the VFW in South Windsor and the Glastonbury VFW packed

them up and sent them to our military men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. The packing took place in South Windsor

on Sunday, October 4th. A big thank you to everyone in our Grange who donated to this project.

Junior Grange Corner

our town.

EKONK COMM. JR. GRANGE #101

Nov. 6: Business meeting/ crafts 6 pm

Dec. 4: Business meeting/ crafts 6 pm

Dec. 11: "Christmas on the Hill" 6pm

Our Juniors who have now joined Subordinate Grange are certainly making us proud. Junior Grange served as a strong foundation for building leaders. J. Allen Cameron is doing a great job as Subordinate President; Katie Hermonot as Vice-President and the list goes on! Katie Molodich (Subordinate Steward) has GREAT ideas as Subordinate Youth Director. Jacob Gervais was Installed Junior President, leading a full slate of Junior officers. Jake is doing great! The Juniors decided to do a Thanksgiving and



Joan Perry
Junior Director

juniors@ctstategrange.org

HILLSTOWN JR. GRANGE #87

Corr: Rita J. Schaefer

The Juniors have been keeping busy. They have had their regular meetings and did have items in Hillstown's Agricultural Fair.

On Oct. 24th they will be having their Halloween Party, having fun and games. On Oct. 12 they expected to go to the new Connecticut Science Center. They will be working on Crafts after the contests and rules come out. In November they will collect food for the food bank in



Clifford Gervais, Program Dir. of Ekonk Comm. Jr. Grange displays his Best of Show ribbon received at the RI Dahlia Show and the winning dahlia "Thomas Edison."

Christmas craft and then deliver their crafts to Convalescent Homes in the area! We are always looking for interested children to join our happy throng.

Youth Report

Hi everyone I would like to thank all that brought treats or other goodies to the hospitality room. Once again it was a great success with all of your help. I was impressed with all of the scores on the youth activity reports. Though the count for the number of reports turned in was down the scores were higher and this meant that the youth were more active in their granges.

Having looked at the participation in the past years activities I plan on keeping the same activities for my final year which I look forward to completing. Thanks again for all of your help.

Mystery Meeting Place

For our November Mystery Picture, we would like to know what Grange meets in this building? If you know or have any idea, please let your Information Director know by telephone, postcard or e-mail. Just mail your answers to: Carl H. Bernhardt; 424 Cedar Lane; Cheshire, CT 06410, or call (203) 272-4620. Our e-mail address is: mbc76@cox.net. We would like your answers by December 1st. The names of everyone who gives us the correct answer will be printed in the January issue of the CONNECTICUT GRANGER.

The Mystery Picture shown in the September issue of the Granger is Whigville Grange Hall. Only two individuals correctly identified the hall, Joyce Relihan of Whigville Grange and Buck Baldwin of Riverton Grange.



Whigville Grange Hall

Resolutions Adopted at the 125th Session of the Conn. State Grange

The following resolutions were adopted at the 125th Session of the Connecticut State Grange. Resolutions that were printed in the last issue are only printed with their resolves in this issue. New resolutions/committee resolutions adopted at the session are printed in their entirety. The complete list of resolutions adopted and rejected are available on the website at www.ctstategrange.org.

1) RE: CONNECTICUT'S STATE CAKE

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange urge that the Election Cake, this piece of Americana, be placed on the list of Connecticut's symbols, and **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Connecticut State Grange Legislative Committee submit this resolution to the State Legislature for their consideration, and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Grangers in Connecticut be urged to get behind this effort following the guidance of the State Legislative Committee.

3) RE: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FUNDING

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Grange encourage Congress to appropriate the necessary funds or to establish a funding plan or program to meet the estimated \$400 million necessary to repair and properly maintain the National Mall.

4) RE: HIGHWAY ON/OFF RAMP SAFETY

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange request the Connecticut Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration review signage and the overall design of highway ramps throughout the state to make them safer and to more clearly differentiate between on and off ramps, especially when such ramps run side by side.

6) RE: MEMBERSHIP/ LEADERSHIP TRAINING FUND

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange create a new line item in the budget for Membership/Leadership Training.

7) RE: NEW GRANGE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

WHEREAS the National Master has challenged each state to organize/reorganize and revitalize Granges, and **WHEREAS** the Connecticut State Grange has a commitment to organize/reorganize at least one Grange and to revitalize at least one Grange, and **WHEREAS** the National Grange has established an incentive program that encourages new or reorganized Granges to meet specific goals early on to receive the following monetary awards:

- New Granges**
 - \$100 - Charter Application filed, obligated and officers installed.
 - \$100 - First report to State Grange filed on time.
 - \$100 - Conferral of all Four Degrees
 - \$100 - Net gain in membership after 4 quarters.
- Reorganized Granges**
 - \$50 - Charter Application filed, obligated and officers installed.
 - \$50 - First Quarterly Report filed.
 - \$50 - Four Degrees conferred
 - \$50 - 4th Quarterly Report with net gain.

WHEREAS these incentives provide much needed money for new Granges and, more importantly, forces these Granges to build momentum and to work together early on to meet these goals, thereby promoting the long-term success of the Grange.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange match each of the incentives as

outlined above to provide a maximum of \$400 for new Granges and \$200 for reorganized Granges in addition to the money provided by the National Grange.

8) RE: GRANGE REVITALIZATION KIT

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange establish a Grange Revitalization Kit to include (but not be limited to) the following items:

- Applications for membership that are specific to Connecticut, not the generic applications provided by the National Grange.
 - Meeting/Notice Postcards which are included in the National Grange Builder Kits.
 - Declaration of Purposes (the new full color, magazine format from National Grange) and,
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** to distribute these kits into each of the Granges in the state as part of the ongoing Revitalization program.

11) RE: A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ENDING GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS TO FILL SENATE VACANCIES

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange support passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution ending gubernatorial appointments to fill mid-term vacancies in the United States Senate, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the amendment require states to hold a special election to fill the vacancies, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the next session of the National Grange together with a recommendation for favorable action thereon.

13) RE: REAR VIEW MIRRORS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange Legislative Committee urge the State of Connecticut to require the use of rear view mirrors by bicyclists.

16) RE: CT INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SIGNS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange Legislative Committee urge the DOT to replace the faded signs on the interstate highways.

17) RE: WEIGH STATIONS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange urge our legislators to open the weigh stations more frequently, and impose fines for violations of weight and safety regulations, and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the fines be used to make repairs to our highways.

18) RE: REGALIA/SASH FOR SPOUSE OF STATE MASTER

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CSG mark our First Spouse with a pink sash worthy of this dignified position.

19) RE: FARM SIGNS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in the interest of safety, the Connecticut State Grange support legislation encouraging the towns in our state to post the familiar yellow and black agricultural equipment area caution signs where applicable.

20) RE: LOW COST INTEREST LOANS FOR FARMERS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the government should set up a low interest loan system to assist the farmers to keep their farms solvent, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange Legislative and Agricultural Committees submit this resolution

to the State Legislature for their consideration.

22) RE: HOLDING PASSENGERS ON AIRCRAFT

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Grange urge our legislators to enact laws limiting the time that a plane can hold passengers before allowing them to deplane.

26) RE: MEDICARE COVERAGE

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Grange urge our legislators to investigate for price gouging by these external companies, and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that our legislators be urged to promote Medicare coverage for this 20 percent of uncovered bills.

29) RE: MASTER'S ADDRESS

WHEREAS the Master of the Connecticut State Grange has reported to the 125th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange through his printed and spoken Master's address the completed work, activities and actions of the Connecticut State Grange, and

WHEREAS much time, energy and thought was invested in the preparation and writing of this report.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we commend the Worthy Master on this fine report, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange accept this report and order it printed in the Journal of Proceedings of the 125th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange.

30) RE: SOCIAL MEDIA

WHEREAS social media is an umbrella term that defines the various activities that integrate technology, social interaction, and the construction of words and pictures, and **WHEREAS** social media are primarily internet and mobile-based tools for sharing and discussing information, and

WHEREAS these emerging technologies have exploded in popularity in the last two years, with applications such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter leading the pack, and

WHEREAS the Connecticut State Grange has recently established an official presence on these social media tools, and

WHEREAS Grange members as individuals have expressed the desire to represent the Connecticut State Grange on the Social Media platform outside of the official representation, and

WHEREAS the Connecticut State Grange must ensure that its internet presence is accurate and consistent across all public and media exposure, and

WHEREAS this presence must effectively reflect the Grange's mission, vision and trademarks.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange discourage individual members from creating their own representation of the Connecticut State Grange on the Social Media platform, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange encourage these individual members to utilize the official Connecticut State Grange website and the officially endorsed social media sites established by the Connecticut State Grange as their social media outlet, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we encourage all Subordinate and Pomona Granges to take similar action.

31) RE: PRICE OF CONNECTICUT GRANGER

WHEREAS the production of the State newsletter Connecticut Granger has risen steadily for several years, and **WHEREAS** the cost of postage has increased substantially, and

WHEREAS the cost of subscribers has remained the same for more than 25 years, and

WHEREAS the low price of \$3.00 a year can not serve to cover these rising expenses

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegate body recommend an increase in the cost of the Connecticut Granger to \$6.00 per year for individual subscriptions and \$5.00 per year per subscription for 100% grange participation.

32) RE: SALARY REVIEW

WHEREAS the Worthy Master has requested a review of the Salaries of the State Offices of Master, Secretary, Treasurer and Lecturer.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegate body of the Connecticut State Grange empower the State Master to direct the Board of Directors to review the salary structure of these offices of the State grange, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Board of Directors report recommendations for restructuring these salaries at the 2010 Annual Session.

33) RE: UTILIZATION OF THE NEW ENGLAND GRANGE BUILDING

WHEREAS the 2009 Connecticut State Grange Masters address call the New England Grange Building a GEM, and

WHEREAS the time of the Big-E in 2009 produced more income than any previous year from the sales at the building, and

WHEREAS Mrs. Storrow preserved some of the historic buildings slated for destruction and set up Storrowtown as a typical New England village and desired to have a Grange building at one end of the green asked her architect to design a Grange building, and

WHEREAS the architect looked at the activities of the Grange and provided a convention center design with a great hall and breakout rooms, and

WHEREAS the New England Grangers contributed to the building as a place of rest for Grangers when at the Eastern States Exposition, and

WHEREAS a contractor member of the Massachusetts officer corps was able to hire local craftsmen to put the New England Grange Building together in the summer of 1938, and

WHEREAS an insurance company estimate of replacement value of the building is now in the range of \$750,000, and

WHEREAS workers at the NEGB are expected to spend only one half the time they are on the grounds in the building, and

WHEREAS Grangers at the Big-E have a great opportunity to tell people about the wonderful activities of the Grange because more than a million people come to the Big-E

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Grange members be encouraged to participate in the NEGB activities during Big-E through reading this resolution at Grange meetings, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Grange committees be encouraged to utilize the building during the non Big-E fair times for convention type meetings, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to the other five New England State Granges and asked that it be read at their annual session.

34) RE: CREATING COINS CHEAPER

WHEREAS it costs the US Mint 1.5 cents to create a penny – and nearly 9 cents for a nickel, and

WHEREAS with each new penny and nickel we issue, we increase the National debt by almost as much as the coin is worth, and

WHEREAS substituting a cheaper material could save up to \$100 million annually, and

WHEREAS only Congress has the power to regulate currency which

means legislative efforts are necessary for a change, and

WHEREAS common sense dictates that a change needs to be made promptly regarding using a cheaper material.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Grange work with other organizations to investigate ways of reducing the cost of producing coinage by using alternate materials, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Legislative Committee approach our Congressional Delegation for their support.

35) RE: "DO NOT MAIL" LIST FOR ELDERLY

WHEREAS many elderly parents demand their independence to live in their own homes, and

WHEREAS these elderly are constantly receiving unwanted mailings from companies and organizations seeking donations or purchases. And

WHEREAS many elderly are targeted for buying or donating to these mailings by well-phrased ads which address many elderly concerns, Social Security, Medicare, Investments, Medications, etc., and

WHEREAS many of these elderly mailing addresses are given or sold by organizations they belong to without their permission.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange work with our legislators to develop a "DO NOT MAIL LIST" program by developing a form to be returned to the mailer, using their envelope and literature, requesting the person's name be removed from the mailing list which would allow the elderly to deal directly with the junk mail originator and allows elderly to receive those wanted mailings, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution go on to the National Grange for their support on a national "Do Not Mail List" program, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that if this program works for our elderly that it be expanded to everyone.

36) RE: OVERSIGHT OF FARM PRODUCTS

WHEREAS the Farm Safety Act, H.R. 2749 has been passed by the House of Representatives and is in committee at the Senate, and

WHEREAS this bill deals with food safety for food delivered from the producer to the customer, and

WHEREAS this bill has both good and undesirable issues for both the large farms and small farms, and

WHEREAS the good points deal with the large industrialized farms and the food coming from other countries and whose facilities have the manpower for the necessary record keeping, and

WHEREAS the undesirable issues concern mostly the smaller local farmer in that unannounced inspections and considerable record keeping are involved and he/she does not have the time, the money or the facilities needed, and

WHEREAS the regulations to implement this resolution have not been clearly defined, and

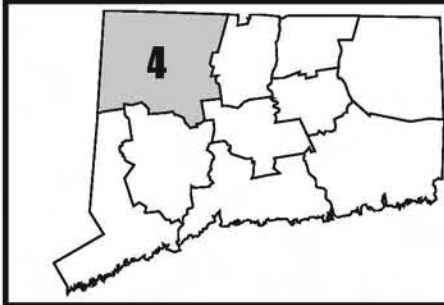
WHEREAS Representative Rosa DeLauro is coordinating with the Connecticut State Grange a similar resolution, and

WHEREAS the attending members of the Northeast Legislative & Agriculture Committees voted in the affirmative to oppose the Food Safety Act H.R. 2749 on September 27, 2009.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the policy of the Grange be that all food products on the farm, at farm stands, and farmer's markets, be under the sole oversight of the United States Department of Agriculture.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the National Grange together with a recommendation for appropriate action therein.

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



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

MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Nov. 9: Celebrate Our Bounty, Collection for Area Food Banks, Eureka Grange Hall

Dec. 14: Celebrate the Season, Gift Exchange, \$5 value, collection for Children's Hospital, Litchfield Grange Hall

Mountain County Pomona members are reminded to check their handbooks throughout the year for dates and locations of all meetings. The Worthy Lecturer has stirred things up this year by moving our locations around a bit.

Eureka finally gets to host a non-election meeting this year as they host the Nov. 9 Thanksgiving meeting of the Pomona. Poor Eureka has hosted the June Election meeting of Pomona for many years. It was always hot and we're sure many of their members didn't see much value in a meeting absorbed with balloting. This year they actually get to host a meeting with a Lecturer's program. Should be fun!

Mountain County Pomona did very well at the State Session having received an honor bar and recognition from the Membership Committee for a new youth member.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Nov. 7: Christmas Craft Bazaar

Nov. 10: News, Ref. Sara Bement & Sue Addison

Nov. 24: Comapny, Ref. Ben Thomas & Don Fancher

It's been a tough fall for our new Lecturer Sara Bement. Her first program had to be presented by past Lecturer Sue Addison as she was recovering from neck surgery. We hear she is on the road to

recovery and hope all will be back to normal by our first November meeting "News." The first letter of each program throughout the year spells out "WINCHESTER GRANGE NO.74!" Pretty creative.

We thank all of our members for helping us to confer all four degrees in September. We know it's a lot of work, but we are very proud to be able to confer the degrees in full form. Unfortunately our candidates were not able to attend but we hope they will be able to join us in the spring. We will be well-rehearsed and ready for inspection! Congratulations to the new members from our neighboring Granges. It's wonderful to see so many new members coming in. Keep up the great work.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: G. Prelli

Riverton Grange held its installation of officers on Friday, September 18th. Mark Prelli was installed as Master by the Prelli Installing Team. It took

Riverton Grange No. 169



Mark Prelli being installed as Master of Riverton Grange by his sister Gail Prelli.

Thank You!

The family of Dorothy W. Haller would like to thank the entire Grange family for the support, thoughts, cards, prayers and calls on the passing of Dorothy (Dot) to the Great Grange above on August 7, 2009.

The family of Dorothy W. Haller

several faithful grangers to learn the parts that Sister Peggy Prelli and Brother Frank recited for so many years around our state.

Sister Shirley Moore surprised her daughter Susan Bell Isle, by installing her as lecturer. Shirley has been Riverton's lecturer for several years and was very pleased to see her daughter continue in her footsteps. What a wonderful moment when Susan realized her mother had memorized the charge and as a past master of Riverton Grange, installed her daughter.

All of the members will be very busy serving turkey and ham dinners for the Riverton Fair weekend. No one will be busier than Sister Deb Hodge who coordinates all of the preparations and cooking. This is our major fundraiser for the year. On a cold day, over 150 meals are served in about an hour and a half.

The Riverton Grange Fair was again a success with wonderful exhibits of vegetables, flowers, baked goods and handywork. Each year we add a few more exhibitors to our September fair.

Our next meeting will be on Friday, November 6th. All are invited to join us at Riverton Grange. We begin our meeting at 7:30.

In Memoriam

Florence O'Hare	Southington Grange #25
Dorothy Rider	Wallingford Grange #33
Warren Sargent	Wallingford Grange #33
Ira Munson	Wallingford Grange #33
Dorothy Haller	Wallingford Grange #33
Eloise Terrell, G.S.	Totoket Grange #83
Elsie Jones, G.S.	Totoket Grange #83
Marion Mushal	Totoket Grange #83
Sonia Sadowsky, G.S.	Hillstown Grange #87
Arlene Nowak	Norfield Grange #146
Mary Condors	Norfield Grange #146
William McBrien, G.S.	Hemlock Grange #182

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

Chaplain's Message



Amy Whitcomb
State Chaplain

chaplain@ctstategrange.org

As we look forward to this season of giving thanks for all our many blessings let us fill our lives with humility. Humility is one of the most puzzling parts of our spiritual journey. Most of the founders of the values we hold close lived humble lives and invited us to experience the power and wonder of this life.

Today we are in awe of those with the courage to live their lives this way and few of us attempt to follow their example. Humility, we think is weak.

Humility is a mystery for most of us. God has great humility toward man. I had never thought of God as being humble, but if we are made in God's image and are called to humility, it makes sense that God would be the author of humility. However the idea of God being humble toward us revealed once again the mystery of the spiritual journey.

The truth is that God is humble toward us, for we are allowed to live our lives according to our values and desires. Free will is a great gift from Spirit, and it is an example of the humble God. Most people think our Creator as an awesome, mysterious power that is a part both of exploding stars and of the bird that carries a twig to its nest, and yet we can live our lives as we see fit. Only a humble God would give us such power and dominion.

You might think that God's humility is at the root of the problems of the world. How often have we asked, "Why doesn't God do something about war, famine, floods and our inhumanity toward one another?" The answer is that God is humble toward us. We can think our own thoughts, make our own decisions, and act with compassion or blatant, misguided self-interest.

Instead of trying to shape my life, I place my life in God's hands by seeking to become aware of the Presence. This consciousness then manifests itself in ways I could never predict. I let it happen and the meeting place between God's humility toward me and my humility toward God is my life. Spirit allows me to establish my intent. God is humble toward me. The next step is mine.

I can seek God, a consciousness of the Presence, or I can seek meaning in the world. If I seek meaning in the world, I am permitted to fully experience my choice. However, I can seek the kingdom and enter into the mystery of life and allow an awareness of Spirit to establish itself, not only as an experience but as my life. This is my humility toward God and when it is joined with God's humility, I am humbled once more by the wonder of what life can be.

My best wishes to you and your families for a blessed celebration of our gratitude for all our blessings.