



# the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

June 2023

## From the Master's desk



**Robert Buck**  
State President  
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As you may know, National Grange President Betsy Huber has been appointed to the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee by the former FCC Chair Ajit Pai. As a result of this involvement, National Grange applied for a \$1M FCC grant and was awarded \$420,000 to advocate the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The ACP will give internet service at reduced cost or possibly free to those having income at or below 200% of the poverty level. The National Grange has partnered with the Oregon Institute for a Better Way and Community System Navigators to put this ACP program out to the public. These are both 501(c)3. The former, under leader and Oregon Granger Misty Burriss helps to take projects from concept to action while the latter serves as a network to reach the public in order to promote a project such as ACP and then collect feedback information to satisfy government requirements for the supporting grant funding the project. The ACP is a two year program. My hope is to promote this through the Grange involvement in the Eastern States Exposition and possibly through our Subordinate Grange Fairs. Any

Grange or Grange Fair may sign up to be involved in this promotion on the website [acprc.org](http://acprc.org). Misty Burriss may be contacted at 541-530-3618 if you have questions. You may also call Amanda Brozana-Rios at 301-

943-1090. Navigators (individual people) would be coming out to these events to set up an information table and pass out handouts on how to enroll in ACP.

I often hear the sentiment "What does the National Grange do for us?" There are plenty of resources out  
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### *Influential Connecticut Grangers:*

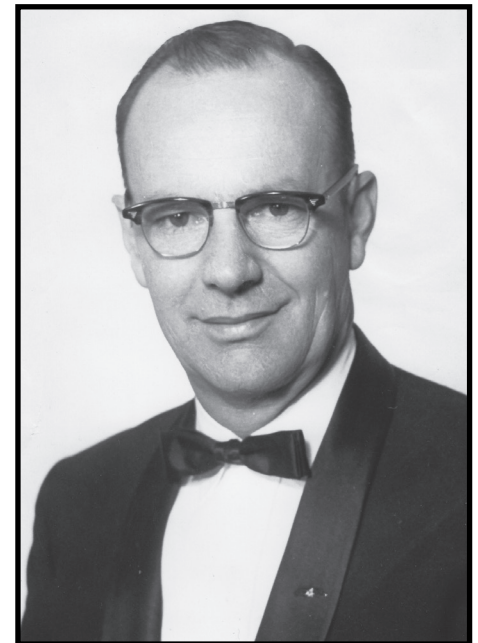
## Kingsley Beecher

*Todd A. Gelineau, Editor*

King Beecher is a legendary Connecticut Granger whose contributions, friendship, dedication and antics are woven into the fabric of our organization.

King's brother Ellsworth (Bud) wrote about him in his State Master's column following his passing in June of 1987.

"Many memories now come to mind of my brother, King. Some are humorous as I look back on them, such as the time King put a container of water on top of a door set ajar, hoping to get brother Don, but Gramma came through instead; putting some water in the oil lamps; when King worked for the State Garage and nailed someone's lunch box to the floor of the garage; when he nailed Francis Goodenough's hat and pipe to the wall while our Grange hall (Winchester) was being built. If you had a small hole in your shirt or sweater, and King saw it, it would not stay small for long! A batch of root beer would be gone before it could season. My father thought it would be less expensive



to buy a bunch of bananas at a time, but found out it was not when he saw the boys going across the lot to the barn, with a banana sticking out of each pocket."

King's flair for comedy in the Grange culminated with the creation of the "8th Degree." Copies of this "ritual" have not survived but many who witnessed it can't forget it.

Kingsley H. (King) Beecher was born in Winsted, CT in 1915 and lived nearly his entire life in Winchester  
...Continued on page 3



**Connecticut State Grange**  
A part of the National Grange



**NEXT ISSUE . . . Articles Due June 15**

# From the Master's Desk

*Continued from page one...*

there from the e-newsletter Patron's Chain and the quarterly magazine *Good Day!*. I encourage you all to subscribe to these. The former is free and the latter quite reasonable for such a professionally produced publication. Also take advantage of the monthly Zoom meetings from different departments: Youth and Junior Jibber Jabber, communications topics webinars

by Communications Director Phil Vonada, and Membership Matters with Membership/Leadership Director Amanda Brozana-Rios. Links are found at nationalgrange.org, as well as a host of other resources and information.

I would also like to share a concern from Communications Co-Director Terri Fassio, please do not ask her to make up publicity materials at the last minute as several have done. Try to plan your events in advance so you can give her adequate time to prepare materials and get them out to you. In addition to Grange publicity and website work, as well as the upcoming Grange book, she has a full-time job and health issues with which to deal. She always does her best to serve you all so be considerate.

The Grange now has an alcohol policy of which we have all been informed recently. As you will note, there is a procedure to be followed for your protection and to protect the State Grange. This had to be done in the way it was because all the Grange charters fall under the umbrella of the Connecticut State Grange. The issue of alcohol use in our halls is a serious one with serious implications for increased liability and proper procedures MUST be followed to protect us all. Read and understand this document. The policy is in place and now the resolution adopting that policy into our by-laws goes to the next Annual Session of the State Grange for consideration and adoption by the delegates.

I know that several Granges are in distress and have reached out to the Membership Committee. Robin Hettrick of Wallingford Grange #33 has agreed to join this committee along with Elizabeth Jensen, Barbara Prindle and Chairperson Shelley Cameron. I trust the capable folks on the committee to offer suggestions to aid you in your membership

development quest. This should be a very busy committee and as there is more work than can be done by four, I would encourage anyone wanting to get involved to contact me.

On May 13, I was asked by Susan Masino to represent the Connecticut State Grange at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor as David and Susan's son Jack Galt (Granger since 2014) was awarded the highest honor in Scouting along with three other young men and one young lady. It was very impressive listening to the projects done by Jack and these other young folk. Jack's project created an outdoor space for concerts and public events at Simsbury Grange, a great addition to their property and sure to help them serve their community. If your Grange has a Scout Troop nearby, consider contacting them to see if an Eagle candidate might do a project at your hall.

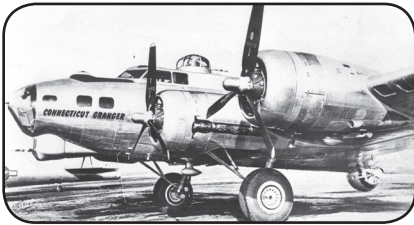
With summer coming, I hope your Grange is busy with projects, fundraisers, and fun events. Think outside the box and invite the public into your halls for informational or recreational events of your choosing. Do things that make the public want to join you, and talk up your Grange. Ask people to join; don't just hand out applications.

## Deano visits



On May 3rd, Cheshire Grange sponsored a special evening with Jack Lynn and his Dean Martin swingin' tunes from the 40s, 50s, & 60s. Lu Marshall and her family sponsored Jack to entertain us for a 2nd year. The show was open to the public and were asked to bring a non-perishable item for the Cheshire Food Pantry. A tea-cup auction was held afterwards.

### the Connecticut Granger Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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Vice President . . . . . Terri Fassio  
Treasurer . . . . . Jody Cameron  
Secretary . . . . . Noel Miller

#### DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the  
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*Influential Connecticut Grangers:*

## Kingsley Beecher

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Center.

He was one of seven children which included three brothers (Ellsworth "Bud", Donald and Henry) and three sisters (Barbara, Arline and Joan). The entire family belonged to the Grange and many of their descendants continue the family tradition. His grand nephew Craig Leifert serves as Master of Winchester and King's daughter Sandy serves as Lady Assistant for Winchester and Deputy of the State Grange (among many other family members).

Like many former State Masters, King had a varied work career and an even more varied resume of Grange involvement.

Before attending the Hartford College of Insurance, King assisted his father and mother in the operation of his grandfather's dairy farm. Later on he worked for the United States Department of Agriculture in gypsy moth control and also worked as a factory employee for General Motors.

He was selected by Patrons Mutual Insurance (founded by the CT State Grange) to be its first fire prevention manager and field agent in 1949.

He served as selectman for the Town of Winchester (Winsted) and eventually became Mayor in 1973.

While Selectman, King pushed for improvements to Route 44 which he called the "missing spoke" of the Connecticut highway system. All corners of the state (except the Northwest) are accessed by improved highways. This controversial project was never built but is forever linked to King Beecher.

Away from his 9 to 5 responsibilities, King was heavily involved in community activities and (of course) the Grange. He served as Secretary of the Winchester Center Volunteer

Fire Department along with being a board member of the Winchester Center Congregational Church. He worked on the Connecticut Farm Electrification Council and the Connecticut Farm Safety Council. He was a member of the Assoc. of Mutual Insurance Engineers, the 1752 Club of Insurance Field Agents, secretary of the Meriden Chapter #15 RAM, past master of the Saint Andrews Lodge A.F.&A.M., and past T.M. of Tyrian Council #31.

In the Grange, King served as Master of both Winchester Grange and Mountain County Pomona Grange #4. He worked his way through the chairs of the State Grange until becoming Overseer in 1965.

In the spring of 1966, State Master Jerry Keech passed away thrusting King into the Master's chair. Out of respect to his predecessor, King kept the previous appointees in their positions to fulfill the plans laid out by Jerry Keech.

Connecticut's 1967 celebration of the National Grange Centennial was so successful that King wanted to keep the committee together and the fair that would eventually become the Connecticut Agricultural Fair was born.

He was instrumental in the

creation of Camp Maud Isbell Berger and served as its caretaker for many years. He was also the driving force behind the creation of the Connecticut State Grange Federal Credit Union/Grange Services and this very publication, *The Connecticut Granger*.

During his term as State Master, he was also elected Steward of the National Grange.

He and his wife, Betty, were dedicated members who gave so much to our organization over the years.

Bud Beecher further summed up his thoughts of King and those sentiments are just as poignant and applicable today as they were then...

"These have been wonderful, full years and the memories will always be with me. I learned much from King over the years, but this is certainly not the end, for death cannot end such a relationship. I will continue to draw from memories stored in my mind, and remember the strong will he had to accomplish what had to be done. We do have a choice and the will to do more than we realize. We will need to combine all our efforts and will-power if we are to turn the tide and have the Grange continue to grow and serve as we would like it to."



King and Betty Beecher represent the Conn. State Grange at National.



# Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

## The benefits of planning ahead

When your Grange decides to hold an event, how does that event actually come to fruition? Grange events don't plan or promote itself, so that means that somewhere along the way, members (or in some cases a single member) takes the bull by the horns and makes sure that the work is done and that the event goes off without a hitch.

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

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

A great place to start when your Grange wants to host an event, is to take a look at the mission and vision of your Grange. What successes and failures has your Grange experienced historically? Maybe you've had a very successful community concert, but not as successful Neighbor's Night.

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

Implementation and execution are important. Establish a timeline,

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

Never assume. Remember that Grange members do have jobs, family responsibilities and a life outside of the Grange, and may not be able to devote all of their time to working on Grange events. Be prepared, and be flexible. Delegate specific tasks, so that one or two people, or a small group, are not responsible for all the pieces. Plus, it's never wrong to ask for

assistance when the tasks at hand seem overwhelming.

Planning ahead saves time and money in the long run. Member burn-out is no longer an issue when you plan ahead because you're working smarter when more people are involved. Many hands make lighter work. Remember to communicate your level of success to everyone involved and thank them for their help.

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



On Saturday, May 6th, we had a busy day: first to Mountain Laurel Pomona for inspection, then off to Eastern CT Pomona at Killingly Grange. I sat on the Master's station at Mountain Laurel, but guess Rob forgot to take my photo. Oh, well. On May 9th, I took Rob and Maggie to Coventry Grange. We had a great time visiting with those great Grangers! The program was fun, and the food was great as was the fellowship.



**Noel Miller**  
Legislative Director  
Coventry Grange #75  
millernoel434@gmail.com

“We trust that it will be a prominent part of your duty, both in and out of the Grange, to encourage the education of the children within your jurisdiction, and to plead that they be not employed in the arduous labors of the fields, before their minds have received that gentle care and training which enliven, explain, and dignify labor.” This is the lesson that proper education shall be given to each and every child in this nation.

“The only thing to fear is fear itself,” this was spoken during the trying times of the Great Depression, expressing hope that as a nation we would all come out of the disaster better off together, working together, and in charity together, and it worked. Many of our older Grange members survived that time and have tried to improve the lifestyles of their children so they would not have to suffer as they did. Times have changed so fast that a person in their 80s have seen so many changes in technology, cars, radio, television, telephone, airplanes, tractors, electricity, clean water, computers, man travel to space, man landing on the Moon, internet, cell phones, cable tv, and many other events that someone with an 8th grade education mastered throughout their lives. We all know the importance of higher education, but the cost to go far outreaches the grasp of high school today, and changes are needed.

Yet today’s messages are that the education is grooming our children, and parents have no say in the programs for educating the future leaders of the country. Today children need to be instructed in basic reading, writing and arithmetic. They must learn history, so we

# Legislatively Speaking

don’t repeat the wrongs of the past. They must have sciences, so they can explore new ideas. They must have music and sports, to brighten their horizons. And they must have civic lessons, so they see how our government works. Without the experiences our future generations will always be behind the 8 ball of life, just getting by. It is important that all get equal education.

Today’s children are under so much pressure to succeed, peer pressure, to exceed, to fit in, to be accepted. With the internet, smart phones, Twitter, Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, our youth are bombarded with many requests, challenges, ads, likes, hates, and information that they shouldn’t give out to be

accepted. Some kids have multiple accounts for the many groups of friends they have. One group can feed off of another group with hate and your child is in the middle being pulled in many directions and their lives spin out of control. This shouldn’t happen to anyone, starting at the age of 6 years old. Controls are needed to protect our youth, we need leadership of our legislators, not sound points, true legislation to protect our children.

With the debt ceiling debate, we need leadership in the protection of the U.S. finances.

The only thing you need to fear is the American voters to take back our democracy.

## Release the Ducks!



Thank you everyone for your tremendous support of the awesome First Annual Granby Grange Rubber Duck Race. We exceeded our expectations. A donation will be made to Granby 4-H.

Here are the prize winners: 1. Sharyn Holness; 2. Lynda Westbury; 3. Ron Cowdrey; 4. Karrie VanRyn; 5. Bill Ross; 6. Casey Janser; 7. Dawn Kelly; 8. Kathy Morgan; 9. Barbara Healy; 10. Colin Wright; 11. Beth Jenkins; 12. Colin Wright

And the last place winner was David Desiderato. Stephen Gilkey won the duck guessing game. And Dave Roberts won the 50/50 opportunity.

What an awesome way to end National Grange month and celebrate the rebirth of Granby Grange No. 5!



# Easy Strawberry Rhubarb Pie

(Dream Whip)

- 1 graham cracker crust (9 inches)
- Whole fresh strawberries



### Directions:

1. In a saucepan, bring rhubarb and water to a boil; remove from the heat. Add gelatin and stir until dissolved; cool. Stir in sliced strawberries; chill until it begins to thicken.

2. Prepare whipped topping according to package directions; fold half into rhubarb mixture. Pour into crust. Chill 2 hours or until firm.

3. Top with remaining whipped topping and whole strawberries.



### Ingredients:

- 3 cups chopped fresh or frozen rhubarb (1/2-inch pieces)
- 1 cup water
- 2 packages (3 ounces each) strawberry gelatin
- 1 cup sliced fresh or frozen strawberries
- 1 envelope whipped topping mix

### Nutrition Facts:

1 slice: 226 calories, 6g fat (2g

saturated fat), 0 cholesterol, 172mg sodium, 39g carbohydrate (34g sugars, 2g fiber), 3g protein.

# WINDOW TO THE PAST

Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a history to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us uncover the mystery of 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](mailto:submissions@ctstategrange.org).



No answers were received for the May issue. If you have answers for any of our Window to the Past pictures, please let us know, even if you only have a vague idea!



**EASTERN CT POMONA #14**

*Corr: Noel Miller*

**June 3:** Elections at Vernon Grange at 7 P.M.

We had two Fifth Degree candidates from Senexet #40 and Ekonk #89. I wish to thank everyone who helped to confer the Fifth Degree for inspection. We all did a great job. See you in June.

**GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26**

*Corr: Kathryn Ruff*

**June 1:** "Hello Summer" 7:30 p.m. Election of Officers Refreshments by all.

**July 6:** "Fireworks Galore" 7:30 p.m. Refreshments, Beverly Bell & Kay Ruff

July 6th may be changed to July 13 at 7:30 p.m. for Inspection. The Inspecting Officer can not make July 6th.

Glastonbury will be holding a Used Book Sale on May 13th at Hemlock Grange Hall. Hemlock is participating in a town-wide Tag Sale. We will have a table at their hall. Much thanks to Hemlock for allowing us to join them.

We have put an article in the Glastonbury Citizen specifically looking for new members. This article included a copy of the Grange Application so it fell in the category of advertising. I decided that is o.k. WE NEED to secure some new members.

Some time after our election in June we will be meeting with a member of the State Grange Membership Committee. We do

need a great deal of help securing new members. I sure hope something will work.

Glastonbury wishes all an Enjoyable Summer.

**SENEKET GRANGE #40**

*Corr: Diane Miller*

Another great month for our Grange and the hall rentals. We welcomed Ted Beebe to our meeting for his inspection. Many items were discussed for future ideas and dates to be chosen. Several members collected trash during the community clean up. We also would like to do a recognition program for the local nurses, teachers and firefighters. We are receiving nominations.

We have created a Woodstock Ag Guide and it is posted on the town website. We are planning to have a wood pellet stove installed and are receiving quotes for the cost. There are many groups using the hall. Line dancing has become very popular and is held on Sunday afternoons. Yoga group continues to have sessions. Our dinners have been successful this winter with many appreciate the Thursday night comfort food. Our Grange is very involved with the town recreation committee and have joint interrelationships. We are receiving applications for our scholarships to be presented to residents of Woodstock going to college or already enrolled. We are looking forward to our awards night in August. We always welcome any members or guests.

**VERNON GRANGE #52**

*Corr: Cherie Robinson*

**June 2:** Honoring Comm. Citizens

**July 7:** Midsummer Knights

Our May meeting was held in person with a Zoom option, it was great to see many faces! Since May is Healthy Vision month we learned some facts about our eyes and laughed at so facts about animal eyes. On a serious note, we reflected on the dedication, hard work and commitment of the Grange members who labored and passed

from earthly life, lighting candles in their memory.

We are participating in a tag sale at Strong Farm on June 10th from 10AM until 2PM. Stop by and grab some treasures!

**COVENTRY GRANGE #75**

*Corr: Noel Miller*

**June 1:** Father's Day

Clean-up the backyard of resurrection weed, a plant that regrows no matter how much you cut it and weed killer doesn't work.

**N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138**

*Corr: Nancy Weissmuller*

**June 9:** "I Haven't Got Sorry"

**June 23:** "I Haven't Got Chutes and Ladders"

Our April 28 meeting was a gala affair with 45 people in the hall to honor our Community Citizen, Nick Mullane, who served our town as First Selectman for 28 years. Jeff Barnes portrayed Nick in a skit by Lecturer, Sue Pianka, that graphically displayed to us Nick's unique filing system and open door policy. Sue was surprised (and the audience delighted) when "Nick" received a "call" from Rob Simmons and Rob, who was in the audience, joined the skit in an impromptu performance and "answered" the call. Nick received many honors from State and local legislators, as well as a copy of Sue's "This Is Your Life, Nick Mullane." It was also the evening for honoring members for their years of service in the Grange. State Lecturer, Dave Roberts, had traveled the state to award seals and certificates to 13 of our members. When Sue handed Dave a lovely plant at the end of the evening, Dave promptly walked across the hall and presented it to Dot Gurney with the sentiment that "Anyone who had given 75 years to the service of their Grange deserved it more than he did." (btw Dave, Sue says to allow at least 2 hours.)

Our June 9 meeting will be election and a short program. June 23 will be our annual picnic. The Grange will provide hot dogs and hamburgers and beverages. Bring a potluck dish to share. Join us at 6:30 at the Grange food booth, with games following the meal.

The information contained in each issue of The Connecticut Granger is for informational purposes only. The Connecticut Granger assumes no liability or responsibility for any inaccurate, delayed or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon. The information contained about each individual, event or organization has been provided by such individual, event organizers or organization without verification by us. The opinion expressed in each article is the opinion of its author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Connecticut Granger. Therefore, The Connecticut Granger carries no responsibility for the opinion expressed herein.



# Cannon moves beyond its roots

by Jarret Liotta, CT Insider Corr.

Although it could be considered a quintessential old-time organization, the Cannon Grange and its members are taking steps to breathe new vitality into what they believe can be a highly relevant group going forward in the 21st century.

With the start of its 125th year earlier this month, Cannon Grange No. 152, which officially began on May 4, 1899, is seeing new members, new initiatives and new light streaming into its historic building at 25 Cannon Road adjacent to the train tracks.

"I think Cannon Grange is starting to blossom," said its president, Doug Shepherd, who joined in 1994 after attending the Grange's annual agricultural fair. "Our new members have good energy, fresh ideas and really want to see the Grange active in the community," he said.

On, May 4, some of the new officers and newer members met to discuss future plans and also took time to enjoy birthday cake.

"People are like, 'We're so happy to see this place come alive,'" Treasurer Kateri Devlin of Wilton reported to the group. She noted that its coffer has doubled over the past two months due to the increasing number of building rentals.

"We're killing it," she told them, "and that's the whole point of this. We have something here so unique."

Barbara Geddis, an architect who also serves on the town's Master Plan Committee, is among the new members taking part in rejuvenating the Cannon Grange. "It's like a renaissance — a new birth," she said upon hearing Devlin's news.

Though the first Grange meetings, which included over 50 members, were held in the home of George F. Brown, the Cannon Grange Hall was originally constructed in 1899 and owned by the town as a community center. Cannon Grange No. 152 finally bought the building in 1933. "I find its history with the town

really interesting," said Itala Duke of Wilton, who joined a few months ago. She said it was sad that many area residents are not aware of the Cannon Grange, and that the building itself has fallen into some disrepair.

"It's a beautiful building, with the woodwork, but now it needs some TLC. ... It needs a roof, it needs painting," she said.

The group has been giving its attention to an impending makeover, but it will only be possible as funds become available.

On Aug. 27, the Grange will host its annual agricultural fair — the 91st in its history. It will feature many of the traditional grange contests for produce, home-prepared foods and more, and it will be the kind of traditional event that many residents associate with the organization.

"I grew up in Maine and agricultural fairs were a big thing," said Sarah Marceau of Wilton, who just joined. She said she wants to do her part to help revitalize the group after learning that its future — and events like the fair — were in jeopardy. "When I heard it might not be happening, I was really sad,"

she said.

But that's starting to change, with some local organizations — Wilton Go Green among them — discovering the grange as a resource and a forwardthinking partner on many different initiatives.

Various private groups are also taking advantage of the facility, which in the past few weeks has hosted concerts and parties for both adults and kids.

"There is more to the Grange than just a hall to rent for parties and events," Shepherd said, however. "We welcome the community to attend our meetings and events to see what we do firsthand."

Like others, Devlin was drawn to the Grange this year after learning about it through a local Facebook group.

"Things are looking up," he said, saying he was excited that more live music and events will be happening there. "There's new energy here right now, and it's good."

"There's more younger people coming in," Paula Sorenson said, noting that they originally got involved when their son was young to introduce him to agricultural-type events. "It's nice to get new blood in," she said.

## Big E Clean-Up Scheduled



**Dawn Percoski**  
Family Activities Dir.  
Vernon Grange No. 52  
CWA@ctstategrange.org

Wow, I can't believe I'm talking about this already but it's never to soon for me. Next month, on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 am, will be our first day to begin cleaning the stage and getting out last year's inventory. We will mark any new items that are sent in by that time. Since our prices were pretty good last year, we will not have to go through all of last year's items. So come and see the building, have some fun visiting people and we

will have a nice lunch planned for all your hard work!

August is right around the corner as well. Be sure to finish up any projects you may not have forgotten about. We have 2 judges so far and need one more for the needlework. We also need judges for the arts and craft contests as well as the baking contest. Those are fun categories and you get to eat some fresh baked goodies along with a lunch served. How can you not want to join in the fun! You can contact me at [familyactivities@ctstategrange.org](mailto:familyactivities@ctstategrange.org) so I have a rough idea how many for lunch. Until then enjoy the end of Spring and the beginning of Summer!





**MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15**

*Corr: Todd A. Gelineau*

Mountain Laurel Pomona conferred the Fifth Degree on May 6 and was pleased to welcome several new members to the Pomona.

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 3 at Riverton Grange beginning at 2:00 P.M. We will hold our election of officers for the next two year term.

Please remember to bring clean used towels to donate at the June meeting. They will be used for bathing (drying) dogs being trained as companions for veterans at ECAD.

**GRANBY GRANGE #5**

*Corr: Dave Roberts*

**June 11:** Join us in-person to experience the excitement at Granby Grange meetings. Refreshments served 30 min. before the meeting following the meeting.

In April, Granby received news that it had been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Pomeroy Brace Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to support renovation of our historic North Granby hall.

“We are so thankful to the Pomeroy-Brace Fund at Hartford Foundation for recognizing the value of our Grange to the community and region,” said Granby Grange President Ron Cowdrey. “This funding will be so impactful for us to utilize our hall as a resource and to help us improve our service to the community.”

The Granby Grange building was constructed just after the Civil War (c. 1866) as a one-room schoolhouse. In 1902, the town hall moved into the building after an earlier town hall burned down. In 1946, the Granby



**Wendy Lemieux receives a flag in honor of her father, Girard (Jerry) Frederick Lemieux, at the May Veteran of the Month ceremony sponsored by Riverton Grange. Jerry was a Golden Sheaf member of Winchester Grange #74 and a US Marine serving in World War II.**

Grange bought the building from the town and moved it 150 feet south to its current location.

On Saturday, April 29, the rain stopped, the clouds tried to disperse, and the 70+ attendees kept coming to experience the very First Granby Grange Rubber Duck Race at Salmon Brook Park. The fundraising brainchild of Granby Grange Lecturer Judy Doyle, the co-chairs of the event said the race was an awesome success both financially (over \$2,100 raised) and in terms of spread goodwill in the community.

“As a 97-year old community organization, we chose for this first race to donate part of our proceeds to the Granby 4-H,” said co-chair Carol Innes. “We are so pleased to help our local youth in the 4-H who share common goals with our Grange.” The event was hosted at Pavilion #2 at Salmon Brook Park from 2:00 – 4:00 PM on Saturday, April 29th. The family event featured information on the Grange, a bake sale, popcorn, and meals to go. At 3:00 PM sharp, Granby Grange President Ron Cowdrey appeared on the pedestrian bridge over Salmon Brook and following the National Anthem and welcoming remarks, the rubber ducks were launched into the swollen brook. Some of the rubber

ducks moved quicker than the judges and the judges had to scurry to beat the first rubber ducks across the finish line, about 1,000 feet from the start of the race. Many volunteers and children chose to get into the water to rescue the rubber ducks before they escaped down river.

On Saturday, May 20, Granby Grange held its annual Mother’s Day Flower and Bake Sale. Many attendees commented on how nice it is to see the Grange bouncing back to life.

Much maintenance work has been happening around the Grange Hall property thanks to many members. Shrubs have been trimmed around the hall, the grass mowed, and preparation is underway to restore the garden area.

**WINCHESTER GRANGE #74**

*Corr: Todd A. Gelineau*

**June 13:** Dad, Ref. by Betty & Bill Ahrens

**June 24 (Sat.):** Teacup Auction, Doors Open at 6, Drawing at 7, Free Admission, Refreshments

**June 27:** Election of Officers, Ref. by Rae Fassio (Country Store)

**July 11:** Let’s Go Swimming, Ref. by Sue Addison

Join us on June 24 for the return of  
*Continued next page...*

our giant Tea Cup Auction (formerly named Super Prize Party). It's always a great time with hundreds of prizes including some super prizes which include gift cards to the Little Red Barn and Norbrook Farm Breweries among other prizes. Members are reminded we can use prizes of all sizes and dollar values. Non-perishable food items also make great prizes as well.

Doors open at 6 P.M. and the drawing begins at 7. A 26 chance ticket costs only \$1. Join us!

### **TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100**

*Corr: Barbara Prindle*

**June 3:** Plant & Rummage Sale  
9:00am to 3:00pm

**June 4:** Plant & Rummage Sale  
10:00am to 3:00pm

**June 8:** Hiking Trails by Mike Taylor  
Ref: Jill Drew

**July 13:** Summer by Ruth Schnell  
Ref: Warren Prindle Refreshments/  
Social time begins at 7:00pm with  
meeting at 7:30pm

It is with a heavy heart I inform you that our Treasurer, Brent Prindle, died on Saturday, May 6th in the morning. He will be greatly missed. We did hold our scheduled Square and Country dance that night as he would have wanted. Every one was sad but had a lot of fun dancing.

At our May meeting we had a wonderful speaker. The program was called Produce to the People. It is a program to feed the hungry. When you have a garden and have more produce than you can use yourself, you can donate the extras. Plus, you can intentionally plant extra plants designated to donate what they produce. We all buy a 6 pack but really want 2 or 3 plants so it is just tend them knowing you are helping to feed people in your area. It works by Produce to the People volunteers coming to you house or farm and picking up the extra produce. You set up an email that is used to tell them you have extra (24 hours notice) for a volunteer to pick the extra produce up leaving it on your porch or in your driveway. The produce goes to the Northwest Corner food bank, Cornwall food bank, if enough to other food banks. This absolutely fits in with Grange and only needs a dedicated person to set it up, get

volunteers (which is easy in the NW Corner) and start small but watch it grow (yes that is a pun).

We wish everyone a good summer and just think without the Produce to the People program you can each individually grow more and take the extra to a food bank or food pantry near you.

### **RIVERTON GRANGE #169**

*Corr: David Roberts*

**June 2:** Meeting & Program, "Here Comes Summer", Election of Officers, Ref. Mary Lou & Peter Keefe

**June 3:** Walk4Hearing Fundraiser, 9am-Noon, Dunkin Park, 1214 Main Street, Hartford.

**June 4:** Veteran of the Month, Barkhamsted Sr. Center, 109 West River Rd., Barkhamsted, 6 P.M.

**June 11:** 5th Annual American Flag Retirement Ceremony co-sponsored with Riverton American Legion and Riverton Vol. Fire Dept., Roberg residence, 87 East River Rd., Barkhamsted.

**July 4:** Town of Barkhamsted 4th of July Parade, Pleasant Valley, 10am

On May 5, Riverton met in hybrid fashion using Zoom, to allow all members the opportunity to attend.

We passed a resolution eliminating the Conn. gasoline gross receipts tax.

We are working on a grant proposal for the NW CT Comm. Foundation for funds to repair our historic hall.

We are polling our members to come up with a new meeting date/time each month starting in October. A slate of officers will be composed for the upcoming election of officers in June. If you are interested in serving, please contact President Dave Roberts.

In addition to honoring Girard (Jerry) Lemieux in May, we also honored US Marine, WWII/Vietnam Veteran Joseph Edgar Lemieux and retired USMC SSgt Daniel W. Matthews.

On June 11, we will host our 4th annual American Flag Retirement Ceremony on the banks of the Farmington River. All attendees are invited to help retire torn, tattered and used up American flags in this solemn ceremony.

For many years, Riverton Grange has purchased and distributed

dictionaries to 3rd grade students at area elementary schools in Barkhamsted, Canaan, Colebrook and Winsted. This year, Family Act. Ch. Judy Doyle had new labels made for the books and she and new member Colin Wright delivered the dictionaries to all four elementary schools. Special appreciation to Phil & Maureen Prelli for purchasing the dictionaries this year for this impactful project supporting our youth!

### **BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121**

*Corr: Al Maddox*

Bethlehem Grange #121 will be meeting June 25th, Sunday, 2pm, this is a change of what's in the handbook. Thank you.

### **SIMSBURY GRANGE #197**

*Corr: Barbara Friedland*

Simsbury Grange will host its annual Agricultural Fair on Sat., June 10 from 10 to 3. The fair will feature a bake and craft sale, exhibits from local organizations and farms, kids' activities, and contests with ribbons and cash prizes in several categories. Entertainment featuring Out The Boxx will also be provided.

The community is invited to participate. Join us as an exhibitor and/or as an entrant into one of our many categories: Exhibits (limited table spaces are available)/Non-profit- no charge (\$25 requested if selling items).

Contests with ribbons and cash prizes:

Adults: Vegetables, Baked Goods, Canning and Jamming, Flowers & Plants, Needlework, Original Art. Children: Vegetables, Baked Goods, Original Lego Creations, 2 Dimensional Art (Original Art & Photography).

Online registration is available by visiting: [www.simsburygrange.org/simsburyfaireentry.asp](http://www.simsburygrange.org/simsburyfaireentry.asp)

Simsbury Grange Hall is located at 236 Farms Village Road (Rt. 309), West Simsbury. For additional information please contact Simsbury Grange President Barbara Friedland at 860-413-9567 or by email at [info@SimsburyGrange.org](mailto:info@SimsburyGrange.org)





**NUTMEG POMONA #16**

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

Reporting on our last meeting, the hall was full with all seats taken. The meeting lasted only 90 minutes, still laughing at some of the numbers on the Lecturer's program. Had to use a large table for the Country Store. With all the donations, no one went home hungry. We were also able to talk to members from other Granges who we don't see any more as there are few neighbor's nights. Wouldn't it be great if this was all true? It could be if we had a little more participation at meetings from the eight Granges in Nutmeg Pomona who have not had any members attend. It is nice to have Wallingford Grange back on the attendance roll.

I can't tell you the date of our next meeting as we have not had our planning meeting yet. Watch the July issue of the Granger for the date. I will be there- will you?

Hope you are enjoying this nice weather.

To all the fathers- we hope you enjoy your day and we wish you many more.

As I am typing this, I just received a call that Emily Alexander, Lecturer of Cheshire Grange had passed away. Our sympathies to her family and to Cheshire Grange who will miss her excellent programs and talent.

**CHESHIRE GRANGE #23**

*Corr: A. Ruel Miller*

**June 7:** Election of Officers and Memorial Program



**L to R: Joe Fernandez, Betty Blackwell, Susan Simmons and Robert Blackwell pose for a picture at the Harmony Grange St. Patrick's Day Potluck Celebration in March.**

**June 21:** A Day in the Sand

Our treasury benefited nicely from our April 15th Hiking Club dinner. On May 3rd we welcomed back Jack Lynn for his second performance of Dean Martin songs and stories. The program was well received and brought a good number of the public into our hall. Plans are underway for a roast pork public dinner on Saturday June 17th.

We draped our charter in loving memory of Edward Dimmick, son of our Grange Chaplain and State Grange Chaplain, Charles Dimmick. I am writing this on a beautiful blue sky May Day. We all welcome the warmer weather.

**WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33**

*Corr: Ailie McKeen*

**June 8:** Monthly Meeting: Teacup arrangement making, Summer Heirloom program

**July 13:** Monthly Meeting: Care package/letter writing to US military, Summer Heirloom program

**July 15:** Grange Family Potluck & Cookout

**Aug. 10:** Monthly Meeting: Teacups continued, Summer Heirloom program

**Sept. 14:** 86th Grange Fair, noon to 6 pm.

We're so new at this, we don't know what we don't know. In Dec, Wallingford Grange earned back

its Charter with about 2 dozen brand new members – and only one returning member. With the help of our Special Deputy, however, we are getting the hang of ritual and routine. We've been holding regular meetings every month, plus usually a public meeting or fundraiser in between. For April's Lecturer's Program, member Aili McKeen talked about the secret life of honeybees, their lifecycle and how they live through the winter. In May, Kim Becker and Judy Doyle, both also Grangers but in this capacity representing CT Cyber Lions, gave a presentation on suicide prevention.

Much is going on in the Hall itself. Having been closed for some time, there's quite a bit of housekeeping to do. One day was spent cleaning the meeting hall, and we will need another full day for the dining room and kitchen. In the process we've discovered many memories and a few mysteries. We're sharing some on our Facebook page, so if you're interested, give us a follow.

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul." (John Muir) ... just don't forget sunscreen and bug spray.

**HARMONY GRANGE #92**

*Continued next page...*

Corr: Thomas Sulier

**Aug. 26: Ag Fair**

Harmony Grange has rekindled its fraternal spirit with a well-attended St. Patrick's Day Potluck Celebration on March 17. Jim Ritter provided the entertainment with old traditional Irish songs on the violin, and Joe Fernandez a prospective new member (and local farmer) presented Overseer Betty Blackwell with a dozen fresh eggs. The event was full of traditional Grange symbolism. All the members and their guests were enthusiastic about the great energy present during the fun and dinner and many mentioned that they had not had such a great time in a while! May God bless the leadership of all of our Granges. It is their courage and generosity by which we are all sustained as one family of Faith, Hope and Charity!

**BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103**

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

BVG met last night. The attendance could have been better, but, the interest and participation was 100%. Jean Meehan put on the

program in keeping with our theme, this month "Lily of the Valley" and also provided the refreshments with the help of Secretary Marilyn.

Now that the roof has been replaced we are trying to spruce up our hall. The Scouts cleaned the grounds around the hall. Ron Fischer has been cutting some overgrown bushes and he, Pat Fischer, Marie Sousa and yours truly have been doing some spring cleaning. We thank these members for a job well done. We could always use more volunteers especially window washers.

For the first time in many years we are having visitors for our anniversary on June 9th.

July 14th our program will be "Water Lily" and we will have our officers planning meeting.

We continue with a tag sale the third Saturday of each month from 9 to 3 and Open Mic the same day from 2 to 5.

Our Grange door is always open.

**GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133**

Corr: Stephanie Thompson / Jim & Lori Golias

**June 24: Strawberry BBQ Festival**

Greenfield Hill Grange will host a Strawberry BBQ Festival on June 24 at the Grange Hall located at 1873 Hillside Road in Fairfield. Tickets are \$25 per person. Call Jim or Steve at 203-259-8023 or 203-367-4373. No tickets will be sold at the door. Reservations only.

The menu includes: BBQ Spare Ribs and Chicken, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Corn on the Cob, Strawberry Shortcake, Coffee and Soda Bar. We will also hold a raffle. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship!

**HEMLOCK GRANGE #182**

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

**June 9:** No Meeting (moved to June 23)

**June 23:** Memorial

**July 14:** 6 P.M. Picnic & Meeting

**July 28:** Omitted, unless reg. meeting is canceled.



**Cannon Grange Community Potluck**

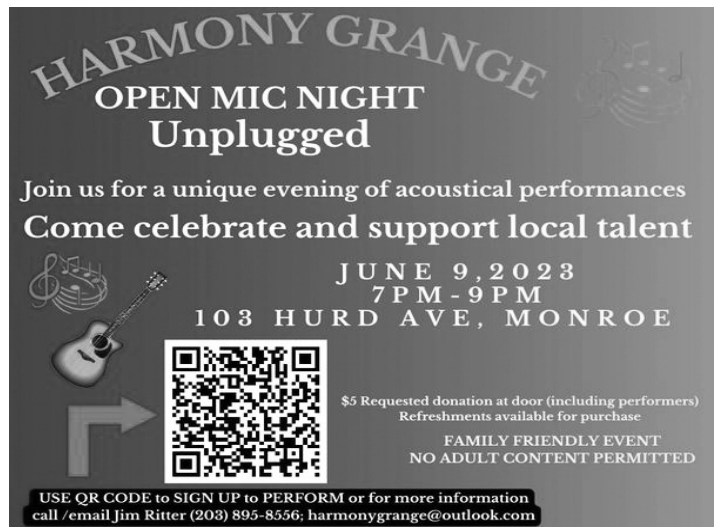
June 10th, 3pm  
Rain or shine

Firepit! Games! Music! Smores!

Good food with friends!

Lemonade, water, or BYOB

Please bring a dish to share!



**HARMONY GRANGE**

**OPEN MIC NIGHT**  
**Unplugged**

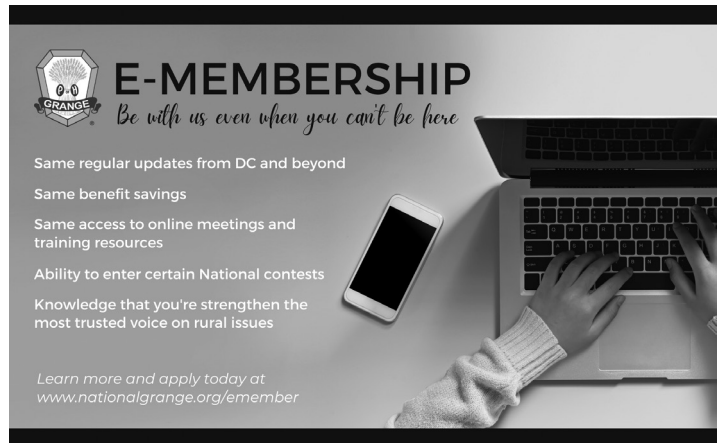
Join us for a unique evening of acoustical performances  
Come celebrate and support local talent

JUNE 9, 2023  
7 PM - 9 PM  
103 HURD AVE, MONROE

USE QR CODE to SIGN UP to PERFORM or for more information  
call /email Jim Ritter (203) 895-8556; harmonygrange@outlook.com

\$5 Requested donation at door (including performers)  
Refreshments available for purchase

FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT  
NO ADULT CONTENT PERMITTED



**E-MEMBERSHIP**  
Be with us even when you can't be here

- Same regular updates from DC and beyond
- Same benefit savings
- Same access to online meetings and training resources
- Ability to enter certain National contests
- Knowledge that you're strengthen the most trusted voice on rural issues

Learn more and apply today at  
[www.nationalgrange.org/emember](http://www.nationalgrange.org/emember)





**CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE**  
 • Deaf Activities •  
 Joint Project of the CT State Grange Youth Committee  
 & the CT State Grange Lecturer's Department



**WALK 4 HEARING**  
 Hearing Loss Association of America

**Join the Connecticut State Grange Team  
 in participating in the Connecticut  
 Walk 4 Hearing at Dunkin' Donuts Park  
 1214 Main St., Hartford, CT**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 3 • 9:00 AM**

We invite you to support this project by walking  
 with the CT State Grange Team,  
 or by donating to this Nationwide campaign as part of the  
 Hearing Loss Association of America, locally benefiting the  
 American School For The Deaf.

To Register or Donate visit our Team Page at: [www.walk4hearing.org](http://www.walk4hearing.org)  
 For more information: contact Dave Roberts at 860-469-5067  
[lecturer@ctstategrange.org](mailto:lecturer@ctstategrange.org) or [granbydavidroberts@gmail.com](mailto:granbydavidroberts@gmail.com)



**CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE**

**GRANGE CLEAN-UP @ THE BIG E**  
 & Marking Day

**SUNDAY, JULY 23rd**  
**Starting at 10:00 AM**



**The New England Grange Building  
 on the grounds of THE BIG E**  
 1305 Memorial Ave. West Springfield, MA 01089

- cleaning up the stage area
- checking the inventory from last year
- sort everything and be sure that all items are marked
- repair anything that needs a little TLC

Please RSVP to CT State Grange Family Activities  
 Chair Dawn Percoski at [cwa@ctstategrange.org](mailto:cwa@ctstategrange.org)  
 as lunch will be provided.

For more information: [cwa@ctstategrange.org](http://cwa@ctstategrange.org)

*Strawberry BBQ Festival*

June 24, 2023 **FUNDRAISER**

Greenfield Hill Grange  
 1873 Hillside Road \* Fairfield, CT

<p>Menu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BBQ Spareribs</li> <li>BBQ Chicken</li> <li>Baked Beans</li> <li>Potato Salad</li> <li>Corn in the Cob</li> <li>Strawberry Shortcake</li> <li>Coffee</li> <li>Soda Bar</li> </ul>	<p>\$25.00 per person</p> <p>Ticket Reservations:</p> <p>Call: Jim or Steve              (203) 259-8023              (203) 367-4373</p> <p>NO tickets sold at  <u>door</u>              Reservations only</p>
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**RAFFLE!**

[www.facebook.com/Greenfield.Hill.Grange](https://www.facebook.com/Greenfield.Hill.Grange)  
[@GHGrangeFld](https://www.instagram.com/GHGrangeFld)



**SIMSBURY GRANGE**

**2023 CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL FAIR**

**Saturday, June 10**  
**10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**



- Contest Entries - Win Prizes and Cash
- Displays by Local Farmers, Non-Profits
- Live Entertainment by Out the Boxx

**LOCATION:**  
**Simsbury Grange Hall**  
 236 Farms Village Road  
 West Simsbury, CT 06092



**ENTRIES AND FAIR:  
 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
 FREE ADMISSION**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.SimsburyGrange.org](http://www.SimsburyGrange.org)







WINCHESTER GRANGE

# TEA CUP AUCTION

## Saturday, June 24th

Doors Open at 6:00 PM • Auction Starts at 7:00 PM

FREE ADMISSION • 26 CHANCES TO WIN FOR \$1

### Winchester Grange Hall

100 Newfield Road  
(Near the Green - Route 263 & Newfield Rd.)  
Winchester Center, CT 06094

[www.WINCHESTERGRANGE.org](http://www.WINCHESTERGRANGE.org)

# Wallingford Grange #33



The new 988 Mental Health Awareness Team makes their presentation to the members of Wallingford Grange No. 33.



# Leadership ACADEMY

To take part, email:  
Todd A. Gelineau, Secretary  
[Secretary@CTStateGrange.org](mailto:Secretary@CTStateGrange.org)  
or Call 860-307-1522

You can still be a part of the first Connecticut State Grange Leadership Academy. Simply email or call the State Secretary to reserve your space and to receive the Zoom information. A computer is not required as you can also join the meetings by telephone. You do not have to attend every meeting but are encouraged to do so.

### Topics to be covered include:

- Sunday, June 18, 7 PM  
 ✦ **Membership Growth**  
 Presented by Shelley Cameron,  
 CSG Membership Director

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- Sunday, July 9, 7 PM  
 ✦ **Fundraising**  
 Presenter: TBD

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- Sunday, July 23, 7 PM  
 ✦ **Member/Comm. Involvement & Activities**  
 Presented by Chris Hamp  
 National Grange Vice President

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- Sunday, July 23, 7 PM  
 ✦ **Member/Comm. Involvement & Activities**  
 Presented by Chris Hamp  
 National Grange Vice President

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- Sunday, August 6, 7 PM  
 ✦ **Conflict Resolution**  
 Presented by Rusty Hunt,  
 Past National Membership/Leadership Director

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- Sunday, August 20, 7 PM  
 ✦ **Mediation/Mentoring**  
 Presented by Mark Benard, Life Coach

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- Sunday, September 10, 7 PM  
 ✦ **Grange Procedures**  
 Presented by F. Philip Prelli,  
 Past President of the CT State Grange

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- Sunday, September 24, 7 PM  
 ✦ **Parliamentary Procedures**  
 Presented by J. Allen Cameron, CT FFA Alumnus

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- Friday, Oct. 20, 2023: **Graduation**



**Charles W. Dimmick**  
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23  
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

## Sharing God's Love With Others

The second most important Commandment is like this one. And it is, "Love others as much as you love yourself." *Matthew 22:39, Contemporary English Version.*

A new Commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. *John 13:34.*

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord and he will reward them for what they have done. *Proverbs 19:17.*

When we were children, our parents taught us to always say "thank you" when we were given anything. After a while this became almost an automatic response. So, how do we properly say "thank you" to God for all the wonderful things He has given us? The best way is to share the grace bestowed upon us by giving to others in return. "For, if you have given it to the least of these my



brethren, you have given it to me." With practice, giving to others in gratitude for what we have received from God might possibly become as automatic a response as our saying "thank you" to other people. At least, this is a habit we can hope to develop.

Remember also that "God loveth a cheerful giver." Do not give grudgingly. God loves all his children, and when we give to others we should keep in mind that we are giving to someone who God loves, no matter what our own feelings might be. So give to others in a way that reflects God's love to them. When we give to people we love we give what they want or need, not just things we want to get rid of anyway. Do the same for all people. This sometimes means doing your homework and determining what they really need and/or want.

Don't think just of material goods when giving. Many acts of kindness cost you little or nothing and yet are really rewarding to the recipient. These can range from the trivial, such as opening the door for someone whose arms are full, to taking someone to an outpatient clinic for an appointment.

For some people perhaps the most valuable thing you can give them is taking time to listen to them, even if they tell the most boring stories, or do nothing but complain. But whatever you do, do it with love.

### *In Memoriam*

**D. Emily Alexander**  
Cheshire Grange No. 23

**Brent Prindle**  
Taghannuck Grange No. 100

*"Well done, good and faithful servants."*