



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

Vol. 65, No. 10

The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

July 2025

From the President's Desk



Robert Buck
State President

Bethlehem Grange No. 121
president@ctstateGrange.org

My last two columns have been commentaries on the state of things in Connecticut Grange-dom, as it were. While some of you don't like to read this, I felt certain things needed to be said. I have received some feedback, going both ways, and appreciate your comments. It is not my intention to be a tyrant, and can only form opinions of what is going on from those of you that shared your side of certain situations with me. There are always two sides to every conflict. Some sharing came after the article went to press. Consequently, some may have felt their side was not properly represented. Fair enough, but I would remind everyone of one principle: whether you remember it or not, we all took an oath from the Subordinate Manual or Welcoming Ceremony (or should have) when we joined. Secondly, we are all adults, and should come together and discuss issues AND listen to each other's concerns. Votes taken should reflect the will of the majority and hopefully have concessions for VALID concerns of the minority. Votes of the majority should be respected. Thirdly, it would be

nice to see less drama. Fraternal relations do imply cooperation people.

This weekend coming up (06/29), we will travel to the New England Grange Building for clean-up day. After the winter, we open the building, clean everything and get things in shape for the Big-E. As product is received, the shelves will be stocked after items are priced for

sale. We look forward to a successful sales year as this is what enables us to maintain the NEGB and use it as a tool to help advertise Grange. Thanks to Noel and Dawn for all their hard work managing aspects of the NEGB. Also thanks to the many volunteers who give their time to the Big-E including Vice President Ted Powell and other volunteers. I hope you plan on coming to the Big-E perhaps to volunteer and enjoy the fair.

...Continued on page 2

Celebrating 140th Anniversary

Todd A. Gelineau, State Secretary

Join us October 16-18 in Norwich as the Connecticut State Grange celebrates 140 years of Grange in Connecticut. This may be confusing as we celebrated the 140th Session of the State Grange last year. The State Grange was founded in June 1885 and the first session was in Dec. of the same year.

Large packets of information have gone out to all Granges and State Officers including registration information, a schedule of events and information on hotel reservations. The cost for the hotel is slightly higher this year. Higher costs, as you know, are unavoidable these days.

Packets going to the Granges also include the following items:

Session Registration information, including Delegate cards. PLEASE



decide who your delegates are as soon as possible and return the designated card to my office as soon as possible (don't wait for the deadline). This information is needed to schedule Session Committee Zoom meetings. Returning this card to me late may result in your Grange not being represented on your appointed Session Committee.

The Journal of Proceedings from the 140th Session is included in the packet. Please share this with any

...Continued on page 2



Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange



NEXT ISSUE:
Articles Due July 15

From the President's Desk

Continued from page one...

As I continue my travels with Hank the Burro, we enjoyed a Mystery Ride in Vernon, and the Beacon Valley Grange 136th Anniversary where Sister Joanne Cipriano was given her 75 year Membership Certificate and honored not only for years of service, but many offices held.

In my own Mountain Laurel Pomona #15, we have new officers at the helm with Dave Roberts replacing me as President and Patrick O'Brien of Winchester as

Vice President, as well as other 'newbies.' Maggie was overjoyed that I didn't win the election, and gave up the office. I wish them all well in their coming terms as I watch from the sidelines!

While we're in the midst of a heat wave with 95 degree daily temperatures, I was struck today by the fact that the humidity stood at 40% for much of the day. I took a mile walk at the Bent of the River Audubon to birdwatch in this heat (yes I am that dedicated) and am amazed that the animals deal with this now and also extreme cold in the winter as well. While hot, drier heat is a bit easier to take, I do marvel at people visiting the west where

temperatures exceed 100 with dry heat (God bless you Jody and Jodi-Ann). I don't wish to see that. My curiosity for weather extremes is very limited in that respect.

Soon it will be time for State session again and I anticipate starting soon to relearn the ritual. I wish you all a good and productive summer with a nice vacation somewhere pleasant. One of our Bethlehem Grangers is off to Maine with her family and I know they will have a nice time in each other's company.

With deadlines and schedules as they are, get your resolutions on topics of concern to you and your Granges through your Community Granges, on to Pomona and then to State Session. We want to have some good discussions on topics of concern.

Celebrating 140th Anniversary

Continued from page one...

and all members of your Grange. Additional copies are available from my office while supplies last.

Please make your reservations with the Holiday Inn as soon as you can. There were a number of people trying to make last minute reservations last year when the hotel was already full. We reserve a block of rooms. Normally I am able to expand the block when it fills up. Last year, Mohegan Sun had a major concert at their arena during our Session and there were no additional rooms available to expand our block. We made it work that time but this may not always be possible.

The 2026 National Grange Bonding Program information. All Granges are required to carry bonding insurance. If your Grange chooses to self-insure, you must provide proof of insurance to my office. Electing to withdraw from the insurance provided by the National Grange will exclude you from coverage for

three years. Granges that require coverage of \$50,000 must complete the survey form included with the Bonding information. Granges requiring coverage below \$50,000 are not required to fill out this form.

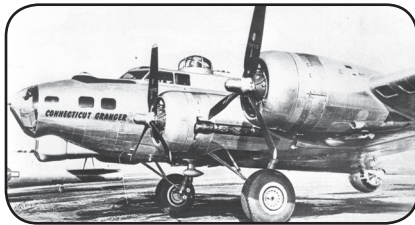
The policy, provided by Main Street America (formerly National Grange Mutual), insures all officers and members from theft/dishonesty up to the limit of coverage purchased.

Please complete and return the State Directory form as soon after your elections (if you are having one) as possible. Even if there are no changes, please return the form saying "No Change".

Please announce the Dedication of the Grange Plot at Peoples State Forest in Barkhamsted on Sunday, Aug. 24 at 3:30 PM. Following the dedication ceremony, there will be a dinner provided by the State Grange and arranged by the State Lecturer at Riverton Grange Hall.

the Connecticut Granger

Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

STAFF

President/Editor Todd A. Gelineau
Vice President Terri Fassio
Treasurer Jody Cameron
Secretary Noel Miller

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the
15th Day of each month
and should be sent to:
Connecticut State Grange
100 Newfield Road

P.O. Box 3
Winchester Center, CT 06094
or Todd Gelineau, Editor
P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069
Granger@CTStateGrange.org
(USPS 563-220)

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Convention Registration

Thursday, October 16 - Saturday, October 18

HOTEL RESERVATIONS DUE: SEPT. 10

SESSION REGISTRATIONS DUE: SEPT. 30

ALL MEMBERS are required to register to attend most sessions/activities (excluding Sixth Degree and Lecturer's Program on Friday evening). All other events require payment of a registration fee and/or purchase of a ticket. Lunches are included in the registration fee and the Banquet is a separate ticketed event.

Grange Name _____ No. _____

DELEGATES (Complete this section only if you were selected your Grange's Delegates to Session)

Delegate Name _____
 Sessions: ____ Full (\$50) ____ Thurs./Fri. (\$25) ____ Saturday (\$25) \$ ____
 Attending lunch on Friday? ____ Yes ____ No Banquet Choice # ____ (\$35) \$ ____
 Email: _____

Delegate Name _____
 Sessions: ____ Full (\$50) ____ Thurs./Fri. (\$25) ____ Saturday (\$25) \$ ____
 Attending lunch on Friday? ____ Yes ____ No Banquet Choice # ____ (\$35) \$ ____
 Email: _____

NON-DELEGATES

Name _____
 Sessions: ____ Full (\$50) ____ Thurs./Fri. (\$25) ____ Saturday (\$25) \$ ____
 Attending lunch on Friday? ____ Yes ____ No Banquet Choice # ____ (\$35) \$ ____

Name _____
 Sessions: ____ Full (\$50) ____ Thurs./Fri. (\$25) ____ Saturday (\$25) \$ ____
 Attending lunch on Friday? ____ Yes ____ No Banquet Choice # ____ (\$35) \$ ____

JUNIOR MEMBERS (This section is for Junior Grange and Plus 1 members)

Junior Granger Name _____
 Sessions: ____ Full (\$20) ____ Thurs./Fri. (\$10) ____ Saturday (\$10) \$ ____
 Attending lunch on Friday? ____ Yes ____ No Banquet Choice # ____ (\$35) \$ ____

Junior Granger Name _____
 Sessions: ____ Full (\$20) ____ Thurs./Fri. (\$10) ____ Saturday (\$10) \$ ____
 Attending lunch on Friday? ____ Yes ____ No Banquet Choice # ____ (\$35) \$ ____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____

CELEBRATION BANQUET (FRIDAY Evening at 7:00 P.M.)

Meal Choices (indicate the number of each person's choice above):

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) 12 oz. Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus | 3) Stuffed Filet of Sole with Seafood Stuffing |
| 2) Chicken Piccata with Lemon Caper Sauce | 4) Eggplant Parmesan |

Entrees include a Herb Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Garden Salad, White Chocolate Raspberry Cheesecake.

Please make checks payable to the Connecticut State Grange

Mail to: Connecticut State Grange, 100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3, Winchester Center, CT 06094

Questions: Please call the State Secretary at (860) 307-1522 or email: Secretary@CTStateGrange.org

HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS DUE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

To reserve hotel rooms, call the Holiday Inn at 860-889-5201 and ask for the CT State Grange block.



141st Annual Session Tentative Schedule

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

Ballroom, Holiday Inn, 10 Laura Blvd., Norwich, CT

- 7:00 P.M. Opening in form in the Fourth Degree
Introduction of National Representatives
Roll Call of Officers, Deputies, Committees
Lower Grange to Fourth Degree
Presentation of Fourth Degree Delegates
Roll Call of Granges
Report of Credentials Committee
Session Committee Announcements
Introd. of Business to be referred without debate
- 8:00 P.M. Address of State President Robert Buck
Response of Overseer Theodore Powell III
Report of Treasurer Jody A. Cameron
Report of Secretary Todd A. Gelineau
Report of Executive Committee/Board of Dir.
Report of Lecturer David Roberts
- 9:00 P.M. Closing
- 9:05 P.M. Annual Meeting of the Connecticut State
Grange Foundation, Inc.
Report of CSG Foundation Pres., Alma Graham
(Please remain seated for this brief meeting)
- 9:30 P.M. Time for Committee Meetings (if necessary)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025

- 7:30 A.M. FREE Continental Breakfast provided by the
Connecticut State Grange (Chelsearose Room)
- 9:00 A.M. Opening & Introductions
Roll Call of Officers
Minutes of Previous Day's Session
Introd. of Business to be referred without debate
- 9:15 A.M. Special Order of Business: Election of ONE
member of the Executive Committee and any
other vacancies which may have occurred
- 9:30 A.M. Report of Legislative Committee
Report of Agriculture Committee
Report of General Deputy
Reports of Pomona Deputies
Report of *Connecticut Granger*
- 10:45 A.M. BREAK
- 11:00 A.M. Presentation by the Membership & Public
Relations Committees:
"When Tradition Meets Reality"

- 12:00 P.M. Luncheon (Nutmeg Ballroom), Hosts: TBD
• Blessing by State Chaplain
• Family Activities Awards & Report
• Membership Awards
• Public Relations Awards
• Agriculture Contest Awards
- 2:00 P.M. Recognition of Past Voting Delegates
- 2:15 P.M. Address of National Representative
- 2:45 P.M. Business Session
- 3:15 P.M. BREAK
- 3:30 P.M. Report of New England Grange Building
- 4:30 P.M. Closing
- 7:00 P.M. Celebration Banquet (Ballroom)
• Professional Agriculture Awards
• Scholarship Awards
• History Book Presentation
• Lecturer's Program

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025

- 7:30 A.M. FREE Continental Breakfast provided by the
Conn. State Grange (Chelsearose Room)
- 9:00 A.M. Opening & Introductions
Roll Call of Officers
Minutes of Previous Day's Sessions
Introd. of Business to be referred without debate
- 9:15 A.M. Memorial Service
Closing in form in the Fourth Degree
- 9:45 A.M. Break for Preparation of Sixth Degree
- 10:00 A.M. Conferral of the Sixth Degree, Ballroom**
Open to all Sixth Degree members, registration
not required to attend.
Opening in form in the Sixth Degree
Escorting National Representatives
Recognition of Honored Guests and Past Voting
Delegates to National Grange
Conferral of the Sixth Degree in full form
Recognition of Golden Sheaf Members
- 11:15 A.M. BREAK (or at conclusion of the Degree)
- 11:30 A.M. Budget Approval (tentative)
Committee Reports (Resolutions)
- 12:00 P.M. Youth & Junior Recog. Luncheon, Hosts: TBD
• Blessing by State Chaplain
• Junior Recognition
• Youth Recognition
- 1:30 P.M. Business Session
Community Service Report
Honor Grange Awards
Installation of Officers
- 3:00 P.M. Closing in Form in the Fourth Degree

Degree candidates must be at the Holiday Inn by 9:30 A.M. with the Fourth and Fifth Degree Words and the Sixth Degree ticket stub to be admitted. Applications are \$10 and can be purchased from the State Secretary.

This Schedule is Tentative and subject to change.

Legislatively Speaking



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

Editor's Note: In lieu of Noel's regular column, he has asked us to print a summary of the Connecticut Farm Bill passed by the General Assembly on June 4.

The Connecticut General Assembly concluded the 2025 legislative session with strong support from both the House and Senate chambers to make historic investments in Connecticut agriculture.

Several bills were combined into an omnibus package, SB 1497, which became known as the "Connecticut Farm Bill," encompassing priorities across the agricultural community.

- Creates a 20% refundable business tax credit for farmers' investment in eligible machinery, equipment, and buildings;
- Increases the annual farm machinery property tax exemption from \$100,000 to \$250,000;
- Allows the use of drones in pesticide application for farmers, to be permitted through DEEP;
- Exempts hoop houses and high tunnels from permitting and construction standards under the state building code;
- Creates a Farmers' Crop Loss Reimbursement Grant Program, to be bond funded;
- Grants limited immunity from civil liability to agritourism businesses;
- Creates a Manure Management Grant Program, to be bond funded;
- Creates a Shipping Container



Grant Program for the purchase and operation of container farms, to be bond funded;

- Extends a ban on soil amendments with biosolids containing PFAS;
- Adjusts the state's shellfish harvest season;

In addition, the newly renamed Donald Williams Community Investment Act received additional funding increasing the annual allocations to the following programs:

- \$625,000 annual to the Agricultural Viability Grant
- \$625,000 annually to the Farm Transition Grant Program
- \$125,000 annually to support CT Grown
- \$93,750 annually for CT Farm Link
- \$59,375 annually to Seafood Development Council
- \$31,250 annually for CT Food Policy Council

The above are currently awaiting signature by Governor Ned Lamont to become law and the Office of Fiscal Analysis will produce final

detailed budget sheets. Connecticut Department of Agriculture will then begin internal discussions on new program implementation for the programs indicated and will continue to communicate updates to the state's agricultural producers and stakeholders.

As always, should you have any questions on any of the legislation that passed this session, please reach out to Kayleigh Royston, Director of Government Affairs at kayleigh.royston@ct.gov.

Contest season is here again



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

Well, it is July already! Where did the spring go, I wonder.

I'm sure you have all started your gardens and are getting all of your projects finished up for the year. Just a reminder that next month is our contests. We have asked that each Pomona should be providing a judge for the needlework. We are also looking for judges for the baking contest, the recycle contest and the Gnome contest, entries for this category would not be returned. We will of course be providing a nice lunch for all of our judges.

The Lecturers contests will also be held at the same time and we all look forward to seeing you all on Sunday at Hillstown for their famous pancake breakfast! Come and eat and look at all of the entries and be amazed!

Also, just a quick note that if you are donating any new items for our teacup auction, you can bring them Friday evening or Saturday.

Fueling the Grange engine...



**Jody & Jodi Ann
Cameron**
Membership Co-Dir.
Ekonk Comm. Grange No. 89
membership@ctstategrange.org

...from the Local level

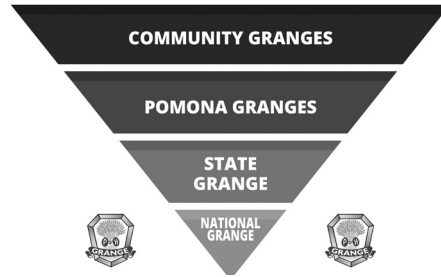
We thought we'd follow up last month's article showing the inverted Grange Pyramid with some statistics from our last quarter ending March 2025

The CT State Grange had 30 Community Granges at the close of the 3/31 quarter. For that quarter the overall membership had a net loss of 28 state wide which is a 2.2% decrease in membership.

16 Granges saw no change in membership, 3 Granges saw a net Gain and 11 Granges saw membership losses. The CT State Grange congratulates Higganum, Bethlehem and Wallingford for having a net gain in membership for Q1 2025.

Folks, there is only one way the Grange at any level exists, and that's through the growth of our Community Granges. Now, do not misunderstand, a Grange with a larger membership does not always equal a strong Grange. To be a strong Grange you need to know what your purpose is, what you do, why you do it, and for whom you do it for. You must be relevant in your community, you must foster an environment of growth and progress.

If you have held the same position for some time, is there a successor? Can you be a mentor? Can you be a cheerleader? Can you make your Grange successful from a supporting role? There is a torch to be handed to the next person so they can help lead your Grange into the next phase of history. You noticed we didn't say "handed down" because we should be looking upward and



outward on the vast opportunities we have in our communities. Looking back is necessary, but only to gather data and knowledge to pave the road to the future of our Grange. To somewhat quote Chis Hamp, National Grange President, "We must keep looking out the windshield, not the rear-view mirror". The future is large, the future fresh, the future is ours to conquer, if only we dare to.

When we had our Installation Team, during our monologue we

would regularly say "Our history is written, we get to write our future". Think about that! How do you want the future of your Grange to be written? "The Grange in our town was that building over there" or "The Grange is a vibrant, influential group of community folks who want to see reasonable progress and growth that benefits all citizens of our town." We kinda like the latter of the two. By living a CONNECTED LIFE we can and will see a stop to continual losses. We will see stronger community Granges that fuel the engine of Pomona, State and National Grange.

By living a connected Grange life we ARE the fuel that keeps the engine of the Grange humming into the next century and beyond.

Joanne Cipriano reaches 75 years



State Secretary Todd Gelineau is pictured presenting Joanne Cipriano, President of Beacon Valley Grange, with a certificate in recognition of her 75th year as a Granger. The presentation was made at Beacon Valley's 136th Anniversary Celebration held on June 13. The event was also attended by Naugatuck Mayor Pete Hess and 2025 Beacon Valley Community Citizen Award winner Paul Paloski, longtime Boy Scout volunteer.

The Value of Visiting and Sharing



Dave Roberts
State Lecturer

Riverton Grange No. 169
Lecturer@CTStateGrange.org

One of the most rewarding aspects of serving as your Connecticut State Grange Lecturer is the opportunity to visit our many vibrant Granges. These visits not only inspire collaboration but also foster the sense of unity and purpose that defines our Grange community.

Recently, I had the pleasure of visiting Winchester Grange and Whigville Grange (twice), where I was warmly welcomed by members engaged in exciting programs and meaningful fellowship. Each visit reinforced my belief that nothing compares to experiencing Grange activities in person and learning from one another. I encourage all members to take the time to visit other Granges—it's a wonderful way to gain fresh ideas, build friendships, and show support for our shared mission.

We were honored to host two separate delegations from the Massachusetts State Grange at Riverton Grange. These cross-border visits are vital in strengthening the bonds among our neighboring states and exchanging innovative programming ideas. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make these visits so successful!

I'm thrilled to invite you to the upcoming Connecticut State Grange Family Event on August 1–3 at Hillstown Grange. This special weekend is a joint effort between the State Grange Family Activities and Lecturer's Departments, and promises fun, learning, and fellowship for all ages. One important reminder: All photographs for the State Grange Lecturer's Photo Contest must be

in place by 9:00 AM on Sunday, August 3, for judging during the Hillstown Grange-hosted pancake breakfast. Winning photographs will be displayed at the Connecticut State Grange Convention in Norwich in October. Don't forget your camera and your appetite!

On the horizon, we're already planning the 2026 North East Lecturers Association Conference, hosted by the New York State Grange Lecturer Brenda Noble. Mark your calendars for April 17–19, 2026, at the New York State Grange Headquarters in

Youth head to Rhode Island



Dawn Anstett
State Youth Director

Riverton Grange #169
Youth@ctstategrange.org

Rhode Island is excited to welcome and invite Connecticut youth to the Northeast Youth Conference July 11–13 at Roger Williams-Rumford Grange Hall at 125 N. Broadway, Rumford, RI. Arrival and check-in will be on Friday starting at 4:00 PM. Please have dinner on your way.

Friday- Welcome and get acquainted time with snacks.

Saturday- after breakfast, we'll head out for a bowling activity with lunch included, then to Wright's Dairy Farm for their afternoon milking session. They have an awesome baker, so bring a ton of cash with you for take home treats, lol...

Back at the Grange, dinner will be a Go-Tauco-Bar with Code Reading, Grange Baseball and a movie. We'll end our night with Vespers.

Sunday morning breakfast with a worship service will start our day.

Anyone wishing to participate in any of the Public Speaking,

Cortland, NY. This promises to be a memorable event with workshops, networking, and new ideas to take back to your Granges.

Lastly, don't forget to review the Connecticut State Grange website regularly for updates on National Grange and State Grange Lecturer contests. There's always something to participate in—whether you're a writer, photographer, or program planner.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at lecturer@ctstategrange.org with any questions or to schedule a visit. I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the summer and beyond.

Sign-A-Song or any other National Grange contests can at this time for "practice purposes only." National Grange is no longer requiring individual state winners to compete at the National level.

We'll end our weekend with a friendship circle before departing on our journeys home.

All this fun & excitement for the low price of only \$20 per attendee plus a pet item for our Community Service Component.

What you'll need to bring: Sleeping bag, pillow, air mattress w/proper sleeping attire. The Grange Hall does have A/C so plan accordingly if needed. Comfortable shoes and clothes for Saturday as we'll be on a farm. Open toed shoes are not recommended. Bring a Grange shirt, if you have one. Otherwise, proper attire for the weekend that covers appropriately along with comfortable shoes/socks.

Please let Youth Director Dawn Anstett know if you'll be attending so they can give RI a count prior to arrival.

Registration forms are also available by contacting Dawn or the State Secretary.

Looking forward to seeing you for this fun weekend! Walter & Eileen, Co-RI Youth Directors.



E. CONNECTICUT POMONA #14

Next Meeting: Sept. 6, 7PM, N. Stonington Grange Hall. Program "Sense of Wonder". Collection of colored pencils, school glue sticks, washable markers, wood pencils, 24 count crayons.

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

July 23: Woodstock Fair display preparation

Aug. 2: Grange fair also town wide locally grown farms

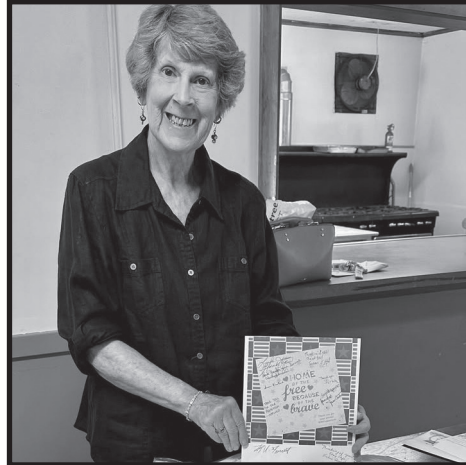
Aug. 6: Scholarship Awards Night

We are keeping busy with many projects including a sewing jar openers project in June. We had a very successful Ham and Bean dinner on May 30. We decided to have a Grange membership awards luncheon at a local restaurant for our long time members. We will have our awards night program for our scholarship winners on August 6, It is always good to see the applications for these students who are looking to seek higher education.

2026 will be the 140th anniversary for our Grange and 90 years for the building. Plans to be worked on for these. Work continues on the projects in and outside of the building.

Visitors are always welcome to our meetings and projects. Looking forward to seeing you.

Hillstown Red Cross Project



Hillstown Grange (E. Hartford) continues their Red Cross Project, sending care packages to our troops abroad. Recent packages were sent by the Red Cross to troops in Djibouti (East Africa).

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Cherie Robinson

July 11: Fireflies

Aug. 8: Annual Potluck Picnic

Sept. 5: Fair Time

Our June meeting included a mystery ride to Valley Falls Heritage Center in Vernon, We enjoyed our introduction to this historical site of a gentleman's farm. Many of us plan to visit again to see more of this interesting place. Since the mystery ride was enjoyed by all, there will more in the future.

Do visit, we would love to see you in person or on zoom at our meetings!

NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

July 10-13: North Stonington Agricultural Fair

July 18: WWII Japan

We hold only one meeting in July as many of our members are involved with our annual Fair and the grounds are very much occupied with rides, animals and food vendors. Hope to see lots of you there this year.

We continue to learn about various wars through Sue's interesting



programs. The Memorial program brought back memories of two members lost during the year and honored those lost in service to our country.

Five willing workers put together the annual Memorial Day Parade float under the able leadership of Cheree Miner. Many thanks go to Gloria and Richard White for the use of their hay wagon for the float and the vehicle (always meticulously clean and shiny as a new penny) to pull it. Jeff Barnes maneuvered the equipment ably through the streets of town. As usual the float was graced with the lovely Queen and two princesses of the previous year's North Stonington Agricultural Fair, who waved to the crowd along the route. Jason Miner provided appropriate recorded music through speakers cleverly hidden among the flowered containers. We would also like to thank Heather and Paul Ames, who plant the barrels in front of the Grange with lovely flowers in time for the annual parade, which forms on our grounds. The flowers continue to keep the hall looking bright and cheery throughout the summer and fall. And if these perpetual flowers will just give way to a little sunshine, next time we'll tell you about jolly June.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Old Ideas, New Trends: The Cycles of Communication and Growth

by Terri Fassio,
Public Relations Co-Director

The saying “everything old is new again” perfectly captures how trends in public relations and communication constantly cycle back while evolving. Although tools and platforms change, the core principles remain the same: tell compelling stories, build relationships, and communicate honestly. These fundamentals are timeless, even as technology transforms how we connect.

Over the past 25 years, digital innovation has revolutionized how we share and receive information. From the launch of Google in 1998 to platforms like Facebook, YouTube, Twitter (X), Netflix, and Instagram, we’ve seen a rapid evolution. These advancements have changed everything—from shopping habits to how we interact with friends and consume news. Today, we expect instant access and seamless connection, all driven by these technological leaps.

Despite these shifts, the core leadership of effective public relations stays rooted in credibility and trust. Professional storytelling through reputable outlets remains essential in cutting through the noise. As audiences are overwhelmed with information, PR professionals must act as guides — helping their organizations stand out with authentic, trustworthy narratives.

So, how does this relate to the Grange?

According to his Harvard Business Review article, “Evolution and Revolution as Organizations Grow,” Larry Greiner explains that an organization’s growth is

shaped by its history and life cycle much like the trend cycles we see in communications. For over 150 years, the Grange has experienced phases: from its founding driven by passion, through peak growth and community support, to challenges of aging members and

operational struggles. Recognizing and managing these cycles, whether through revitalization or adaptation, is vital for a long-lasting future.

In essence, understanding the rhythm of growth and renewal — whether in communications or community organizations — empowers us to navigate change thoughtfully. Embracing the lessons of the past while adapting for the future ensures organizations don’t just survive but thrive. After all, in every cycle, the opportunity to evolve and re-emerge stronger is what keeps us moving forward.



On June 12, we visited Norfield Grange in Weston. They awarded a scholarship to a deserving young local man just graduating from HS and soon to be off to college. Nice supper of pizza. Great time!

On Friday the 13 of June, we went to Beacon Valley for their 136th anniversary. They awarded Paul Paloski, Boy Scout Leader the Community Citizen Award with PVD Noel Miller presenting. Then WM Joanne Cipriano got her 75 year certificate from State Secretary Todd Gelineau presenting. Rob made a special presentation of the President’s Award to Joanne for her service to the Grange. Mayor Hess presented special citations from the Town of Naugatuck to both Paul and Joanne. Finally in Grange fashion, we were fed very well! There was a nice program by Aili McKeen and canine friend Louhi. It was a great evening.

Rural Life Initiative launched by National Grange

The National Grange is doubling down on its commitment to revitalizing rural communities with the launch of two new competitive grant opportunities through the Rural Life Initiative. On June 24, during the “GPS to Success” webinar, National Grange President Christine Hamp announced the launch of two new grant opportunities as part of the expansion of the Rural Life Initiative (RLI), a program designed in partnership with Grange Advocacy to strengthen rural communities through health, wellness, agriculture, and community projects and events.

If you missed the webinar, it is available to watch on the National Grange YouTube channel.

Following the 2024 successes of programs in seven pilot states and nearly 25 Granges that received mini-grants for holiday events, the National Grange is expanding the RLI program and eligibility for all Granges.

Successful examples of past projects include senior fitness classes, building Grange awareness at a community zucchini race event, vaccination and wellness clinics, a cancer research fundraising 5K, and more.

The grant opportunities are as follows:

\$1,000 Summer Grants (30 available)

- Projects must be completed and report submitted by September 30, 2025
- Applications reviewed as received. Must apply by July 31, 2025.

\$5,000 Long-Term Grants (2 available)

- Projects must be completed and report submitted by December 31, 2025
- Applications are due by July 31, 2025, with notification of grant winners on August 8, 2025.

Both grant opportunities are open to either local or State Granges.

While the main grant amounts are fixed, there are additional incentives available for completing projects and submitting reports on time, and for each new member gained through your project.

What are the grant requirements?

Because RLI aims to build stronger communities across the country, there are three main components to the grants:



• You must include at least one partner organization beyond your Grange.

• You must submit a current membership list with the application proposal.

• You have the flexibility to choose topics based on local needs, but:

• Projects cannot involve building improvements or equipment purchases.

• Projects must focus on recruiting and engaging new members.

• Projects must connect to at least one Project Sustenance

pillar (Food Security, Community and personal resilience, Self-sustainability) Tip: Watch the Introducing Project Sustenance webinar for more information on these topics.

“We are excited to see what Granges will create for their communities,” said Hamp. “The flexibility of this grant cycle encourages Granges to truly think outside of the box and the Grange ‘norms.’ I look forward to seeing the dynamic events and powerful programs that this grant helps make possible.”

During the June 24 webinar, presenters Beth Westbrook and Nona Bear offered guidance on how local Granges can apply for these grants, develop project ideas that align with the program’s mission, and measure community impact. Participants were encouraged to think creatively and collaboratively in identifying rural needs and proposing solutions.

The tips and tricks presented also encouraged Granges to go after other community-based grants, always aiming for success.

“These grants are about investing in the people, traditions, and future of rural America,” said webinar leader Beth Westbrook, a member of the Grange Advocacy Board of Directors. “By empowering Granges to take action on local priorities—from health to heritage—we’re building stronger, more connected communities.”

To watch the full announcement, visit the National Grange YouTube channel and view the full grant requirements and submit your applications at the Rural Life Initiative page on the National Grange website.

Philip J. Vonada,
National Grange Public Relations Dir.

pvonada@nationalgrange.org

814-404-7985 (call/text)



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Next Meeting: Saturday, August 23, 2025 at Granby Grange Hall, Luncheon at 12:30 PM (on your own), 5th Degree, Resolutions, Meeting starts at 2:00 PM

GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: Carol Innes

July 13: Meeting/Ice Cream Social

Aug. 10: Member Meeting

Aug. 23: Pomona meeting & degree
At our June meeting we elected new officers for the 2025-26 year and are excited to welcome some new blood plus others continuing in their same positions.

We held our rubber duck race in May, which was a big success. The water was too high to let them swim so we improvised and persevered. The community and Grangers all had a good time in spite of the puddles and clouds. We also participated in the Historical Society spring Flea market selling flowers, collectibles and spreading the good Grange word. Members held a cleanup day in May where we organized and cleaned up our hall and basement. We're holding another one June 24th.

June 1st we had a garden planting party at our Grange. VFW Commander Cliff plowed a larger area this year so the Cub Scouts and 4-H'ers are planting vegetables and herbs. The Grange is also putting a nice garden in. A lot of the produce grown there will go to the local food shelf, Waste Not Want Not, as part of community service.

Winchester's new curb appeal



Winchester Grange recently replaced the oval window (left) with a custom made Grange emblem. The old window was beyond repair and was very expensive to replace. The new Grange emblem is a handsome addition.

We meet at 2 p.m. on Second Sundays and everyone is welcome to our handicapped accessible hall.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Unfortunately, the hottest day of the recent heat wave fell on the night of Winchester's meeting. Rather than brave the near 100° heat in an air conditioner-free building, the meeting was postponed to July 1. The Election of Officers will be held that night and the July 8 meeting has been canceled. We will return to our regular meeting schedule on July 22 with a regular meeting.

Work on our hall is moving forward with a couple of important projects completed. The old oval window above the entrance of the hall has been removed and the space has been filled in and covered with siding. A new Grange emblem has been printed and installed in the place of the window. We think the hall looks better than ever with this addition.

The 1952 storms and windows in the dining room and kitchen have been replaced by modern multi-pane windows that brighten up both rooms and give the windows a very clean appearance.

Looking ahead, we will be working on plans to replace our roof, an expensive project to say the least.

Coming up on August 9 we will be holding our annual Grange Fair at the hall and Tag Sale on the green.

This year spaces on the green will be available for \$15 each. Contact Patrick O'Brien if you are interested or come on the day of the Fair with \$15 in hand and we'll have a space for you.

We are also excited to announce Dr. Jill Lopez will be providing mobile vet services during the Fair with her Vet Candy Mobile Clinic. Wellness Services for cats and dogs will include physicals, core vaccinations for Rabies, DAPV for dogs, HCP for cats, heartworm testing for dogs, flea, tick and heartworm prevention prescriptions and pet health advice and recommendations. The dog wellness package is \$125 and the cat wellness package is \$99. If you haven't priced vet services lately... this is an exception value. Visit her website at myvetcandy.com for more information or contact info.

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

July 10: Roots Run Deep by Chris Hopkins. Ref: Debbie Hanlon & Lynn Cline.

Aug. 2: Square & Contra Dance (all dances taught) 7-9PM by Dance Committee. Ref: All members.

Aug. 14: Lammas by Debra Tyler. Ref. Debra Tyler

NOTE: Refreshments & Social Hour at 7PM with Meeting at 7:30PM unless otherwise noted.

Our Plant & Rummage sale was

Continued next page...

a great success in more ways than one. This is our one fund raiser for the year, and we made over \$4000.00. Additionally, we had an information table to talk about "what is the Grange". Jill Drew did a great job handing out many membership applications on the first day of the sale and Debbie Hanlon did the same on Sunday. Inside where the rummage sale was happening the buyers were very interested in the origins of the Grange Hall and also of the Grange itself. We were very fortunate to have been given handmade quilted wall hangings and table runners that sold at high prices. We are donating the unsold ones to be sold at the Grange Building at the Big E. We are donating the unsold plants to Produce 2 The People based in Cornwall and they in turn provide fresh produce to people in need.

Another way our sale was a success is that we also pulled out all the "G Notes". We voted at our June meeting to donate the \$26 G notes from the sale to the State Grange, adding to the 60 we already have collected for a total of \$85 so far. Heather Matthews stopped by our sale and picked up the donation to her Roving Clover library bus. She thanked us for doing this each year. These books are given out (free) at the many events she attends during the summer when school is not in session.

We hope you attended our Square and Contra Dance on August 2nd. If you did not attend, then you have one more opportunity on the first Saturday in November.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Dorothy Fairchild

Bethlehem's July meeting is scheduled for Sunday, July 13 at 2pm. Program - Corn - by Al Maddox and Refreshments by Dot F.

As of now, we are looking back on the first half of the year 2025. How swiftly, time passes us by. So, mark your calendar for the first weekend of Sept. to attend the 100-year anniversary of the Bethlehem Fair

Taghhannuck's young tenants



A mother and her five baby groundhogs have taken up residence underneath Taghhannuck Grange Hall in Sharon. Customers at their recent Grange Plant & Rummage Sale loved seeing the critters who picked a great home.

held at the Bethlehem fairgrounds.

We sold a large number of Naugatuck Duck Race raffle tickets, and therefore, awarded a good return of the sale.

Beans and potatoes were given to Nonnewaug H.S. to grow and harvest the Food Bank.

Several entered the cake baking contest and the winners were Carol W. 1st place, Dot F. 2nd place and Barbara R. awarded 3rd place.

A Memorial Service was conducted during our June meeting in remembrance of Brother John Roden.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Dave Roberts

July 18: Riverton Grange #169's monthly in-person meeting (with Zoom option). Refreshments will be served at 6:30 PM, Meeting at 7:00.

July 20: The 42nd Veteran of the Month ceremony at the hall will feature living WWII veteran George Ransom Jr., a Riverton Grange member before moving out of state; 6:00 PM, open to all, and refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

We had a large attendance at our June 6 meeting with three visitors from Whigville Grange, two from Winchester Grange, and eight visitors from Mass. State Grange joined us and commented on how nice it was to see a Grange hall full of members. Visitors from Massachusetts State Grange included: Ruth Ellen Henry,

Ceres; Karlana Henry, Chaplain; Lois Skelton, Guiding Star Grange Flora; Nancy Lescarbeau, Deputy; Lisa West – Pomona for CT Valley Pomona; Tom West – Gatekeeper and Executive Committee of CT Valley Pomona; Jim Allen – Steward of CT Valley Pomona; and Virginia Koehler – Hope of Hadley Grange Secretary. Before the Grange meeting, the visitors were hosted at the Royal Coachman Tavern at the Old Riverton Inn for a traditional tavern meal. The visitors were given gifts from local Riverton merchants after the meeting.

At this meeting, Executive Committee member Dennis Jasmine received his 55-year seal.

We were notified by the NW Comm. Foundation that we can advance to Phase II for a \$40,000 grant for kitchen renovation new appliances.

The biannual election of officers was held. President Dave Roberts was re-elected to a third two-year term, and Assistant Steward Dawn Anstett was elected as Vice President. New members elected to offices included: Tim Sweeney – Assistant Steward; Melissa Sweeney -- Lady Assistant Steward; Felicia Delisio – Pomona; and John Lukens – Gatekeeper/Greeter.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Marguerite Smith

June 6 - We hosted the 3rd of 5

Continued next page...

Beaver Pond Wildlife films by Ray Asselin. Film goers are loving our social hour beginning at 6:00 pm and our projection-painted stage wall to view these films. The last 2 films will take place on October 3rd and November 7th. There will be a special film shown by Ray on December 5th. Come on out and join us for these fun film events.

June 13 - Monthly meeting - Discussion centered around preparations for our annual fair, one particular program we are planning for September and plans for 2026.

June 14 - Our annual agricultural fair is in the books! This year's fair was a little different in that we opted to stay indoors with the threat of rain. No matter. We had plenty of fun with lots of contest items to view, nonprofit display tables including Master Gardeners, Simsbury Public Library, Knitted Knockers, local DAR chapter, Gardeners of Simsbury, Quilts Beyond Borders, Bionutrient Food Association, Tulmeadow Farm, Joe Hall Farm, Flamig Farm and Rosedale Farm. We also held a raffle to give away three 5 gallon buckets and mosquito dunks as part of Homegrown National Park's Mosquito Bucket Challenge. Fair goers enjoyed our crock pot kitchen and bake sale and everyone was entertained by a local line dancing group, the Stompin' Boots, Simsbury-based Sweet Adelines and our very own and very talented guitarist and singer, Dave Galt. Save the date for next year's fair on June 13th!!

July 7 - MUSIC MONDAY! Our monthly music series continues with acoustic/indie rock singer songwriter Joshua Aciaries. He is fabulous! Google him at www.joshuaaciaries.com. Bring your dinner and we'll see you there at 7:00. Doors - 6:30.

July 11 - Monthly meeting at the grange - 7:00 pm.

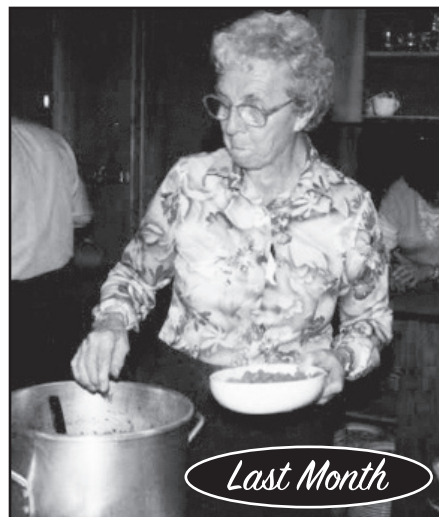
August 4 - MUSIC MONDAY! Singer songwriter Tim McDonald is a local favorite. He will perform classics and originals for us at 7:00 pm. Can't wait to see you at the Simsbury Grange.

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 Murray Newton on the April photo. He believes that it is Florence Hunt playing the Violin. If you have an answer for this month's Window Picture or any of our previous photos, please let us know!





NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Nutmeg Pomona last met on Sunday, June 1st. Attendance was disappointing as at the meeting before we conferred the Fifth Degree on 10 candidates. Among the missing was our President Donald Lanoue who was in a very serious accident totaling his truck. As of this writing he is still under doctors care and will be until the middle of July about the same time we receive the next Granger. We wish him well and will keep him in our thoughts. Also missing was Overseer Charles Dimmick who was on his way home from vacation. Ruel Miller did a good job of presiding over the meeting.

Next meeting will be September 28th at Beacon Valley.

Granges are reminded that material for the new handbook is due to Pomona Secretary Joanne by July 19th.

Hope you are having an enjoyable summer.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

July 2: Omitted

July 16: Annual Picnic at the Millers and 2025-2026 Planning Meeting

On June 4th we held our election of officers. Other than electing a new Lecturer, the remaining officers stayed in place for the new year. A potluck supper was held prior to the meeting. Our Chaplain, Charles Dimmick presented his annual Memorial Service which was most impressive. July looks to be a rather quiet month. We will hold a pre-fair meeting on July 23rd to tie down any loose ends with fair being a month away. We still continue with non-perishable food items to the Cheshire Food Pantry and any items needed for the Cheshire Animal Shelter.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

A change in our Election of Officers – Overseer Ronald Gunter is our new Master replacing Joanne Cipriano who has held this position for 25 years. Joanne will be Overseer.

After planning our 136th anniversary for a year, it has now come and gone but the memories will live on. Honoring us with their presence was the Mayor of Naugatuck Pete Hess – Past Voting Delegate Noel Miller - State Officers President Robert Buck, Secretary Todd Gelineau, Chaplain Charles Dimmock and Gatekeeper Aili McKeen. 47 attended to help in the celebration.

In keeping with our year's theme "Dogs", dogs were played an important part throughout the meeting. A dog rescue table containing dog figurines, supplies, puzzles and doggie bags was available for anyone to take home a souvenir.

During the program, the opening song was "How Much is That Doggie in the Window" and Aili McKeen and her dog Luchi did a scentwork demonstration – very enjoyable.

Paul Paloski was honored as our "Citizen of the Year" Paul is long time Boy Scout Leader, life-long servant of the Church and a former Auxiliary State Trooper. We were able to keep it a surprise from him even his three sons coming. One from out of state. Noel Miller did the presentation.

Our Master Joanne Cipriano was presented her 75 year continuous membership certificate by Todd Gelineau, Secretary of the CT State Grange. She was also presented with certificates from the Mayor and State Grange President.

At the meeting I said I did not want to single out any particular officer as we have an exceptional great group but I have to give special thanks to Pat Fischer, Marilyn Maxwell and Marie Sousa. They were at the hall during the week and made sure everything was spic and span and Marilyn came back the next day and did the same with the outside. As Master of BVG, I am very fortunate.

Just a reminder, we still have Open Mic the third Saturday of each month from 2 to 5 and our tag sale on the same day from 9 to 2.

We thank everyone who came and made it an enjoy occasion for Paul, Joanne and all our members.

Almost forgot – the surprise of the evening, was when Todd presented us with a check for \$3,100.00 he found in

the State Unclaimed Money.

This sure will pay many bills. Thanks a bunch, Todd. Keep up the great detective work.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Jim & Lori Golias

Happy Summer to ALL! Our newest addition at the Greenfield Hill Grange is our "Little Free Library." Members voted to "Share a book" and our library is official. It's registered and our Charter number is 119243. In March of 2025, "Little Free Library" book-sharing boxes reached 200,000, so it's great to be a part of this huge milestone. They are in 128 countries.

We have some fun and amazing events planned at the Greenfield Hill Grange. If you haven't visited, please come check us out!

The next in our "How Does Your Garden Grow Luncheon" series is Saturday JULY 19. The topic: Weeding, Watering, Trellising and starting a Fall Garden, Donation: \$20.00. Please call to make a reservation - RSVP Cornelia 203.571.8673

Our 132nd Agricultural Fair will be held on Aug. 23. SAVE THE DAY - for our Annual End of Summer Lobster Bake on September 13. Reservations ONLY, call Jim. 203.259.8023.

September 27, 2025 --TEATIME Luncheon. Enjoy a tranquil afternoon with friends & learn about the history of tea, the tea business, and the health benefits of drinking tea from Linda DeStefano of the Fairfield--based Bigelow Tea Company. This is a reservation only occasion. Please call Carol 203.218.1592 or Nancy 203.331.5640 By September 21st. Donation: \$20.00 per person.

October 25, 2025 Halloween Harvest Dinner.

We continue our community outreach. We have just made another delivery to our friends at the VA Hospital in West Haven.

We also continue to collect non-perishables for out local food pantries. We have A LOT Going on! Come see us!

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

July 11: 6:00 Picnic and Meeting

July 25: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Aug. 8: Fun at the Beach

Aug. 22: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

Family Festival



Family Activities Department:
NE Region Needlework Contest
Family Activities Contests
Baking - Crafts - Junior Contests
Everything Gnome Contest
Decorate and/or Make a Picture Frame and more!

★★★★★
Lecturer's Department:
Photo Contests
Lecturer's Program

Friday, August 1
Saturday, August 2
Sunday, August 3



Friday:
Entry Drop Off
3:00 - 6:00 PM

Saturday:
Entry Drop Off:
before 10:30 AM
Judging Begins:
11:00 AM

Sunday:
• Entries on Display •
• Pancake Breakfast •
hosted by Hillstown Grange
8:30 AM - 11:00 AM
• Tea Cup Auction •



**HILLSTOWN
GRANGE HALL**
617 Hills Street
East Hartford, CT 06118



For More Information:
Dawn Percoski, Family Activities Chair • familyactivities@ctstategrange.org
Dave Roberts, State Grange Lecturer • lecturer@ctstategrange.org
www.ctstategrange.org

The Connecticut State Grange cordially invites you to join us

for the

DEDICATION OF THE GRANGE PLOT in Peoples State Forest

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH
3:30 PM

at the site located on Park Road in Barkhamsted, CT

Following the Dedication Ceremony,
a Hosted Dinner will be held at
Riverton Grange Hall,
17 Riverton Road (Route 20), Riverton,
just minutes from the dedication site.



To ensure we can properly accommodate everyone, please kindly confirm your attendance by August 15th by contacting CT State Grange Secretary Todd Gelineau at secretary@ctstategrange.org or call (860) 307-1522.

For more information on the Dedication Ceremony, contact CT State Grange Lecturer Dave Roberts at lecturer@ctstategrange.org or granbydavidroberts@gmail.com or call (860) 469-5067

Redding's Annual Garden Produce Drive

Starting July 2-October 8th

Join us to share your surplus garden produce
and nourish our community. Donations of
fresh food will help those in need.

Drop off from 8 am to 12 pm at
three locations:

Redding Grange: 399 Newtown Turnpike
The Granite Church: 5 North Main St.
Mark Twain Library: 439 Redding Road

We appreciate your generosity
and support!

Benefits Redding Social Services
& ARC Comida Food Pantry

Brought to you by Redding Grange #15 & Food Rescue US
Community@ReddingGrange.org

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

Virtual Social Hour



Thursday, July 17th • 7:00 PM

Join us for a fun and casual social gathering.
A brief program will be presented.

Send an e-mail to information@ctstategrange.org for info and Zoom Credentials



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain
Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstateGrange.org

“Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream” *Amos 5:24*

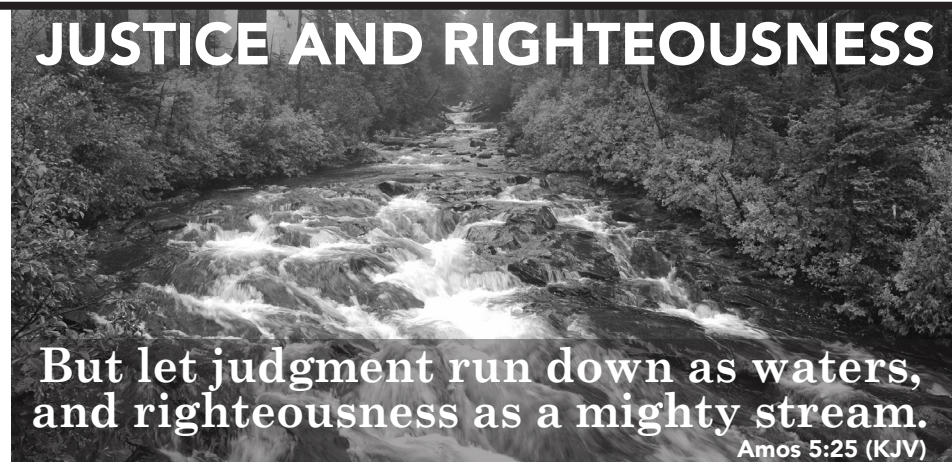
“And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily.” *Luke 18:7-8*

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” *Matthew 6:33*

“God commands justice and fair dealing...” [*Quran, 16:90*]

The Hebrew word *Tsedaqah* and the Greek word *Dikaiousune* both mean both justice and righteousness. Various bible translations may use either word almost interchangeably. Justice [or righteousness] is a basic part of all three Abrahamic religions. Thus it is a requirement for all believers, whether Jewish, Christian, or Muslim, to seek after justice and righteousness.

If the same word is used in Hebrew and Greek for both Justice and righteousness, why do we use two different words in English? We might say that righteousness



is agreement with God's instruction to us and an intent to do what God wants us to do, and justice is righteousness in action, actively working towards that end. How do we do so? We have the commandment in Leviticus 19:18 to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus repeats this commandment in Mark 12:31. We also have the “Golden Rule” to “do unto others as you would have them do unto you”. God wants us to show no partiality, no unfairness. Being fair also means that each of us needs to be held responsible for our own actions, either good or bad.

Understand that we are not talking about justice for ourselves, but rather justice for the poor, the marginalized, those who have not gotten a fair shake, a fair deal from life. We do not need to seek these people out. They are all around us, except that many times we are

blind to their existence. Perhaps unconsciously we do not want to see them. We do not have to travel to the slums of Calcutta, or even to the slums of Bridgeport to find them. The people who have been denied justice are also in our own communities, perhaps even in our own religious congregations or among the members of our own grange. Examine yourselves; are you blind or asleep to what is going on around you? Remember: we are born not for ourselves but to help others.

In Memoriam

Richard Bergquist
Litchfield Grange No. 107

John Roden
Bethlehem Grange No. 121

Peter J. Hunt
Hemlock Grange No. 182

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”