



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

March 2023

From the Master's desk



Robert Buck
State President

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The final charge of the Master in the Fourth Degree states that "the welfare of each is bound up in the good of all." Worthy State Chaplain Charles Dimmick hit on this idea in the Parable of the Corn he distributed by email wherein one farmer realized that it was in his best interest to grow good corn to help his neighbor do the same due to the principle of cross pollination. This idea ties in with the idea of agape love and loving those you don't like thus summarizing fraternalism in a nutshell. We all took the obligations to join the Order, some of you took seven obligations. Remember, we are all in this Order of Patrons of Husbandry for common goals but with different views and philosophies so try to respect others for opinions that may differ from yours. Brothers and Sisters, please compromise to reach acceptable solutions. Remember the ax in the First Degree and its lesson of perseverance in overcoming all obstacles.

On March 22, Connecticut State Grange officers and members will represent us at our booth at Ag Day at the Capitol. Some years this allowed us to have some contact with

those elected to represent and serve us. With COVID-19 less severe now, we hope it will be back at the Capitol with better access to politicians than last year when it had to be relocated to the State Armory next door. At this writing, I believe the Ag. Chair Aaron Jacques, Legislative Director Noel Miller, and Vice President Ted Powell will be in attendance to represent our organization.

Influential Connecticut Grangers:

Donald K. Peck

by Donald B. Peck (Alta & Don's Son)

A rumor has circulated for years among Connecticut Granges that Donald K. Peck was born, wearing a pink sash and with a gavel in his right hand . . . of course it is not true, but the symbolism is appropriate. He was born May 29, 1907, on the family's dairy farm in Litchfield. His parents Allen G. Peck and Carrie May Peck were members of Litchfield Grange #107, as were his grandparents. When Donald reached the age of 14, (1921) naturally, he joined, also. At the time, his father was Master (President), and the Grange and Don was elected to his first of two terms as Gatekeeper.

Graduating from Litchfield High School with Honors in 1925, Don had participated in dramatics, played violin in the school orchestra, and sung in the school chorus. He had enjoyed athletics as the catcher on the baseball team

Last year was a very successful year for sales of items at the New England Grange Building. This less-active winter time is good for crafting and making items to donate to that endeavor. I know Dawn Percoski is planning for things to be made and sold there. Spread the CWA contest information through your Granges so that people can be producing those items in demand to keep the NEGB stocked for the Big E 2023. As an aside, at our Jan. 29 meeting of the

...Continued on page 2



Don & Alta Peck at the 1972 Session of the National Grange in Hartford.

and as manager and a reserve guard on the 1925 small school Connecticut State Basketball Championship team. Deciding to forego enrollment in Yale, Don went to work as a bookkeeper at the First National Bank of Litchfield, just in time for the Great Depression. He did, however, graduate from The American Institute for Banking. Rising through the ranks at the Bank he was successively bookkeeper, teller, assistant cashier, cashier, vice president, and, from 1963 to 1973, President. In 1973 he retired and was elected

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Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange



NEXT ISSUE . . . Articles Due March 15

From the Master's Desk

Continued from page one...

NEGB Trustees, I was elected to serve as President of the Trustees taking over for Noel Miller who goes off the Board.

By now, your Granges should have notification of the planned Grange inspections. There should not be cause for alarm. No grading of Subordinate Granges is to be done; just for the Pomona Granges as usual. There is nothing in the

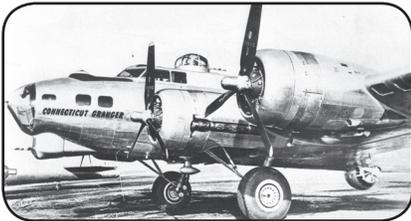
inspection list that is different from what all Granges should be doing anyway. I realize many Granges are struggling, but help is only a phone call away. We have Deputies and State Grange officers who are willing to help where needed. I hope for inspections to be completed over the spring and summer. While I said they could be unannounced, I realize that due to meeting schedules and missed meetings that most inspection officers will need to check with you about meeting times and places before traveling to find a

canceled meeting.

On the way back from my meeting of Bethlehem Grange #121, Hank and I stopped in Bridgewater to buy chili from their Super Bowl Sunday take out only chili sale. They had great chili (three choices) at a great price (\$10.00). By the time I left, they had sold about 65 servings. Consider a new type of fundraiser in your Grange. This is only one example of a popular type of event.

Hank is having fun taking Maggie and me to various Granges so I look forward to our visit to your Grange. Remember though: Who is responsible for YOUR Grange?

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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The parable of the Corn



There was a farmer who grew excellent quality corn. Every year he won the award for the best grown corn. One year a newspaper reporter interviewed him and learned something interesting about how he grew it. The reporter discovered that the farmer shared his seed corn with his neighbors. "How can you afford to share your best seed corn with your neighbors when they are entering corn in competition with yours each year?" the reporter asked.

"Why sir," said the farmer, "Didn't you know? The wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbors grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbors grow good corn."

So is with our lives... Those who want to live meaningfully and well must help enrich the lives of others, for the value of a life is measured by the lives it touches. And those who choose to be happy must help others find happiness, for the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all...

Secretary School of Instruction



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary
Winchester Grange #74
Secretary@ctstateGrange.org

First this month, I have to address a misconception many members have about my recent audit of Golden Sheaf membership in Connecticut. I am not creating my own rules or forcing Granges to pay money they are not required to pay. The rules I am enforcing were passed by the National Grange in the year 2000... 23 years ago!

Granges have lost contact with many members over the years simply because they didn't need to stay in touch for the collection of dues. In one Grange alone I found 25% of the members they claimed as Golden Sheaf had actually passed away years ago and were still carried on their list. An additional 25% were ineligible for dues free status as they became Golden Sheaf members after 2001.

As State Secretary, I do not have the liberty of picking and choosing

the Digest/By-Laws clauses I want to uphold. When I report to National Grange I certify the data I provide is an accurate reflection of our State's membership. Without this audit, I could not be certain (correctly as it has shown) we were reporting accurate numbers and paying the proper amount of dues.

There have been a lot of questions about the new quarterly reports and the inspections coming up this spring.

Please read the State President's report for additional clarification on the inspections. The question I receive the most is regarding Bonding. The Inspection Questionnaire asks if your Grange has paid for its bonding. If you have not paid for your bonding, you should have received a bill from my office for what is due. The State Grange pays the bonding on all Granges in advance as we have a hard deadline with National Grange in December and cannot wait for stragglers to finally get their payments in (yes, it's now March and there are still outstanding Granges). Missing the deadline with National would result

in all Granges losing coverage for the year and possibly an inability to be covered under the same program in subsequent years. This is not something the State Grange wants to risk!

The first quarter of 2023 closes on March 31, 2023. On that date the new dues fees (approved by the voting delegates to the last State Session) will go into effect. All Granges who have filed their Q4 2022 reports should have received their new forms along with the annual word for 2023.

It is extremely important for all Secretaries to go through the report line for line and complete ALL sections of the report and RECALCULATE all amounts.

In addition, the National Grange would like more detailed membership information from us. Unfortunately many sections of the report have been left blank so I would like all Granges to start off on the right foot with this new form. I thank you all in advance for taking the time to recalculate your information and figures for this report.

I'm sure there are many questions regarding the Quarterly Reports and other subjects. For this reason, I have set up a Secretary School of Instruction on Sunday, March 26 beginning at 7:00 P.M. on Zoom. The meeting ID and passcode are included in the ad at left. If you would like to receive an electronic version in your email, please send me a note and I'll be happy to provide it.

This School is open to all members from Connecticut and beyond. The School held last spring was very well received and attended and I expect the same this time around.

With the recent rate increases by Eversource, I'm sure many Granges are scrambling to cover their operating expenses this winter. If you haven't done so already, I encourage all Granges to visit EnergizeCT.com and explore your

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GRANGE SECRETARY

School of Instruction

Sunday, March 26 • 7:00 P.M.

You do not have to be a Secretary to attend but **all Community and Pomona Grange Secretaries are strongly encouraged join us.** We will review policies and procedures and answer any and all questions. Special attention will be given to the new Quarterly Report forms. You do not need to have a computer. You may call the phone number provided to attend. To receive an electronic Zoom invitation, please email:

Secretary@CTStateGrange.org

Meeting ID: 854 7213 2670

Passcode: 873338

To Phone In: 1-646-558-8656

Enter in the Meeting ID & Password when prompted



Secretary

Continued from page three...

options for changing your energy supplier. There are two rates on your Eversource bill. One is the "Supplier" rate and the other is the "Delivery" rate. You cannot change your delivery company but you can change your supplier. Prior to the January increase, the supplier rate was around 13¢ per kw hour. The

new rate is over 24¢ per kw hour. Winchester Grange changed its supplier in February, reducing its rate back to 13¢ representing an \$82 savings on the level of usage for the last billing cycle.

Log on to the EnergizeCT.com website and make sure you have your most recent bill in front of you as they will ask for specific information listed on it. Select "Supplier Rate Finder" on the first page and they will guide you

through the process.

You will be given a list of suppliers and their rate offers. Rates will vary depending on the length of the contract. Be sure to select a contract that can be canceled without a fee in case you wish to change before your agreement expires. Regardless, your rate will be locked in for the contract duration. Don't forget to do this for your home electric rate as well.

Mr. Grange

Continued from page one...

Chairman of the Board, a seat which he held for ten years. Then, not accepting his resignation, the Directors made him an Emeritus Member of the Board.

Meanwhile, at Litchfield Grange, Don progressed through the chairs ultimately being elected Master in 1929-30 and again in 1930-31. While serving as Master; he married Alta Fuller of Torrington, whom he had met through the Grange, perhaps on a "neighbor's night". He and Alta had three sons together, Donald B., Alden, and Douglas. All became Seventh Degree members.

About 1929, Don formed a Degree and Installation Team at Litchfield Grange. The team travelled the state for more than twenty years exemplifying the first four degrees or installing officers, depending upon the season of the Grange year. It was almost a family affair. Members of the team included Alta and Carrie, Don's wife and mother. Ruth Gray whom Don would marry more than 45 years later, after Alta died, joined the team later. The team won a State-wide contest, at Mt. County Pomona Grange and as a result was invited to perform the Second Degree at State Grange. In his Valedictory, delivered as part of his Fourth State Master's Address to the Connecticut State Grange, Don declared, "Twenty-nine years ago next January I first attended, as a delegate, an Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange.

One year later it was my privilege and good fortune to be the Master of the Second-Degree Team of Litchfield Grange which won, in state-wide competition, the right to exemplify the second degree at the State Session. Little did I realize, as I occupied the Master's Station that night, that a few years later I would be wearing the pink sash of a Deputy of the Connecticut State Grange. Even less did I, dream that later still I would be elected to office and eventually become State Master."

Sherman Ives was State Master in the early 1940s and it was he who started Don in State Grange offices. Mr. Ives appointed Don Deputy for Mt. County Pomona in the years 1939-40 and 1940-41. When Harold Brundage stepped down as Sherman's General Deputy, he appointed Don as his replacement. He served for two years: 1941-42 and 1942-43.

In 1949-50 and 1950-51 Don served two terms as Master of Mountain County Pomona Grange. Elected Gatekeeper of the State Grange in 1944, Don moved through the officer's stations and was elected Master of the Connecticut State Grange at its session in 1953. Nearly all the members of his Litchfield Grange installation team from the 1930s and '40s were on the team that installed him as State Master or were present as members of his family.

It was Don's honor, in his first official act, as State Master to dedicate the new Litchfield Grange

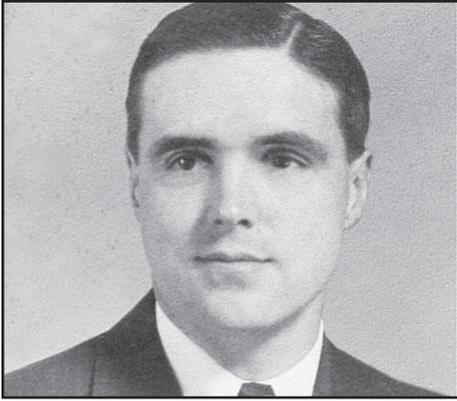
Hall on October 25, 1953. Not only had he served in every chair from Gatekeeper through Master, but also, he had driven his share of nails during the building's construction.

As State Master, he found it odd that an agricultural organization did not have a standing committee on agriculture and suggested to the delegate body that they create one. During his four years tenure, 1953-1957 Don placed major emphasis on the condition of the dairy and poultry industries in the State, asking for resolutions to obtain legislative support for them. But in order that the influence of the Grange be maintained, he worked equally hard to increase the number of Granges, juvenile Granges, and the membership in them. Don appointed a corps of Deputies, headed by General Deputy, Kingsley Beecher, and Juvenile Superintendent Mildred Bell, as well as Committee members who worked faithfully to that end. He placed faith in them, and it worked. The deputies and committee memberships were remarkably stable during his four years as Master. He oversaw the birth of the "Blue Book" which stopped the paper blizzard of mailings from state committees to Pomona and Subordinate Granges, thus simplifying their operations, and added a Youth Committee to the roster of State Grange standing committees.

Don and Alta were the official delegates to the National Grange
...Continued next page

Mr. Grange

Continued from page four...



A young Donald K. Peck

and voting members to the Assembly of Demeter for that year and for each of the next three years of his tenure. Their involvement increased significantly when Herschel Newsom, National Master, appointed Alta, Chairman of the Home Economics Committee of the National Grange.

The signature accomplishment of Don's tenure as State Master was the acquisition of the site for Camp Berger and the beginning of its development. As the story goes, Don was standing with Sherwood Berger of Winchester Grange, on the shore of Park Pond in Winchester. They were looking out over the water and surrounding woodland where Sherwood's mother, Maud Isbell Berger had delighted in observing the happenings of nature. Don asked how much it would take to acquire some of the property to build a summer camp for Grange youth and after a moment Sherwood responded, "Would a dollar be all right?"

Don repeated that story many times through the years. The State Grange paid the fee and subsequently it bought adjoining property to make the Camp more spacious. An access road was constructed into the site and a well was drilled. Nearly all the labor in developing the camp was done by volunteer Grange members from around the state. Pomona Granges began constructing cabins; and a

large dining and recreation hall was built, mostly by Don's deputies, who named it the Alta-Don Hall. He drove his share of nails, too. Initial construction, completed in mid-summer of 1956 allowed for a shortened but successful camping season. Further development permitted a full season the next summer. It was Don's fervent belief that Camp Berger would be used by the entire Grange family and generate an increase in membership.

Alta succumbed to cancer in February of 1973. In November Don married Ruth Richard Gray, who had been a friend of both Don and Alta for forty-five years. She had been a member of Litchfield Grange's Degree and Installation team. Don and Ruth continued to attend National Grange where they both enjoyed participating in staging the Seventh Degree. By Don's own count he attended an unbroken string of forty-four National Sessions, from 1951 through 1994.

There was a cross-over between Don's Grange activities and his business and civic worlds. He held seats on the Boards of Directors of all three Grange insurance companies: The Farmers and Traders Life Insurance Co, of Syracuse, NY (nearly 40 years); Patron's Mutual Fire Insurance Co. of Glastonbury (40 years); and the National Grange Mutual Liability Co. of Keene, NH. He also was on the Board of the Litchfield Mutual Fire Insurance Co. (45 years). Don was on the Agricultural Committee of the Connecticut Bankers' Association, President of the Connecticut Bankers' Association, and member of a Nominating Committee for Directors to the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. He was Litchfield Town Treasurer (6 years) and on the Litchfield Board of Education (14 years). He was a member of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Litchfield, a member of its Vestry, and sang in its choir. Don

was active, also, in the Lion's Club International and was presented with the Melvin Jones Award, their highest honor.

Donald K. Peck died on November 22, 2004, in Litchfield. He was ninety-seven years of age and had been a member of the Grange for 84 years. Marion Beecher, long time Lecturer of both the State Grange and Mountain County Pomona Grange, penned the remembrance of Don that appears below. She truly captured his personality:

"Past State Master Donald "Mr. Grange" Peck will be missed: Members of Mountain County Pomona are especially sad at the loss of our "Mr. Grange" – Donald K. Peck. Don was one of those rare individuals who seldom missed a Subordinate or Pomona Grange meeting of his own, and always participated. Who can forget the little man with the big voice – the mischief in his eye as he added his own special touch for the ending of a song! How many times did we hear the story of how he "discovered" Camp Berger in 1955 and who can forget the little man driving the huge milk truck filled with water down the Camp entry so Camp could open with water for the children! This was just before 2:00 on the opening day. Don sang with the Choristers right from the beginning, he was willing to be a ham actor in any silly skit, and he could be so dignified you could not believe it. Donald K. Peck was loved by many – he was a true gentleman. He is mourned by many and will be



Ruth Peck

Guinness Beef Stew



Not only a perfect soup recipe for any chilly night, this traditional Irish meal is a classic St. Patrick's Day Food.

Yields 8 servings; 425 Cal/Serv; 3 hours

Ingredients

- 3 tbsp. olive oil, divided
- 3 lb. beef chuck, well trimmed and cut into 2-inch pieces
- Kosher salt and pepper
- 2 medium onions, cut into 1-inch-thick wedges
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 lb. medium carrots, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 12 oz. medium parsnips, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 3 tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1 - 14.9-ounce can extra-stout beer (we used Guinness Extra Stout; about 2 cups)
- 3 c. low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 - 6-ounce can tomato paste
- 1 lb. yellow potatoes, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 8 sprigs fresh thyme, tied together
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/2 c. flat-leaf parsley, roughly chopped

Directions

Step 1: Heat 2 tablespoons oil in Dutch oven on medium-high. Season beef with 1/2 tsp each salt and pepper. Working in batches, cook beef, turning occasionally, until browned, 4 to 5 minutes, adding more oil as necessary; transfer to bowl.

Step 2: Reduce heat to medium,

add remaining tablespoon oil, then onions and cook, covered, stirring occasionally, 5 minutes. Stir in garlic, carrots, and parsnips and cook, stirring occasionally, 3 minutes.

Step 3: Sprinkle with flour and cook, stirring, 2 minutes. Add stout and cook, scraping up any browned bits, 1 minute, then stir in broth and tomato paste.

Step 4: Return beef and any juices to pot along with potatoes, thyme, and bay leaves and simmer, covered, 1 1/2 hours. (Alternatively, transfer to 325°F oven and bake, covered, 2 hours.) Remove lid and cook, uncovered, until beef is very tender, 45 to 60 minutes. (If baking, uncover and bake 45 minutes.) Discard thyme and bay leaves. Season with salt and pepper if desired.



Serve sprinkled with parsley.

Mark your calendars now



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

Mark your Calendars! "CT Grange Family Festival" will be held at Hillstown Grange in East Hartford on August 11-13 2023. Friday we will be at the Hall to collect all your needlework entries between 3 and 6pm. We will also take any items you made for the New England Grange Building so you don't have to make a separate trip up to the Big E. We will also collect any photos you have for the Lecturers contest. Saturday morning, we will be there at 8 am for those who cannot make Friday's hours. Please bring us your entries by 10:30am promptly as they must be there before the Judging starts and need to be processed first. If you cannot make either day, anyone who has entries can always make arrange-

ments with any Family Activities committee member prior to those dates.

Speaking of judging, Each Pomona is responsible for providing 1 judge. Contact your Pomona CFA Chairperson if you are interested. The judging starts at 11 am. sharp and we will provide you with a nice lunch and promise you will enjoy the afternoon!

Be sure to come on Sunday for all the fun activities. Hillstown will be putting on their wonderful pancake breakfast on Sunday. It will be a fun surprise to see what they come up with for their Festival Flavor! Back by popular demand, we will have our tea cup auction for you to try your hand at winning something fun.

Then to finish off the afternoon, The State Lecturer will be having all of their year-end contests once we finish up with breakfast. Last year was amazing and I can't wait to see what's instore for this year.



EASTERN CT POMONA #14

Corr: Noel Miller

May 6: Special Meeting

A special meeting of Eastern Connecticut Pomona will be held on Saturday, May 6 at 7:00 P.M. at Killingly Grange Hall. Join the team for the conferral of the Fifth Degree. We will also be inspected.

GLASTONBURY Grange #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Mar. 2 on Zoom: Lecturers program "March Winds 7:30 p.m.
Apr. 6: Masonic Hall, So. Glastonbury, program, March Winds 7:30 p.m.

At our February meeting it was decided we would continue to meet on Zoom in March, but will meet in April at the Masonic Hall, So. Glastonbury at 7:30 p.m. It will be nice to be back meeting in the hall. The CWA Committee will have their traditional Teacup Auction table and the refreshment committee for the April meeting is Marycharles Howe and Kay Ruff.

We learned at the February meeting that the Glastonbury Social Service Department is now back collecting "non-perishable" food items. We will start collecting the non-perishable food items at our April meeting. We also voted to collect dog & cat food and bedding for the animals at Protectors of Animals located on Main Street,

East Hartford near the intersection of Maple Street.

We will also have another Book Sale this spring. Time and Place yet to be determined.

SENEKET Grange #40

Corr: Diane Miller

We have been active with outside groups using our hall including the home school, Yoga and the Cosmic Cat. Our fundraising dinners have been very popular. The American Chop Suey was held on Jan. 26 with the proceeds going to TEEG, a local community support group. Our dinners will continue on the last Thursday of each month to support our Grange. We are planning to start some card games on the third Thursdays of the month. We are still planning to go out to dinner on a Sunday afternoon. All are welcome. We still have several projects in the hall that need updating and housekeeping. The town recreation committee is planning to sponsor line dancing in our hall. Our calendars that are for sale contain information about events and programs in our town. We are happy to see that the community is interested in our events and it is helping us promote our mission.

COVENTRY Grange #75

Corr: Noel Miller

April 6: CWA Night

We are planning a tag sale in May and are working on making repairs to the hall. We had a fun time with Vernon Grange with our annual Lecturer's Exchange Program. We are awaiting spring!

N. STONINGTON Grange #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

March 10: Ritual Program

March 24: Lecturer's Program
State Contest Entry

Our Charter was draped in

loving memory of Alton "Mac" Gray in January. Mac joined our Grange in 1948 and will be sadly missed.

The program for our one meeting in January was an exciting game of "Hollywood Squares". The program was in the charge of Jeff and Debbie Barnes and they had invited a bevy of celebrities to be in the "Square." Gold, Pink and Green sashes from Connecticut and Rhode Island as well as town dignitaries were present. Nine of them sat in three lines of three chairs in the center of the hall. Emcee Jeff read questions tailored for each dignitary. Our Grange members were the contestants and members of the "Square" held up a large X or O depending on whether the contestant agreed or disagreed with their answer to each question. There was a great deal of laughter as some of our dignitaries came up with very interesting answers to their questions. Jeff and Deb also had refreshments that evening and everyone left with happy tummies and smiling faces.

In March we are back to two meetings a month (weather permitting). Sue always tests our knowledge on Ritual Night, and her prize-winning programs are always a delight. And if anyone finds the patent for the fire hydrant, please let Jamie know because it seems to be missing.

Coffee & Community Conversation

Join your fellow Woodstock Residents for a conversation about local concerns and community ideas. Enjoy Free Coffee & Refreshments!

Every First Saturday at 10 am
The Senexet Grange
628 Route 169, Woodstock, CT

For more details, visit our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/ourquietcorner.ct>
or email grange40ct@gmail.com

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Setting Membership Goals



Shelley Cameron
Membership Chair
Ekonk Comm. Grange #89
membership@ctstateGrange.org

As we come to a new year, I ask my fellow Grangers, have you made a membership goal for the 2023 year? Is your goal to retain members? Is your goal to welcome new members? Is your goal to increase participation?

No matter what membership goal your Grange chooses here are some ideas to try.

Retain Members

Find ways to allow more of your members' voices to be heard. Consider making a survey, polling members what they want to see happen in the Grange? Free ways to send surveys to your members include Google Forms, SurveyMonkey, and Typeform, just to name a few. Or as always paper and pencil can be used, the mail or even a personal phone call.

Recognize outstanding and dedicated members in your Grange for simple things. Some ideas include give a shout out during a meeting, posting a member of the month on the bulletin board, sending a recognition write-up to the State Grange newsletter or posting a photo and thanks on your Grange's Facebook page.

Let Grangers thrive at what they do best. For example, if a Granger loves to cook let them help out at your next dinner and empower them to make as many decisions as you reasonably can.

Welcome New Members

Hold a free coffee house open to the public with beverages and snacks encouraging existing members to bring others. Welcome prospective members and highlight the great work your Grange is doing. Have membership forms handy, as well as a way to accept dues for new members on the spot.

Go to Community Events such as a farmer's market, local fair and have a table promoting the Grange. Explain who you are, what you do, why you are important, and how you are making a difference in your community. Consider creating a simple 'take-away' handout with highlights about your Grange, and how people can get involved. Don't forget to promote any upcoming events you may have in the works while you have people in hand.

Have a presentation at your local library or the historic society and tell the history and the great volunteerism your Grange is doing. Make sure to bring some take-away items for participants or applications for new members to sign up.

Increase Participation

Grangers want to feel their voice is being heard, let them come up with ideas and put them in charge of the idea, whether that be taking a deeper dive into the logistics of the idea or providing some guidance or boundaries and see where it goes. If it works, that's great and if it doesn't there is always something to be learned from every try.

Have fun programs that everyone can participate in and get Grangers up and moving. Some ideas include Minute to Win it games, interactive question and answer sessions, an activity seen in a newspaper or magazine or ice breakers. Such platforms as Kahoot.it, a free online quiz platform that Grangers can use their smartphones to join in and play, or every one getting a paper and pencil can help.

Call or email members asking them to do a specific task, whether that be to make cookies for refreshments, edit/critique a poster, help clean the hall or anything else that can help ease the burden of other members.

Membership your way

There are many different kinds of members, some Grangers like to attend meetings, others just like doing the activities, either way embrace them and be appreciative of the time and help that they are providing in the best way they can. It takes a village to support the Grange.

Feel free to send your ideas my way at membership@ctstateGrange.com.

All members (from Connecticut and beyond) are invited to participate in the Connecticut State Grange Leadership Academy. The purpose of the Academy is to give members the tools and skills necessary to become more effective leaders in their Granges and communities. The program will be held on Zoom for one hour, twice a month (May through September). The workshops will be conducted by State Grange leaders and guests brought in to speak on various topics. The program is FREE of charge, however we do require all participants to sign up by sending an email to the State Secretary at Secretary@CTStateGrange.org to reserve your space and to receive the Zoom information for the meetings. The first two meetings will be held on Sunday, May 7 and Sunday, May 21 beginning at 7 P.M. All participants completing the program will be recognized at State Session. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.



GRANBY Grange #5

Corr: Dave Roberts

Mar. 12: Business Meeting 2:00 P.M. by Zoom. Contact Dave Roberts for the Zoom information at 860-469-5067 or granbydavidroberts@gmail.com.

Mar. 26: Membership Meeting (In-Person), Lecturer Program by Judy Doyle on "Caterpillars & Butterflies" Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

WINCHESTER Grange #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Mar. 14: When Irish Eyes Are Smiling. Ref. by Craig Leifert

Mar. 28: CWA Program, Ref. by Last Names M-Y

Apr. 11: Spring is Here, Ref. Randy & Kim Carlson

Apr. 25: April Showers (Country

Taghannuck's Jan. Krauting Bee held at the Grange in Sharon.

Store), Ref. Todd Gelineau

Winchester Grange continues to meet twice a month in a hybrid format, allowing members to participate in the meeting via Zoom. All members and guests are welcome to join us at our meetings either in-person or on Zoom. If you would like the Zoom information, please email Secretary@CTStateGrange.org. All meetings begin at 7:00 P.M.

Like all Granges who own halls, Winchester is continually looking for ways to run our hall affordably. With the recent rate hike by Eversource, we have switched our electric provider, cutting our generation rate nearly in half!

Winchester Grange is a quite large building which housed the

two floor Grange hall with an attached two bay garage with office space (currently rented by the State Grange upstairs) and a USPS Rural Delivery Post Office in the back of the garage. The lights in the Post Office are on 24 hours a day and the space is heated. With the door opening and closing throughout the day and night, quite a bit of heat is lost. Not much can be done about the heat but we will be looking at installing more efficient lighting inside and outside of the post office.

TAGHHANNUCK Grange #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Mar. 12: Blocks by Debra Tyler; Ref. Sharon Kroeger

April 13: Spring Cleaning at 6:30 by All; Ref. Janet Nickson

May 11: Produce to the People by Debbie Hanlon; Ref. Kathy Hayden

Taghannuck Grange had a very successful Krauting Bee in conjunction with The Motherhouse Old Style Life-Skills Series of workshops on January 26th. We had 11 people, both members and potential members attend and everyone had a great time. There were friends and old acquaintances who had not seen each other in a long time. Lots of smiles and laughter made for a good time. Tal Hadani-Pease was a wonderful and knowledgeable instructor with lots of information and tips. She also gave different variations for different looks and tastes. We used

Pass the Hat



Granby Grange #5 (home of CT State Grange's first Master) has reorganized with 29 new members and all offices/committees now filled!

But we are not out of the woods yet!

Our treasury is empty and bills keep coming! We are planning fundraisers in the future, but we need emergency funds now to pay these bills.

For those who want to support our reinvigorated historic community Grange, donations of any size will be gratefully accepted!

Donations should be sent to Granby Grange Treasurer Carol Innes at 115 Wells Road, Granby, CT 06035.

THANK YOU!

primitive pounding tools otherwise known as small logs or large sticks, depending on how you look at them mixed with modern measuring and calculated science to get the correct amount of salt added. There were requests for future workshops with ideas of possible sourdough and gardening workshops.

I want to personally thank Overseer Ruth Schnell for filling in for me as President at our February meeting I heard she did a wonderful job in my absence. I also want to thank Debbie Hanlon for doing the February program which I was scheduled to do. She had everyone participating and enjoying themselves.

We are having a Contra & Square Dance at our Hall on March 4th from 7PM-9PM. This date may have gone by as you are reading this. Relatively Sound is the live band and Bob Livingston is the caller. If you have any questions about our dances please call Debbie at (845) 418-9755. She will also put you on the email list so you hear about our dances in a timely manner. These dances are fun for the whole family with dance instruction too. As always refreshments are provided and the suggested donation is \$5 child, \$10 adult and \$20 for a family.

RIVERTON Grange #169

Corr: Dave Roberts

Mar. 3: Meeting & Program: "State Capitol Watch 2023 and impacts on YOU!" Legislative Committee program; Phil Prelli, Chair

Mar. 5: Honoring Our Veteran of the Month (Barkhamsted Senior Center flagpole; 6:00 PM)

Apr. 2: Honoring Our Veteran of the Month (Barkhamsted Senior Center flagpole; 6:00 PM)

Apr. 7: Meeting & Program: April Fool's and YOU (Men vs. Women!)

Apr. 8: Opening Day of Fishing – Free Breakfast with the Riverton Grange President; 8:00 AM (All Connecticut State Grange members are welcome to join Riverton Grange President Dave Roberts



Veteran of the Month Ceremony at the Barkhamsted Sr. Center.

for a free breakfast at the Riverton Vol. Fire Department, 3 Riverton Road, Riverton, CT 06065, from 8:00 – 9:00 AM).

On Friday, February 3, Riverton Grange met virtually using Zoom. Our first order of business was to accept two new members, John and Kathy Johnson, who live on East River Road in Riverton. NINE new members have joined Riverton Grange since this past November thanks to aggressive outreach into the community.

The Riverton Grange ARPA Grant for \$14,700 for much needed Grange Hall repairs has been approved! The Grange also received \$100 from the Riverton Merchants Association for our support of Christmas in Riverton last December. Our Lecturer's program was focused on agriculture and was led by Immediate Past State Grange President George Russell.

Riverton Grange raised and donated over \$700 in proceeds and over 300 pounds of non-perishable food items to our local Pleasant Valley Community Food Bank. These donations resulted from our successful Christmas in Riverton event. Dave Roberts and Donna McGrane delivered the items last month to the Food Bank to help

those facing food insecurity. On Sunday, February 5, Riverton Grange hosted their 20th Veteran of the Month ceremony held at the Barkhamsted Senior Center. This program is in partnership with The American Legion, town, the Senior Center and Lions and Leos Clubs. The Grange added a new partner this month with The Freedom Pen Project. Each month, a student at local Northwestern Regional #7 High School will make a wooden engraved pen and pencil set for the veteran being honored. The Royal Coachman Tavern donates American flags and shadow boxes for the flags each month; and now our area high school is donated engraved pen and pencil sets. This is in addition to the framed Patriots Certificate from National President Betsy Huber, an Honored Veteran pin, and a canvas carrying case.

Riverton Grange is next collecting new or gently used bath towels for Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities (ECAD), a non-profit located in Winchester, which is dedicated to enabling people with disabilities to gain greater independence and mobility through the use of specially educated dogs. Drop boxes are available at both the Riverton Grange Hall porch and Barkhamsted Senior Center porch.



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Nutmeg Pomona will meet on Sunday, Mar. 26 at 2:00 at Cheshire Grange. We will be conferring the Fifth Degree for Inspection with an officers rehearsal on Sunday, March 19th. Officers will provide the refreshments for this meeting. With so many officers we should have something yummy.

A reminder to Secretaries, Quarterly Reports are still due to the Pomona Secretary. She needs your report to make a correct report to the State Grange.

CHESHIRE Grange #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Mar. 1: Things

Mar. 11: Public Corned Beef Dinner

March 15: Youth Night

We continue to hold our meetings downstairs during the winter months to conserve our heating oil. As shown above, we will have our annual public corned beef dinner on Saturday March 12th. It will be served as take out. We recently distributed ten lap robes to members of our community. They were made and donated to us by our member, Nancy Youman. They were very well received.

We draped our Charter in loving memory of Nancy Rotman who passed away recently. She and her husband Henry became members here when Indian River Grange merged with us. Nancy was our pianist for several years, and she will be missed.

BEACON VALLEY Grange #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Sorry to sound like a broken record but we are still working on replacing our roof. We received a \$1,000 grant from the State Grange Foundation. We were sure happy to receive this money. It really helps with the fundraising.

Meetings in January and February were held in the lower hall to save on fuel. Time will tell if it did.

At our February meeting we were visited by State Master Robert Buck who presented us with our second place Community Service certificate. A check has now been received also.

Program for March 10 is "Daffodils" in the charge of Maria Sousa, refreshments will be grilled cheese sandwiches and dessert. Program for April 14 is "Daisy" with Joanne Cipriano in charge. Refreshments will be done by Marianne Nielsen and Ron Gunther.

Our January tag sale was very profitable, thanks to some good donations. The March sale will be on the 18th from 9 to 3. Open Mic will be the same day from 2 to 5.

GREENFIELD HILL Grange #133

Corr: Jim & Lori Golias

Mar. 11: St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner, Grange Hall. Reservations required by 3/11. Donation \$23. Call Jim at 203-259-8023.

Apr. 1: Luncheon and Panel Discussion on "What Can We Do?" Reaching towards building a local food supply chain. Guest speakers will tell you what they have done and present many ideas and volunteer opportunities to you. Event held at Grange Hall, 1873 Hillside Road, Fairfield, CT. Parking in the rear of the building. Please RSVP by March 25 to Cornelia Olsen at 203-571-8673. Donation: \$20 per person.

Good Friday Fish Fry will be held in the Grange Hall on April 7 at 6 P.M. Eat in or take out. Batter Dipped Fish or Batter Dipped Shrimp, french fries, cole slaw, dessert, water and soda

bar. Donation \$23. Reservations a MUST by March 30. Please call Jim at 203-259-8023.

LYME Grange #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

Meetings on Apr. 6, May 4, June 1

Our February meeting was held at the home of Nancy & Skip Beebe who graciously invited us to meet there as the Grange's furnace has decided to give up the ghost and refuse to run. We just spent a considerable amount of money on repairs.

The Hamburg Fair last August netted us a wonderful profit! Now all the bills are paid and the books are balanced. It's the first time in many, many years we have seen a profit. We did break even that's more than many fairs can report. It's discouraging to work hard and not see a profit.

This week has been the coldest so far this year. But then again, it's February in New England, what more can you expect? So it's 50° one week and 14° the next.

HEMLOCK Grange #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Mar. 10: Welcome, welcome Spring

Mar. 24: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Apr. 14: Rhythm of the rain

Apr. 28: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following each of the meetings.

OXFORD Grange #194

Corr: Robert Buck

March 1: Business Meeting

March 15: Snow date

Oxford Grange has been meeting regularly and holding some serious discussions about our way forward. We have been researching options for making the Grange more financially viable. What has become apparent is that hall rentals are quite lucrative if the venue is properly advertised. We put a sign board out in front advertising this. People who rent the hall really like the ambiance of the vintage building. What is

Continued from previous page...

apparent is that to continue and make the building more attractive to renters is the need to upgrade. We have been researching electrical upgrades to the limited service of our 1929 building. The prices we have indicated that it is possible if we continue with rentals we are currently getting, combined with a possible loan through the Connecticut State Grange. We applied for the Connecticut State

Grange Foundation \$1000 grant available to Granges every two years for capital improvements. We have applied this grant to repairs and upgrades to our heating system. I would also like to thank member Mike Brandon for donations to that effort. Also recent servicing of the septic system paid for by a donation from Dorothy Vallee has shown that to be in great functional order as determined by Loyd Clark & Sons Septic Services.

We are looking into continuing with some open mic events late in the winter or early spring. Dan Golias and Rich Franzino have become our building managers and for that I thank them. The town of Oxford is currently starting the process of removing the hill behind the Grange hall to flatten its land holdings there for further development and usage. We are unsure if and how that will impact us.

Legislatively Speaking



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

When I was State President, the Board of Directors reviewed the first five degrees and came up with the top six values of the Grange: Honesty, Sense of Community, Charity, Integrity, Friendship and Citizenship.

We feel that these values in our members is the foundation to a Great Grange. We have strived to live up to these values in all works. Our country is adrift and many have lost their way, as in the First Degree "The promise of progress and improvement are delusive. The road you have traveled is familiar and easy, but the one you are now entering is full of obstacles, rough and uneven, environed with dangers, and leads, you not where." "My friends, the person who has been speaking to you is that worst of enemies to progress- Ignorance, attended by his companions, Sloth and Superstition. Give them no heed if you hope to advance". This to me is the question for all politicians, are you here for the Country or for yourself? Because the time we are in is for the Country and the World. We are the leaders of the world and if you can't see the value of who we are then you are not part of "Team America".

We have heard that Socialism is bad!. Yet after the Crash of 1929 Republican President Herbert Hoover said that the wealthier business owners will rebuild the economy and no government intervention was needed. The country sunk deeper into the Depression and in 1932 Democrat Franklin Roosevelt became President and the "New Deal" was released with CCC, WPA, Social Security, Medicare and Federal Assistance bringing this country back out of the depression, with new roads, Hoover Dam, TVA, many towns received sewers and public water, railroads, bridges and roads.

It proved that the Federal Government investments into infrastructure bring prosperity. We have seen this again with the end of the 2020 Pandemic, giving money to programs and citizens, they reinvested that money to goods and purchases bringing down the inflation caused by the shutdown of the world. Big Business with their wealth invested with layoffs, downsizing and stock buybacks, helping no one but themselves.

Republicans are spreading the word of sunseting Social Security and Medicare to save the program for the future. If our Legislators repaid the accounts of Social Security and Medicare after each time they skimmed off money from these account to keep the Government running, we wouldn't

have this problem. We all know robbing Peter to pay Paul is not good business. There is talk of a 30% federal sales tax. So if you spend \$100.00 for food add \$30.00 for the Feds. Gas 30%, Clothes 30%, Home 30% etc. looks like we loose. Don't forget you still have to pay state sales tax and state income tax, more out of your pocket? Here's an idea let's hire those 87,000 IRS workers to replace retiring workers and boost the workers to go after those who are not paying their fair share of taxes. GO TEAM AMERICA!

Lastly the Iowa State Legislators are working on a labor bill that will allow 14-17year old's to work in slaughter houses, logging and mines, under vocational education programs. Was it 3 months ago a slaughter house was fined for having 14 year olds washing down kill floors, and exposing them to harsh chemicals and dangerous equipment. So this new bill will allow your youngster to work in these hazardous places and the companies will be exempt from illness, workman's compensation, and death benefits liabilities. Mind blower. Oh yeah, the bill will allow 14-17 year olds to serve alcohol too. Hey lets all go back to the 19th century.

At the State of The Union Republican rebuttal Sarah Hucklebee Sanders finished with "we must separate the Normal from the Crazy's." Please use the Value list from the top to determine what side of Team America want to be on.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Bringing the past to life: Why Historical Profiling is a must-do project for your Grange

As we have been researching each Connecticut Grange for the History Book project, we are collecting all sorts of historical data from newspaper clippings to old program pamphlets, to photos, memorabilia and more. But in doing so, we've had many questions regarding why historical data is so important to the Grange today, and how Granges can benefit by utilizing that information. Historical profiling is an important step to depict the Grange's remarkable past and help secure a firm foundation for the road ahead.

In a business setting, historical data is used to make important strategic decisions about the present and future of that business. For example, Managers use historical data to track organizational performance over time, identify areas of interest, increase employee productivity, and to make predictions about future trends. Historical data is essential for discovering cause and effect patterns, identifying and predicting trends, enhancing customer relations, and much more.

In a personal example, when you are navigating the job market you build a resume, which is basically a summary of your work, education and organization history. It's a historical timeline of your work life.

In another example, researching genealogy and creating a family tree is documenting the historical data of your family from past to present.

Even your Facebook profile is a digital historical profile as it documents points over time, and as such, is a virtual timeline of information that you have chosen to share online.

Historians research, log, analyze, interpret and write about the

past by working with various historical documents and sources.

Documenting history and milestones, and developing a timeline in chronological order, helps us to build a picture of the past and understand the cause and effect of the development of the subject - a business/organization/person. This act ultimately gives us insight looking forward.

As the landscape is continually changing for organizations in general - and in our case, the Grange - having knowledge of the patterns of successes and failures of the past can be beneficial as Granges potentially take a look at what is coming ahead, and develop plans on navigating the waters of the future for the betterment of the group.

Documenting Grange historical data can answer many important questions, such as:

-- how has Grange membership changed over the years? Has there been periods of influx and periods of loss? Growth versus decline.

-- how many events (and what type of events) has our Grange hosted, and which were successes and which failed?

-- what projects has our Grange undertaken through the years, and how were they received? Were there periods of activity versus inactivity?

-- how has our Grange survived through crucial periods of its lifetime, such as World Wars, the introduction of motor vehicles or electricity, and even the Depression?

-- and something more current - how has our Facebook traffic changed over the 5+ years we've had our page?

These are just a few examples of historical data that can be useful to Granges.

Granges should have a plan in place for collecting, storing and managing historical data. This will ensure that the history of each organization is not forgotten, and also that informational data will be available when needed and can be accessed and analyzed.

One way to do this is to create a timeline for your Grange. Timelines showcase the Grange's rich history and celebrates achievements. When making a timeline of historical data, we create a graphic representation of our Grange's existence. It honors those people who made an impact over the years, and is a powerful way to say thank you. It allows us to see relationships, to help remember the past, and to grasp sequence. Timelines should tell a cohesive story about the evolution of your Grange. The route that was taken from your Grange's formation to its present-day operations is an important one.

But what about all those boxes of newspaper clippings and photos? Historical data can be stored physically, but at some point should be digitized so that it is preserved and not lost as it degrades over time. Paper items in particular, have a limited shelf life. This means scanning in photos and newspaper clippings, taking photos of memorabilia, and making spreadsheets/databases of information that can be passed down and updated over time. And be sure to have at least one back-up of all the digital files in case a tragedy happens, such as computer/drive failure, fire, or other natural disaster.

The following quote by Adler Display sums it up -

"While the past may be over, it often holds a wealth of content to use for storytelling and inspiration that can instill the importance of your organization's values and bring people together. When used strategically the past is a powerful tool for establishing the identity and shared goals of your organization, as well as helping to shape your future. A historical timeline is a great way to illustrate your history for all to see."

Join the Round Up!



Dave Roberts
State Lecturer
Riverton Grange No. 169
Lecturer@CTStateGrange.org

Howdy partner! Join us for the next CSG Lecturer's Roundup... Our first of 2023 is Sunday, March 12, at 7 PM via Zoom. You don't have to be a Lecturer, or from a Connecticut Grange, to join in. Discussion will include the latest news and information.

Many community Granges are revitalizing their membership, performing impactful community service, and offering informative programs. We are pleased to welcome our newest community Grange Lecturer/Program Director, Judy Doyle of Granby Grange #5. Judy is going to make a top notch program director and has great potential in our Grange family!

Recently, during a brief down time (yes, I have a few down times!), I was reading Good Day magazine, and there on page 42 was a national listing of Granges around the nation listed as Granges in Action. Oh wonderful to see North Stonington Community Grange #138, Riverton Grange #169, and Vernon Grange #52 all named Granges in Action for 2022. Congratulations to these three Granges! If only three more Connecticut Granges had applied, Connecticut State Grange would have been recognized as a STATE Grange IN ACTION. So, you ask, how do you apply?

Well, the Grange In Action program is designed to encourage all Granges to be active in their communities and complete events or projects, no matter how small. Any Grange that does not complete the application for Distinguished Grange can participate in this program. Granges who wish to be recognized at the 2023 National Convention as a "Grange In Action"

should complete the following requirements:

Submit a 1-page letter size with color pictures and brief caption of at least 3 various events/activities and no more than 6 pictures of the event/activities/meeting that the Grange either sponsored or assisted with from Sept 1, 2022 to Aug 31, 2023 – anything over 1 page will be disqualified.

The Grange Name, number and state must be on the front of the page. On a separate page please include the name, address, phone and/or cell number, and email address of who submitted the Grange In Action. Granges that qualify for the 2023 Distinguished Grange award are not eligible for this recognition. If one of your events/activities/meetings is on Mental Health, you will qualify as a "Golden Grange in Action" Deadline to submit

the 1 page to National Grange is postmark or electronic by midnight on September 1, 2023. Mail to National Grange, Attn. Loretta Washington – 1616 H Street, NW, 11th Fl., Washington, DC 20006. Email to Loretta Washington: lwashington@nationalGrange.org. Please put in the subject line for the email: Grange In Action 2023 report.

We are working for all Connecticut community Granges to meet this "Golden Grange in Action" requirement by offering an event on mental health awareness and education.

So please accept my personal invitation to join us at the upcoming March Roundup. For more information or for the Zoom credentials, contact CT State Grange Lecturer Dave Roberts at lecturer@ctstateGrange.org or GranbyDavidRoberts@gmail.com, or call 860-469-5067.

Help Needed at 2023 National Session



Jody & Jodi Ann Cameron, State Region Coordinators

National Session in Niagara, NY is not as far off as you think. November 14-18, 2023 is only 9 months away.

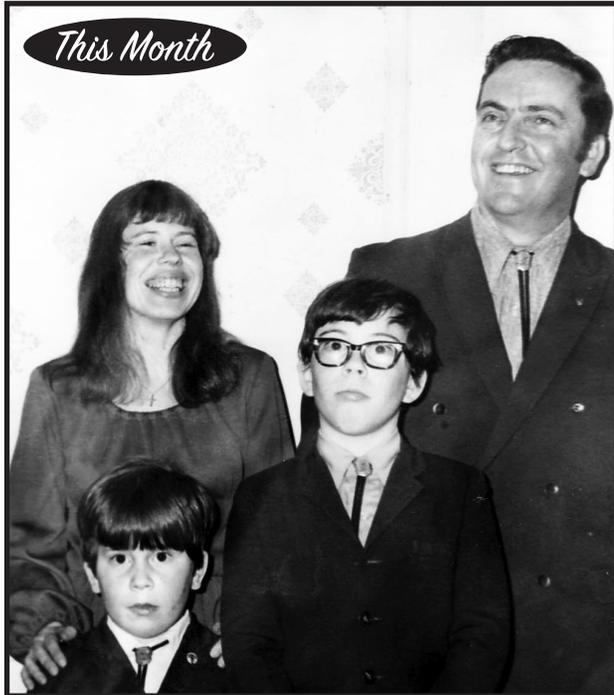
Connecticut will be the hosts along with RI on Tuesday November 14th, we will be looking for support and people to help out in many area's like Registration, Hospitality and general support staff.

If you are interested in helping please contact me or Jodi Ann at treasurer@ctstateGrange.org or by calling 860-759-2326 or 860-759-2325.

We are also planning a bus if enough people are interested and just want to attend the session. The bus would leave CT on Monday, spend the day Tuesday helping the region or witnessing the opening of the Grange in the 7th Degree and hear the internal and external reports of the National president firsthand. Wednesday exploring the beautiful Niagara/ Buffalo areas and heading home on Thursday. This is in the planning stages so if you're interested we need to know as soon as possible.

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.



We heard from Ray Fitch of Norfield Grange. "The couple in the February issue top photo is Tommy and Olive Phillips from Norfield Grange. They were longtime stalwart members. Tommy is remembered for his great sense of humor. They were friends of our family and everyone in the Grange."



Hank Interviews Ruel Miller, President of Cheshire Grange

BEST CHANGE FOR THE Grange? With the arrival of Covid-19 some three years ago, our Grange meetings and activities ground to a halt. We were able to come up with the ability to meet virtually with the ZOOM format for which several of our Granges got on board. It kept the membership in touch despite the country wide shut down. Today, concerns still exist as to Covid-19 and some Granges are still meeting virtually and keeping involved. The reorganization of our Pomona Granges several years ago was a positive move as several Pomonas were struggling.

THE WORST CHANGES FOR THE Grange? To me in recent years, I have seen our ritualism declining in our meetings, being replaced by a welcoming ceremony of sorts rather than doing the first four degrees. It looks like this trend will continue. In light of this I would like to see the Granges undertaking a ritual program during the year maybe exemplifying the subordinate degrees. A lot of our newer members in recent years have not witnessed our degree work. We don't want to see our ritualism fall to the wayside. Unfortunately, we have seen several Granges closing which hurts, although positive efforts to reorganize them are underway with much success

CHANGES TO BENEFIT LOCAL GrangeS? Many of our Connecticut Granges still have their halls and have been holding events that get the public on their premises with fairs and other community events. This makes people aware that there are goings-on at these halls rather than just a few cars in the

lot on meeting nights. Where possible, we need to make our halls inviting and offer them to the community for a candidate forum and for any and all occasions. People are looking for a meeting place that might be available for their use. While still a bit difficult, rekindling visitations to our Granges has always been well received before Covid. Again, anything we can do to educate the public and get them into our halls is a big plus.

WHAT PARTS OF THE Grange SHOULD NEVER CHANGE? As previously mentioned, we need to be aware of the founding of our fraternal organization and its accompanying ritualism. It can be a bit of a challenge with the changes in our current society, with people who join organizations wanting to become members without any formalities. In time, we may have to encounter additional changes in that area, but we should never forget the precepts of our order to keep the Grange moving forward.

What does the Lord require of you?



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstateGrange.org

He has shown you,
O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD
require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.
Micah 6:8

I have referred to this quote from the prophet Micah at least four times before. Frankly, it is one of my favorite bible passages, and every time I read it I get new meaning from it. A few simple words, but very profound when we meditate on them. Remember also that this was pulled through two languages before it got to us, and that “act justly”, “love mercy”, and “walk humbly” might mean different things to different people at different times and in different places. In our meditations we should look at all the different possible interpretations of these words.

To act justly is to seek and strive for equality, fairness, and rightness, in a world which surrounds us with inequality, unfairness, and lack of rightness. An impossible task? Perhaps impossible that we will be



totally successful, but what God asks of us is to strive for these goals. Whatever gains we make in this regard are all for the good.

What is it to love mercy? This one is a bit difficult. Mercy doesn't mean letting injustice prevail. To some extent it means to exert full-hearted forgiveness for any who repent of what they have done wrong, or of those who do not know they have done wrong, or to guide people to realize what they have done wrong and guide them into new and better ways.

Finally, what does it mean to walk humbly with God? To me it starts with the realization that God is our maker and sustainer, and that all the good things we have are a gift from God. Then I try to remember that we are placed on this Earth as stewards of God's creation, and are charged with sustaining and preserving that creation, including the care of our fellow human beings. Lastly I try to avoid boasting about all the good

things I have done, as though I were particularly virtuous. Especially I try to avoid false humility, a trap all too easy to fall into. True humility involves being open to others, listening to them, acknowledging our mistakes and failures, and focusing on helping others.

In Memoriam

Margaret Colavechio, G.S.
Laura DeLaura, G.S.
Newton E. Lyons, Jr., G.S.
Granby Grange #5

Nancy Rotman
Cheshire Grange #23

Elaine Graveline, G.S.
Beacon Valley #103

Mary Allyn, G.S.
Preston City #110

Alton “Mack” Gray, G.S.
N. Stonington Comm. #138

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”