

Connecticut Granger



Vol. 50, No. 4

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

JANUARY 2010

State President



Robert Sendewicz
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

Well I survived my last national session and chairing a committee wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. Although I got the committee with the most resolutions but I'm glad for the opportunity to have experienced it.

Starting off the New Year will be the schools of instruction. Except for New Haven County Pomona, the dates and locations were listed in the last issue of the Granger and I am sure when you get this issue that information will also be available. It is important to have as many

of your officers, as possible, attend the schools and I think it would be doubly advantageous for all new officers.

I will have several handouts for Granges and I will explain the more important items that came out of the national session. I will also try to explain the new agenda we will be trying at our own annual session this October. The added benefit to your Grange is that you get 10 points on the Honor Grange report for every officer that attends and if 10 or more attend you get 200 points. Getting points is not the main purpose of the schools. Educating the officers and members as to their responsibilities and the proper conduct of the meeting is.

This is also where you get to air your complaints and ask the important questions of the State Master. I never have all the answers but



those that I don't have I will get the correct one for you. The best part of all is that you get to socialize with your neighbors in a non meeting atmosphere.

On January 8, 9 and 10, I and the committee directors of the State Grange will be attending the Northeast Leaders Conference in Brattleboro, Vermont. We will meet to discuss how we as a group

can best grow the Grange in our region. There will also be workshops on improving leadership skills and the trustees of the New England Grange Building will hold their annual meeting. There will be socializing with our neighbors and this is where different ideas on programs are exchanged between the different departments.

All of this pays off in a

concerted effort to improve the Grange in our region and for the seven states to work together and help each other get better. Any relevant information that comes out of this conference I will pass along at the schools of Instruction.

I hope you all survived and enjoyed the holidays and are ready to make this a great year for the Grange.

Happy New Year!

The solution is the problem



Gordon Gibson
Legislative Director
legislative@ctstategrange.org

The State's financial situation is not good. Everyone agrees on that, but they cannot agree on what to do about it. The problem is that there are not a lot of choices left. The State depends heavily on the income tax and the sales tax. When businesses and individuals have less income, they pay less income tax. Because

they have less money, worse, but they do not agree on what that "something" is. The General Assembly passed a budget in September which Governor Rell allowed to become law without her signature. That budget, like all budgets, had to make some assumptions about the amount of money the State would collect in taxes.

Now, because of the economy, the tax revenues are not as much as predicted. The Governor and the leaders in the General Assembly agree that something should be done to correct the problem now before it gets any

worse, but they do not agree on what that "something" is.

Governor Rell called the General Assembly in to a special session and sent them her recommendations on where cuts should be made in the budget. The Appropriations Committee held a public hearing on December 8 to hear what the public had to say about the problem. Although the weather was very bad that morning, over 300 people showed up to testify. The Appropriations Committee divided itself in half so they could hear speakers simultaneously in two rooms, but some people still

... continued on page 2

2010 SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION

- Jan. 6 (Wed) Fairfield County Pomona
Redding Grange, 7:30 P.M.
- Jan. 15 (Fri) Mountain County Pomona
Litchfield Grange, 7:30 P.M.
- Jan. 17 (Sun) Quinebaug & New London County Pomonas
Killingly Grange, 2:00 P.M.
- Jan. 23 (Sat) East & North Central Pomonas
Hillstown Grange, 1:30 P.M.
- Jan. 25 (Mon) Farmington Valley Pomona
Tunxis Grange, 7:30 P.M.
- Feb. 7 (Sun) Excelsior Pomona
Prospect Grange, 2:00 P.M.
- Feb. 21 (Sun) Central Pomona
Hemlock Grange, 1:00 P.M.

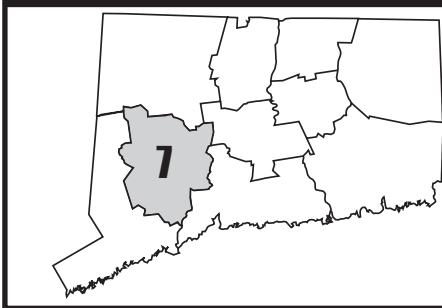
New Haven County Pomona No. 5 - To be announced.

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Deadline for the FEBRUARY issue: JANUARY 5

Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 107
- ✓ Watertown No. 122
- ✓ Prospect No. 144
- Bridgewater No. 153
- Wolcott No. 173
- ✓ Oxford No. 194

EXCELSIOR POMONA #7

Corr: Mary Dubay

Jan. 20: Meeting

Happy New Year from Excelsior Pomona No. 7.

The first meeting of the new year will be held at Oxford Grange Hall on January 20, 2010 at 7:30 P.M.

Lecturer Jean's program is called "Come Fly with Me."

Visiting Pomona members are always welcome.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Linda Coad

Jan. 24: Wintertime SUNDAY MEETING 2:00 P.M.; Ref. Buzz and Linda Country Store

Feb. 28: Hearts & Presidents SUNDAY MEETING 2:00 P.M.; Ref. Cindy and Ernie

Trying to write a month ahead has always been a problem for me.

We just had our "Annual Thanksgiving Potluck and Awards Night" and the next meeting after receiving this newsletter is in 2010.

Anyway, our Awards Night was a huge success! Over sixty people enjoyed our potluck turkey dinner. Worthy State Master, was at hand to give Louise Johnson her certificate for 75 years of membership. Charles Lewis was honored for 50 years membership although he was unable to attend.

We all thank Myrtle Hayden of Taghannuck Grange and the Country Spice Band for their great musical entertainment.

As the "New Decade" is at hand, why not think about the many projects that are planned this year. Come to a meeting and see what your Grange is doing for Community Service.

WATERTOWN GRANGE #122

Corr: Mary Dubay

Jan. 1: Omitted

Jan. 15: Icicles & Snowballs

Happy New Year!

May your year be filled with happiness, good health and good cheer.

Our first meeting for the new year is omitted because of the holiday.

Our second meeting's program is called Icicles and Snowballs, Silver and White. This is really what you would call a winter theme. It is a new year which means that the Ways and Means Committee will have to discuss our fundraisers for the year.

We will have our annual winter tag sale in February, so members keep this in mind. We find that we do well having a sale in winter-- no competition. If it doesn't snow we have it made.

At our last meeting our CWA Chairman Malinda explained the projects for the coming year. Most are the same as last year, but a new recipe has been introduced for the baking contest.

We made a monetary donation to the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen so that a number of homeless people would have a nice Thanksgiving dinner.

Come and join us when you can, we love company!

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Phil Rowland

Jan. 15: 7:00 P.M. Meeting, followed by 7:30 P.m. Great Gardens Seminar

The "Great Gardens" seminar series will continue, after an encouraging beginning in November. Expert gardener Maggie Buck is heading these open to the public programs and they have drawn much interest. Probably folks like to anticipate pleasurable spring and summer activities this time of year!

One nice thing about our recent meetings: we have eaten well. Feasts at both Thanksgiving and Christmas were

appreciated by all present. recovering from her fall. And a happy new year to
It was good seeing Evelyn Best wishes to Al Vaill all!
Hill back, looking well after who has been ill.

The solution is the problem

Continued from page one...

had to wait until after 8:00 that evening for their turn to speak for three minutes. Many others, including me, submitted written testimony but did not attempt to speak that day.

All the testimony, including mine, can be summarized very briefly in one sentence: Don't take any money away from my group's favorite programs or projects and don't raise taxes. Complying with the Governor's call, the General Assembly convened on December 15, but the only thing they did was vote to adjourn. The leaders in the General Assembly, being from the other side of the political aisle, were not going to accept the Governor's recommendations, but were not yet ready to submit their own recommendations. They have said they will call another special session, probably in January, when they have a proposal they want to pass ready for a vote.

The General Assembly could have voted to recess until the leaders' proposal was ready for action, so I do not know why they voted to adjourn the December 15 special session. The State's finances are similar to a family's finances. The only way they can spend money they do not have is to borrow the money, then pay it back with interest. The family does this using their credit cards. The State does it by selling bonds in the financial market. Just as a family decides they are not going to put any more charges on their credit cards, the State can decide it is not going to sell any more bonds. For both

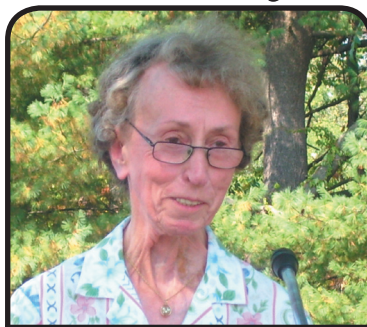
the family and the State, this means they must either increase their income to meet their expenses or reduce their expenses to stay within their income.

In the reality of today's economy, increasing the income is not always an option for either the family or the State. The question then becomes where and how much to cut spending. The family decides what their priorities are and reluctantly cuts spending on their lowest priorities. The State tries to do the same thing, but the problem is that different legislators and different constituents have different priorities. The big question now is what will happen next.

The General Assembly will most likely call itself back into another special session in January and pass some changes to the budget, but no one can say how Governor "Rell" will react until she has something to react to. She could approve and sign whatever the General Assembly passes, she could veto it and send it back to the General Assembly or she could let it become law again without her signature, just as she did in September. I am not going to predict what the General Assembly will pass in January or how the governor will react to it.

What I will predict is that when the General Assembly convenes for their 2010 regular session in February there will still be problems with the budget and a good amount of time will be spent next spring trying to resolve those problems. Somehow even my prediction sounds like many families budgets.

The new year brings a new IRS deadline



Edith Schoell
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

The new year is here. Are your resolutions once that you will be able to keep?

This isn't the best way to start the year, but I must remind you to file with the IRS again. I am hoping it will go smoother this year. If you have problems let me know and I will attempt to help you out.

Schools of Instruction were listed in the Granger and I hope you plan to attend. This is for anyone that is interested, but especially important for officers. The State Master

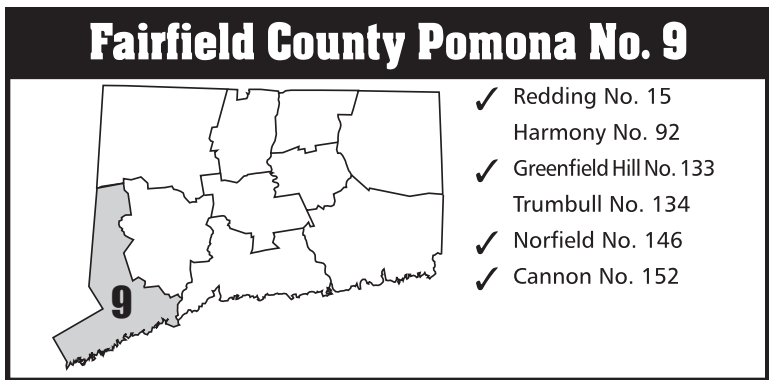
will discuss many topics and there is always a time for questions if you have any.

Quarterly reports are due with the increase as mentioned in my last letter to the Secretaries.

Happy New Year to all.

Help is available in filing your e-postcards with the IRS by calling the Central Office

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REDDING GRANGE #15

Corr: Marge Sendewicz

Jan. 11: New Ideas

Jan. 25: Agriculture & Legislative

Feb. 8: Be My Valentine-6:30 Supper

We are starting the New Year off with New Ideas and who can't use a few of those. Although the weather may be cold it's warm at Redding Grange. We have some interesting programs lined up for January, so if any of them catch your eye drop in and pay us a visit. Our door is always open for visitors, as long as the snow is not too deep. We'll do our best to make your evening an interesting one.

On Feb.8, we will have a 6:30 P.M. pot luck supper followed by our Valentine program and party. We hope the snow won't be too high that night. If you are suffering from cabin fever and need to get out this is a good reason to do it.

We at Redding Grange wish all of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

Jan. 17: Jack Frost, 2 P.M. Meeting

In October, we received two candidates by means of the welcoming ceremony presented by the State Master. The new people were given background on the Grange activities, history and tradition. In November, we discussed plans for the Grange, material needs for our hall, and means of preservation.

Our January meeting will have as its theme, "Jack Frost" about getting through winter. All of our Grange friends are welcome!

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

Jan. 12: Winter Fun

Feb. 9: Be My Valentine-CWA Baking Contest

Our November Neighbors' Night was a bit like Brigadoon: Norfield's past suddenly reappeared like magic, in full and glorious splendor. Thanks to Membership Chair Lyn Kimberly and her family, Emerson Phillips, and our next-door neighbor Ewa Ojarowski, the parking lot was full. The hall was packed with 66 people. And the sea of familiar faces was overwhelming. All these friends had been individually invited by Emerson and Lyn!

Unlike Grange dinners in the past, but certainly as festive, there were linen tablecloths and napkins, candles, flowers, and a complete dinner of beef stew, pork, salad, corn muffins, and pie à la mode. All the cooking had been done in the Grange kitchen (after the cooks painstakingly recalibrated the oven) by Lyn, husband Chris, and Ewa, with help from the Kimberly and Phillips kids. Ewa, a friend of Emerson's, is an event planner. She was also the owner of Clemens, an upscale restaurant at the Redding Railroad complex.

But the celebration did not stop there. For entertainment, Master Randy Miller introduced Jim Acosta, a teacher at Fairfield's Andrew Warde High School, who then introduced several of his students who had worked on a project called "Colonial Times". Each spoke on his or her chosen aspect of the period, using fascinating displays. And all this was simultaneously being recorded by Channel 78!

The Grange Hall has finally settled down and it's business as usual. November's festive celebration is already a memory, along with those thousands of dinners, Lecturers' programs, and busy meetings of the past. They are what has

made Norfield Grange such a unique and beloved fellowship of friends.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

Jan. 7: Program - Book Club Reports

Feb. 4: Program - Working Together

Mar. 4: Program - Away We Go

Mar. 18: Agricultural Program- Preparing a Garden

We are pleased to welcome our newest members: Shelley and John Dempsey, John Kriz and Rita Anspach. Each has already

been active in our recent Agricultural Fair last August, a Neighbor's Night Dinner and several other activities.

Soon our Fair Committee will begin planning the line-up of events at our 78th Annual Agricultural Fair next August. Seems like a long way off, but it all takes a lot of careful planning.

Our Family Activities committee decorated the Hall for our annual Holiday Party for members and neighbors. The twinkling lights above the stage, and the glowing faux fireplace

made it seem like a magical place to be for young and old. We enjoyed Christmas and Classical music performed by the Brilliant Brass Quintet from the Wilton Congregational Church.

We send best wishes for the New Year to all of our members and friends.

Please note our meeting schedule above. We begin with light supper refreshments at 6 PM, and have our business meeting and program at 7 PM.

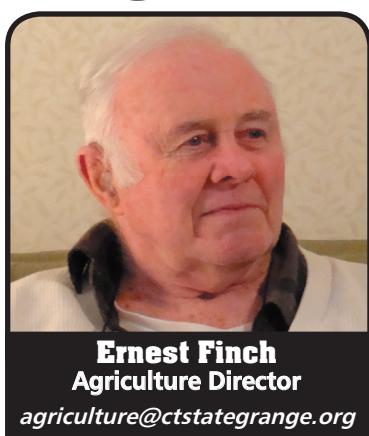
Visiting Patrons are always welcome - won't you join us?

Norfield Neighbors



A high school student displays the colonial quilt she made at the Norfield Grange Neighbor's Night audience.

AgNews



Dennis Rich, State Agric. Comm.

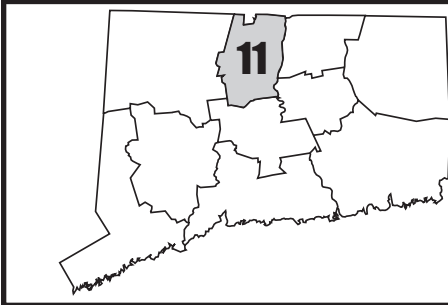
The old parlor game "Twenty Questions", which became a radio and then a television program, had as its only clue: is it animal, vegetable or mineral? It brings to my mind a way of thinking about self employment in an era of economic uncertainty. On my job traveling highways

in the tri-state area, I notice that one of the most common trucks on the road are those owned by concerns making deliveries to stores, bakeries and restaurants, products of agriculture and food processors. So from the farm to the end user there are people employed in production, processing, and marketing the yield of our fields and forests.

There are efforts underway to encourage people in rural areas to engage in making value-added products. In New York State, there is the Small Scale Food Processors Association with items included in its "showcase" of cheeses, jams and jellies, maple sugar, vinegars,

flour, wine, and ice cream in addition to local harvest fruit and vegetables, honey, Christmas trees, and natural meats and eggs. Another part of the solution is making available, for cottage industries, commercial kitchen space, most often required for that which is made for human consumption. This of great benefit for those who cannot afford regular rental property and have homes not suitable for required alterations. Either space with "down time" or government owned property could be rented. Penn State offers a Food for Profit course and has established test kitchens in various parts of Pennsylvania. Here in our state this is a good challenge to focus for Ag Day in March!

Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11



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

FARMINGTON VALLEY POMONA #11

Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner

Jan: No Meeting

The schedule of our meetings as printed in the Farmington Valley Handbook has had to be altered. Please check with Doris Shaw (or any officer) to find out when and where we will be meeting.

Our Christmas party was moved to Tunxis Grange Hall where it was enjoyed by all.

We do not meet in January.

Now that winter has arrived, we may be forced to stay home on some cold evenings. It will be the ideal time to sit by the fire and keep those needles flying. Our Grange contest entries and sale items for the "Big E" will, as always, be very much needed and appreciated. Supporting these projects is a great way to spend a stormy evening.

GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: Vivian C. Shaw

Jan. 8: Show & Tell

Thanksgiving program. Song "Thanksgiving is a Wonderful Thing". Shirley gives Thanksgiving prayer. Jokes and riddles.

Joe tells about Ben Franklin opposed for eagle to be the national symbol - he thought the turkey would be better.

Skit narrated by Virginia with family dinner by Fran, Bob, Shirley, Charlie, Vivian, Joe and Lyall.

Lucian made a sign for the Granby Grange Christmas Tag Sales on Nov. 21, 28, and Dec. 5.

TUNXIS GRANGE #13

Corr: Pam Covington

Jan. 19: Snow???

Tunxis Grange had a meeting in November that had very few members. Al Foster, our Lecturer, was out with a broken bone in his foot and we missed having him at the meeting. Get well, Al!

We did not have a lot of business to do at the meeting. We had a nice time of fellowship and to me, this makes the Grange well worth the time and effort- being together with our friends.

Please check with our Master, Doris Shaw, to see which Tuesday we will meet.

CAWASA GRANGE #34

Corr: Maggie Schofield

Happy New Year!

Wow! what happened to Thanksgiving, Christmas, andand.....

The Grangers' had a very enjoyable Christmas dinner together at LaTrattoria Restaurant in Canton.

At our last meeting in December: Santa's helper, Sister Helen brought stamps and cards for our Golden Sheaf this year again, we all sat down and addressed our envelopes to them.

Sister Maggie has a new Baby kitten, her name is Kari (pronounced Carrie) after her Aunt Carrie. She is 2 lbs and 5 months old. She is a Lynx Siamese she got from the Siamese rescue sight. She lost her baby Tilly who was 14 years old, a lilac point siamese, who was the best cat in the world.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy new year.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner

Jan. 13: "Kat-Nip Kapers"

Due to unforeseen circumstances we have had to close our hall for the winter.

We will be meeting in the Barnes Room at the Simsbury Library on the second Wednesday of the month at one o'clock.

It was disappointing not to have our Christmas program with special guests, but we managed a holiday get-together. Hope we will be back to a regular

schedule come spring!

Community Service projects are being carried on as usual. We feel this is one of the best ways we can promote our Grange and help others.

Happy New Year to all!

WEST SUFFIELD GRANGE #199

Corr: Pam Covington

Jan. 12: We Welcome

the New Year- CWA and Legislative Comm.

West Suffield had a nice meeting in November- full of companionship and thanks to be together.

Our Lecturer had a program that included a lot of different things that go into Thanksgiving and we enjoyed the roll call "If you could invite anyone for Thanksgiving who would it

be?"

Next year will be the Connecticut State Grange's 125th Anniversary. Our Lecturer read an article on how hard it was to elect the first State Master! We will be doing more on this in the months ahead!

Come and visit us at the Congregational Church in West Suffield. We love to have visitors.

Christmas in Collinsville and East Hartland



A new venture for her to a wheelchair, Vivian was a very active and devoted Granger. She knew the ritual in several degrees, is a past master of Farmington Valley Pomona and was one of the installing officers on the Farmington Valley Pomona Installing Team. She held

the Canton Historical Museum in Collinsville to raise money to benefit the museum building fund, was to hold a "Gallery of Trees". Any group, business or individual was invited to enter a tree. A Gala was held to start things off and then we sold tickets for the "tea-cup auction" of the trees on December 12.

Cawasa Grange's entry titled "NO FARMERS, NO FOOD" featured sheaves of wheat, fruit and many farm animals - there was even a little red tra

Ironically, we won our own tree. It would have looked nice in the living room at 21 Thayer Avenue, but we had a better idea. Why not bring it to one of our most faithful Grangers. Vivian Shaw was delighted to receive the tree and Lyall was glad he didn't have to go out and get one.

Before a stroke confined

her to a wheelchair, Vivian was a very active and devoted Granger. She knew the ritual in several degrees, is a past master of Farmington Valley Pomona and was one of the installing officers on the Farmington Valley Pomona Installing Team. She held

offices including Flora of the Connecticut State Grange and was in charge of the Art Department at the Connecticut Agricultural Fair for several years.

Could we have chosen a better person to receive our tree? We don't think so.

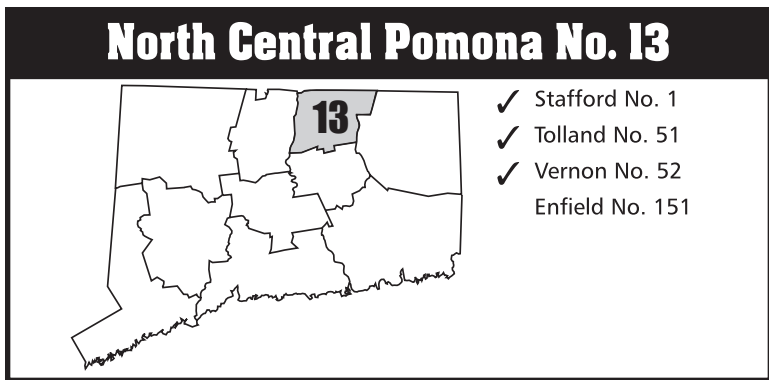
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NORTH CENTRAL POMONA #13

Corr: J. Jordan

North Central Pomona No. 13 celebrated its 50th anniversary on Thursday, November 12, as guests of Enfield Grange. On hand for the festivities were State Master Robert Sendewicz, State Lecturer Marge Bernhardt, State Secretary Edith Schoell, State Assistant Steward Noel Miller, State Committee on Women's Activities member Ruth Herbele, Coventry Lecturer Ethel Harris, and Coventry Agriculture and Conservation Committee Chairperson Marsha Miller. Several of the invited guests were accompanied by their spouses.

A special cake was served commemorating the 50th anniversary and it was cut by State Lecturer Bernhard and Past Master of North Central Pomona Milo Bradway. A good time was had by all. North Central will be off until March. Happy winter and holidays from all of us to all of you.

STAFFORD GRANGE #1

Corr: Edward J. Festi

Jan. 19: Meeting, 7 P.M.

Feb. 16: Meeting, 7 P.M.

At our Nov. 17 meeting we enjoyed David Barfleet, president of the Stafford Historical Society. He spoke about an ongoing project restoring the one room Patten School. Besides the problems that were encountered, it was gratifying to know there were so many who came forward and offered goods, services, or even knowledge to work on this project. It shows that the old Stafford Spirit still exists.

On December 15 we will again have the students from Studio 85 with their holiday musical selections.

On Jan. 19, 2010 we will play bingo. Hot dogs will be refreshments. Bring a prize for Bingo.

Feb. 16, 2010 we will celebrate Presidents Month. Bring a non-perishable food item for the Stafford Food Bank.

TOLLAND GRANGE #51

Corr: J. Jordan

Jan. 5: New Year's Resolutions

Tolland will be discussing resolutions come January. Do you make any each year and how successful are you at keeping them? Join us for the discussion.

Please call Worthy Master Robert West and let him know you plan to be with us in case we aren't meeting at our Hall. If it snows, we tend to meet elsewhere.

Tolland Grange welcomes Sheri Robinson, a new Granger, into the group.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

Jan. 8, 2010: Meeting

Happy New Year to All! This will be our theme for our January meeting.

Construction has begun on the Grange Hall to put in an elevator and a bathroom on the second floor. The Vernon Historical Society secured a grant to help fund this project and it is finally underway. Until it is finished, meetings will be held at the Strong home. Call or email Nancy to get meeting information.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Jan. 9: Granny Smith-

Meeting at Applebee's in Manchester

December means Christmas cookies. Be sure to bring two dozen to share and exchange with others. At our October meeting we learned of more than one Baldwin and the anatomy of a worm! Can't say we're not getting a little education at our meetings.

Our November Turkey dinner was well attended and delicious was surely the word of the day.

December will be the last meeting in our hall until next April as we close it down for the winter, so come for our cookie exchange and some more "Apple" news and facts.

It was with deep regret

that a demit was given to a very long time Granger, Edith Welles. Edith came to us from Wapping Grange when it closed and served as our Overseer. She will be missed very much. All of us in Enfield wish her well in whatever the future may hold.

Gretchen Hendrick receives State Grange Scholarship



Vernon Master and member of the State Scholarship Committee Nancy Strong presented Gretchen Hendrick her scholarship from the CT State Grange. Gretchen was unable to attend the ceremony at the State Session due to teaching commitments at the University of Connecticut. Gordon Gibson, who took the picture, went with Nancy to the University to make the presentation.

Do you remember?



"What the Grange Means to Me"

By Barbara Kulisch, Old Lyme Grange #162

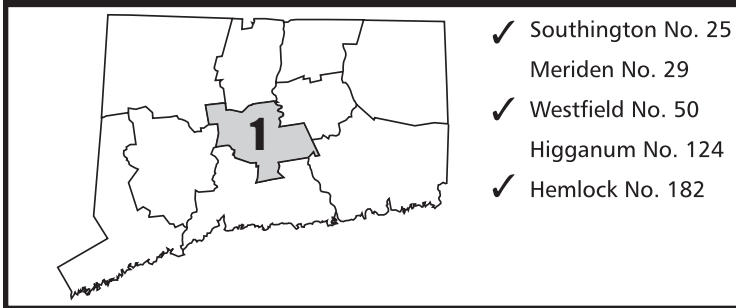
The Grange is one great fraternity of family and friends. It has been a teaching tool, starting in the Juvenile Grange, which gave me my foundation of Ritualism; how to be free to speak out in the Public and to continue to help others within my community to better themselves. It has been a privilege to be a part of this great organization where I met and married my husband and we have been a part of the Grange family ever since. I will always cherish the everlasting friendships I have made throughout my 48 years in the Grange.

As we celebrate our 125th year, how many of the first 25 Granges in Connecticut can you remember? They were as follows...

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Stafford #1 | West Suffield #10 | Housatonic #19 |
| Windsor #2 | Washington #11 | Hope #20 |
| Lanesville #3 | East Granby #12 | Lebanon #21 |
| Hawleyville #4 | Tunxis #13 | Advance #22 |
| Granby #5 | Bloomfield #14 | Cheshire #23 |
| Danbury #6 | Redding #15 | Berlin #24 |
| Roxbury #7 | Colebrook #16 | Union #25 |
| Sherman #8 | Kent #17 | |
| Hartland #9 | Simsbury #18 | |

We are starting a new calendar year. Let's make it one of the best. Happy New Year to Everyone. See you around the State.

Central Pomona No. 1



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

SOUTHINGTON GRANGE #25

Corr: Lisa Lamoureux

Jan. 11: Business Meeting

Greetings from Southington Grange. Hopefully everyone had a great Holiday Season and Santa was good to everybody. On January 11th, Southington Grange will have a short business meeting. I am not sure what our program will be,

however, I am sure that Martha, our Lecturer, will do a great job. Martha has presented us with super programs and I know that she will keep up the great work!! Remember, if the white stuff is coming down on Jan. 11th (that means "SNOW") we will postpone our meeting to the 4th Monday of January. Hope everyone keeps warm and cozy!!

As always, our doors are open for anyone and everyone who would like to join us for a meeting. Remember we meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7:30 p.m. (EXCEPT JANUARY AND FEBRUARY – 2ND MONDAY ONLY UNLESS IT IS SNOWING. THEN MEETING IS CANCELLED AND RESCHEDULED FOR THE 4TH MONDAY OF THAT MONTH) at the Southington Grange Hall located at the corners of Summit Street and Knowles Avenue in the Plantsville Section of Southington.

WESTFIELD GRANGE #50

Corr: Phyllis Redford

Jan. 3: "The North Wind

Doth Blow"

Feb. 4: When G. Washington Came to Connecticut

A large cotton plant, grown in Deep River this summer, was on display at the November meeting. Members were able to feel the cotton bolls still attached. One Granger actually took a few seeds and will try her luck at raising a plant next spring. It can be done!!

Members expressed thanks for blessings among the most mentioned were health, family and friends, and the freedom to speak and worship as we wish.

A folder of simple crafts was distributed... cinnamon cut-outs, a reindeer card holder, a no

paste paper chain, and a pop-up holiday card. Each member received a kit which will make a snowman refrigerator magnet like the finished sample shown.

Westfield Lecturer is now a seventy year Granger... time flies when you are having fun.

Happy holidays, all ways and always to everyone.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Jan. 8: CT Bridge

Jan. 22: Omit (unless first meeting of the month is canceled).

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

National Grange Leadership Tip of the Month

There are three A's that every leader needs to work on in themselves: attitude, attention and action. If all leaders would work on making these three A's top priorities in all projects they lead they would all become very successful.

ATTITUDE

This is the foundation to all that you do. It will set the tone for everyone else. You

need to choose to be positive because a negative attitude will only lead to trouble. A leader that chooses to be positive and always look on the bright side will rub off on those that are following. Our attitude needs to be open and welcoming. We need to listen to all comments and ideas, which will make everyone feel important. Open communication usually helps

in avoiding problems later on because it allows you to see potential problems. Good leaders are ones that have that can-do attitude. They deal with problems and work through trying times; always staying focused on the team and the project. And last, but not at all the least, our attitude needs to be fun and enjoyable. If the leader is having fun, then the rest of

the team will be free to have fun and enjoy them selves. After all enjoying ourselves makes the time go faster and the work seem worthwhile.

ATTENTION

We, as good leaders, need to remember who we are and what our principles and values are and be able to express them to the outside world. We need to have a clear vision of what we are trying to accomplish and ensure that it builds upon our principles and values. Leaders always need to remember that non-members' and potential new members' perception of us is made of the things they see and hear. We must make sure that what they see and hear from us represents our principles, values and vision. One way to accomplish this is by our publicity. Whatever the media you are working with, i.e. TV, radio, newspapers, flyers, websites, or just word of mouth, leaders must set an example of what to say how to speak, and how to act, so that everyone is able to see who we are and what principles and values the Grange is made of.

ACTION

Winners act! The Grange is a winner and the most successful Granges act: they do something. Successful Granges have strong leaders that don't expect others to do something for them; instead they get out there and do it for themselves. They lead; they get their hands dirty by doing whatever it takes;

they involve others and encourage them into action also. Action is the antidote to despair. The first thing to getting a Grange back on its feet when revitalizing is to get some kind of action started. It doesn't matter how big or small the action is, it just matters that there is some action. Our actions lead to opportunities for fun, which brings groups closer together. Leading a team in a project is very rewarding when you can see that thru the actions of the team others are learning responsibility. Active people and Granges attract other active people. We all want more doers in our Granges. By doing more activities and getting more folks involved, you can attract more active members. Granges that have not done many activities don't generally have the best attitudes. In my experience, When a Grange starts becoming more active, their attitudes improve.

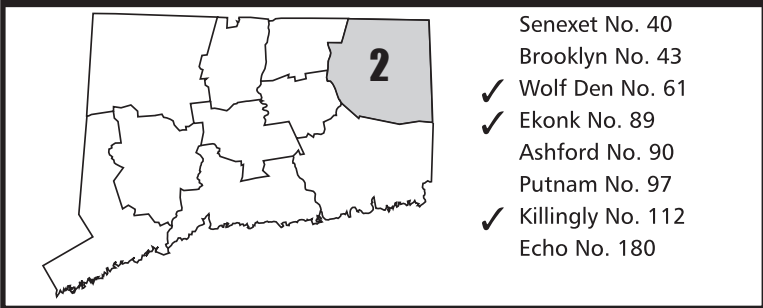
As leaders we set the direction for all meetings, projects, programs, and activities. We need to be mindful of this because others will adopt the example we set. Many of you are doing "Triple A" and for that the Grange thanks you. Others need to working on adding one or two more of the A's, but we all need to continue to work on all three: attitude, attention, and action if we are to continue to grow in our leadership skills.

Southington Grange sponsors Holiday Food Collection



Southington Grange No. 25 recently sponsored a Holiday Food Drive for area food pantries. Southington Grange members Mary Bacon (pictured left) and Lisa Lamoureux collect and sort the many non-perishable food items donated for the project.

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



EKONK GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Jan. 4: "The Book of Nature" 7:30 P.M. Meeting/Program

Jan. 22: Annual Family Casino/Game Night, 6:30 P.M.

Feb. 1: "Keep in safety those within the fold" 7:30 P.M., Meeting/Program

Feb. 27: Grange Family Activity

Many thanks to Betsy Molodich for heading the November Turkey Supper that added over \$1,100 to our very needy treasury! Great job! She had lots of helpers, but Betsy led the way!

Sara Davis Phaiyah presented her first program in December. As part of the program, she recited "A Politically Correct" Christmas poem: quite humorous! Sarah's humor and enthusiasm adds much to our group!

In December, Robert P. Jordan and Barbara Cameron were neighbors as well as "Brothers and Sisters" at Westview Rehabilitation Center in Dayville. Bob was recovering from injuries sustained from a fall and Barbara was transferred there from UMass. Henry Pelletier also took a fall and at this writing is sporting an attractive neck brace! At this writing, Sandy Eggers continues healing from her injuries; still in a wheelchair. Special hellos to these Grangers!

Bob Jordan came home December 5, just in time for the Sterling Tree Lighting Ceremonies, when Sterling Village becomes a winter wonderland, all in memory of Bob's daughter, Nancy Jordan Hopkins!

Ekonk is covered in snow as I write this column, but our Grange is toasty warm: plan to stop by!

ASHFORD GRANGE #90

Corr: Evelyn Urda

Jan.10: Winter

Wonderland Happy New Year! By the time this is read, our Christmas Party will be over. We hope it will be a successful one. We are still meeting on the second Sunday of the month at 2:00 P.M. Our Jan. meeting will be preceded by a pot luck lunch at 12:30 P.M. Come join us.

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

Jan. 4: Tomorrow? Reg. Meeting

Jan. 18: Snow Date

Jan. 23: Blue Grass-Chili & Cornbread for Refreshments

On Dec. 7 we held a regular meeting with 12 of our members present and one State officer, Joan Perry, who filled in as Asst. Steward.

Earlier in the day L.A.S. Gert Blain and Overseer Glenna Bruno were digging "in" or "up" some Christmas decorations and found lots of them. We made up a small table top "Charlie Brown" Christmas tree. We're not about to put together the whole tree (you know, one of the slotted kind). Anyway, the tree looks okay.

We discussed our last dance and supper. We made a profit. Our next supper on Dec. 12 will be roast pork, etc. It will also be the day of our Craft Fair, time 10-3 P.M. Then the supper 4-7 P.M. and a dance from 8-11 P.M. and a bake sale. These will all be over by the time you read this.

A Blue Grass program will be ongoing- Jan. 23, Feb. 27 and Mar. 27.

We are collecting food for a Christmas basket to be given to a needy family.

Last month the Historic District Commission presented Killingly Grange with a plaque designating the old Killingly Central School which is now the Grange, as a historical

property.

Upcoming events: Jan. 4, Reg. Meeting; Jan. 8- Snow Date; Jan. 18th- School of Instruction, 2 P.M. @ Killingly.

Feb. 1- Little Acts of Kindness

Feb. 15- Snow Date

Somehow I'm always late with this column, everything seems to be "after the fact"- maybe someday I'll catch up, in

Time to work on contests



Jane Miller, State W.A. Comm.

I don't know what animal represents the Chinese New Year, but it is "The Year of the Cat" again for the CWA! It is time for our "Catnip Capers!" and another delicious Baking Contest recipe- Calico Muffins. These tasty muffins boast of pineapple, carrots and raisins, thus the 3 colored "calico" treats. Since you had to get out your muffin tins for last year's recipe, we figured we might as well use them again! The recipe is available from your CWA chairman or on the State Grange website: www.ctstategrange.org. Following are a few hints for successful muffins.

Like other quick breads, muffins do best with a light touch. Mix the batter gently, stirring only enough to moisten the dry ingredients. This keeps the muffin tender and avoids the peaked shape. Combining the dry ingredients with the carrots, raisins and nuts allows them to be evenly distributed, without over mixing. When well mixed, push the flour mixture up the sides of the bowl, to make a well.

Combine the liquid ingredients and pour them all at once into the well. Stir to moisten- counting 12 to 15 strokes. The batter will be lumpy. If you try to stir out the lumps, the muffins

the meantime, Granges elsewhere will at least know we are busy- BUSY!

ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

Jan. 12: Birthday Bash- Youth

Jan. 26: Chinese New Year

We had a successful tag sale. Our Charity Committee members visit our members in nursing homes often.

We collected our pennies all year and have bought Christmas stockings for the children.

We enjoyed a nice Thanksgiving program by our lecture.

We donated 144 dictionaries to 3rd grade students in several schools.

I hope everyone enjoyed themselves on the holidays.

will have peaks, tunnels and a tough texture.

Muffin cups can be greased or lined with paper liners. You may lightly spray the muffin liners with non-stick cooking spray to prevent sticking.

Be sure to pre-heat the oven. Once the pan is filled, put it in the pre-heated oven right away. Batters that use baking soda or baking powder need to be baked immediately so that the leavening power will not be lost.

Muffins are done when their tops are golden. To prevent soggy muffins, allow to stay in the pan for no more than 5 minutes. Remove and allow to cool on a wire rack. However, muffins are best served warm from the oven!

This contest is sponsored only by the state CWA, so there are no product requirements. It is open to Grangers, their children and grandchildren and Junior Grangers. We have not had any Junior entries for a long time. Let's encourage the kids to enter!

The Baking Contest is judged only on the Subordinate and State

levels. The Subordinate judging will be at the discretion of the CWA Chairman and the winner will represent that Grange at the state judging. Juniors will be judged only at the State level. The State judging will be held on Friday, July 23, 2010 at Cheshire Grange Hall. Entries will be accepted between 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M., with judging to start at 1:00 P.M. Prize money will be \$15.00, \$10.00 and \$5.00 for both adults and Juniors.

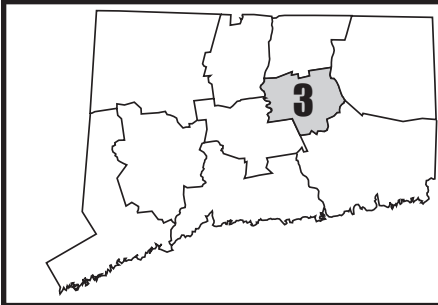
Our "Let's Celebrate Day" will be held on Saturday, July 24, 2010 at Cheshire Grange Hall. Displays will be open 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., with a lunch provided by the Juniors. The program and awards will be held at 2:00 P.M.

Practice for the contest by baking up a batch of our Calico Muffins and serve them warm this winter! Then enter the contest in your Grange. Plan to come to the Let's Celebrate Day, see the exhibits of all the CWA Contests and enjoy the events planned by your State Lecturer, CWA and Junior Deputies.



A picture of the quilt made for the raffle drawing at the Big E that benefits the New England Grange Building.

East Central Pomona No. 3



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

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3

Corr: John Waterhouse

Jan: No Meeting

Feb: No Meeting

Happy New Year!

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Diane Small

Jan. 6: The Oldest Holiday

Jan. 20: Cook's Choice (CWA)

Feb. 3: Cupid's Arrow (Publicity)

As you read this, we will have survived the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Winter is now settling in and we can cozy up nice and warm with a good book, that craft project or just catch up on all those undone deeds. Just think the new year will be 2010. My how time does fly. Can you remember when you started in the first grade? It wasn't long before you graduated from high school and then went out to face the world

Do you have any interesting stories to tell? Remember when you were a kid and some of the things that you, your siblings or your friends managed to do without seriously injuring yourselves. As they say, kids are invincible. We grew up in such a different era. But then each generations offers a different approach to their future.

CWA has the program for January 20. Anyone with a favorite recipe?? February 3 shows us Cupid's Arrow. With Valentine's Day in February, do you have a secret admirer. For that special someone, flowers, candy and a card will make their day.

With the winter season here, don't forget to call someone who doesn't get out much. If you bake something special, how about sharing it with someone. I know one of favorites things to make, are cookies.

Remember those

resolutions you made? How are doing with them. Good try though.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Ethel Harris

Jan. 7: Youth vs. Age, Ref. Harris Hill

Feb. 4: Gingo, Ref. W. Miller

The January and February meetings might well be canceled, due to weather, etc. Please call to confirm with Noel 860-742-8839 or Ethel 860-742-6256.

The long winter evenings give us a good time to work on our various CWA projects and how about writing up a resolution.

Coventry lost another Golden Sheaf member (70 years)- Carl Snow- a Past Master. Our sympathy to his family here and in Florida.

Happy Holidays to All.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Rita Schaefer

Jan. 14: "What a Cute Baby" (Bring your baby pictures)

Jan. 28: Past, Present and Future- CWA in charge

Feb. 11: "How Sweet It Is" (Youth in charge)

Feb. 25: Everyone has a talent

Well, the holidays have come and gone. I hope everyone has made their new year's resolutions to break.

We did help deliver the holiday food baskets and will do it again at Easter. Our food bank stays busy with the food delivery. We held our November Craft Fair and in spite of the bad weather we did well. Now we have to get busy for next year.

The time has come for the farmers to get going to get their seeds for the coming year.

At this writing, one of our members has been working very hard with a shipment of goodies leaving Dec. 6 for Iraq.

I will be sending my greetings to members that no longer live in the state.

Our meetings for January and February will be weather permitting. East Central and North Central Pomonas will hold a joint School of Instruction on Jan. 13 at Hillstown Grange Hall. Not much

more to write at this time. More next month.

MARLBOROUGH GRANGE #205

Corr: Ruth K. Posuniak

Jan. 7: 11:00 A.M. meeting will be held at Irene Brown's home located at 25 Riverside Drive E-3, Andover, CT 06232. Card

Stamping is the program. Irene Brown is in charge of the refreshments.

Marlborough Grange donated money for Christmas baskets to the towns of Marlborough, Hebron, Andover and Columbia.

Marlborough Grange



Marlborough Grange No. 205 recently held its Christmas Party at the home of Barbara & Arnold Cosgrove. Attending were: Irene B., Pauline C., Ruth P., Barbara C., Fran C., Robert L., Laura C. & David C. All had a wonderful time and thanks go to the Cosgroves for their hospitality.

AgNews



Ernest Finch
Agriculture Director
agriculture@ctstategrange.org

Dennis Rich, State Agric. Comm.

The old parlor game "Twenty Questions", which became a radio and then a television program, had as its only clue: is it animal, vegetable or mineral? It brings to my mind a way of thinking about self employment in an era of economic uncertainty. On my job traveling highways in the tri-state area, I notice that one of the most common trucks on the road are those owned by concerns making deliveries to stores, bakeries and restaurants, products of agriculture and food processors. So from the farm to the end user

there are people employed in production, processing, and marketing the yield of our fields and forests.

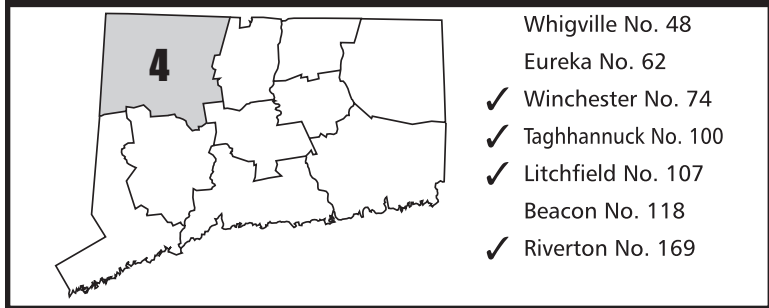
There are efforts underway to encourage people in rural areas to engage in making value-added products. In New York State, there is the SmallScaleFoodProcessors Association with items included in its "showcase" of cheeses, jams and jellies, maple sugar, vinegars, flour, wine, and ice cream in addition to local harvest fruit and vegetables, honey, Christmas trees, and natural meats and eggs. Another part of the solution is making available,

for cottage industries, commercial kitchen space, most often required for that which is made for human consumption. This of great benefit for those who cannot afford regular rental property and have homes not suitable for required alterations. Either space with "down time" or government owned property could be rented. Penn State offers a Food for Profit course and has established test kitchens in various parts of Pennsylvania. Here in our state this is a good challenge to focus for Ag Day in March!



**Deadline
for the
Next Issue:
January 5!**

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Jan. 15: School of Instruction @ Litchfield Grange Hall, 7:30 P.M.

Feb. 8: Celebrate Friendship- Whigville Grange Hall, 7:30 P.M.

Mountain County doesn't officially meet in January as we take a break for the holidays and for the coldest part of the winter. We will, however, gather at Litchfield Grange Hall on Friday, January 15 at 7:30 P.M. for the annual School of Instruction. All Granges are reminded to attend the meeting. It's informative for all members, not just the officers, so please join us.

Our next regular meeting of the Pomona will be held on Monday, February 8 at Whigville Grange Hall. Yes, that's correct, Whigville Grange Hall. It has been many years since we've been able to meet in Burlington for a Pomona meeting and we thank the members of Whigville for making their hall available to us for the Feb. meeting.

Hopefully the weather will cooperate.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Jan. 12: "Snowflakes", Ref. Mary Ann Berlinski

Jan. 26: "Tonight", Ref. Men

Feb. 9: "Everything" Ref. Shirley Lemieux

It's a quiet time for Winchester Grange. Our big activities of the fall season are over and we took a break for meetings around Christmas. Our next meeting will be held on Jan. 12 and will have "Snowflakes" as the subject. Our new Lecturer, Sara Bement has been doing an excellent job and we wish her the best in the new year of programs.

All officers and interested members are encouraged to attend the School of Instruction to be held at Litchfield Grange Hall on Fri., Jan. 15 at 7:30 P.M.

Until next time... have a Happy New Year!

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Myrtle Hayden

Jan. 14: ???

Feb. 11: Slide Show

We are now meeting once a month until March. We meet at 7:30 through the winter months.

Nov. 12th was our harvest dinner.

Dec. 10th our cookie exchange and cookies for shut-ins and Ella's Pantry.

Harvey Hayden has had both knees replaced and is recovering at home.

LITCHFIELD GRANGE #107

Corr: Sara Lee Fischer

We have had a very busy month in Litchfield. We had a special meeting on Nov. 12 to finalize arrangements for our anniversary.

On Nov. 12 we celebrated our 120th Grange Anniversary from 2:00 to 3:30 P.M. Master Richard Healy greeted honored guests, members

and friends of the Grange.

State General Deputy Robert Buck presented Sister Beulah Noad Partridge with her 75th year membership certificate. A State of Connecticut recognition certificate from Governor Jodi Rell was presented and read by Jack Healy. Long-term members were recognized by Janet Healy. A recognition of service from First Selectman Leo Paul was presented and read recognizing our 120 years of service to the Town of Litchfield.

Sister Roberta Coffill Healy sang two beautiful renditions of "America the Beautiful" and "This Land Is My Land." If you have not had the pleasure of hearing Roberta sing you have truly missed out.

Recognition by our State Grange was presented and read by State Deputy

Robert Buck. This was followed by a short program by Richard Healy on "The Past from 1889 to 1953", a poem "The New Hall" written by deceased Sister Alta F. Peck, was read in two parts by Sister Sara Lee.

Past Citizens of the Year were recognized and offered their thanks for recognition by the Grange. Following a benediction by Sister Barbara Rivers all enjoyed refreshments offered by members.

November 23 found many members traveling to Bethlehem Grange to join in a bountiful Thanksgiving feast.

Nov. 25 found members led by Janet Healy at the 2nd annual pre-Thanksgiving Pie Sale at our hall. Results are not in but it seemed to be a successful endeavor.

"Twas the Night Before Christmas" in Riverton



Phil Prelli, member of Riverton Grange No. 169 and National Grange Exec. Comm. member, reads "Twas the Night Before Christmas" to children at the Dec. 18 Grange meeting.



Donald Lanoue
Youth Director
youth@ctstategrange.org

Hi everyone, I hope that you had an enjoyable holiday season. I am

Youth Report

looking forward to going to the leader's conference in Massachusetts next month. The youth leaders and I will make plans for the Youth conference in July.

Though there is not much going on in the winter season I hope that

all will work on the youth contests for this upcoming season. Also people can start practicing for the Bowl-a-Thon in March.

If there is anything youth related that I can help with feel free to give me a yell.



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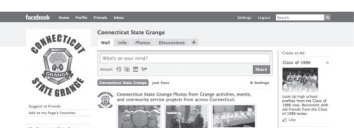
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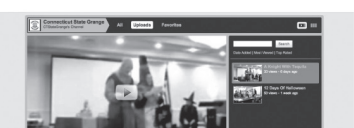
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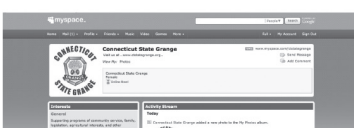
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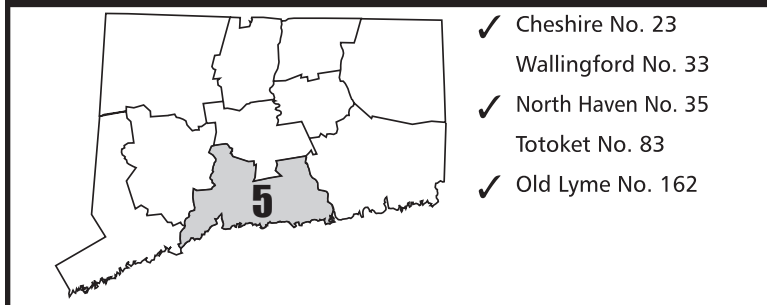


www.YouTube.com/CTStateGrange



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New Haven County Pomona No. 5



NEW HAVEN CTY. POMONA #5

Corr: Charleen Dimmick

Jan. 11: Regular meeting at Totoket. Program: Our Youth And Young At Heart.

March 8: Pomona runoff for Talent and A Number.

The Pomona had its annual Christmas party at Cheshire. In the absence of the Lecturer, the Assistant Lecturer, Maryalyce Lee, presented the Christmas program. There were readings, poems, and Christmas music. We had a gift exchange.

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy New Year.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Charleen Dimmick

Jan. 6: Our Reps in Hartford

Jan. 20: Garden Pests

Feb. 3: Box Supper at 6. Open Meeting. Program: Cupid

Feb. 17: Flag Program

In November we had our annual Thanksgiving dinner. Our thanks to Marge Bernhardt for cooking the turkeys.

At our second meeting in November, Henry Rotman spoke about his book, "On MY Watch" about the war and his part in it.

NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35

Corr: A. Tolette

Jan. 5: It's A New Year- Youth Night

Feb. 2: Hearts- Martha Kirschner

Our December program "Winter Drawers On" program went well but not quite as planned. Arline has a set of red long-johns which she wore when snowmobiling (a long time ago). She intended to model them but it seems things tend to shrink in the closet! The long johns

were at the meeting but not on a model.

By the time you read this we will have presented an 80 year certificate to Ruel Thompson, Sr. and a 70 year seal to Harry Tancreti. Laura Bartlett, in Florida, will also receive a 70 year seal. Too bad the Grange wouldn't pay me to deliver it.

Keep warm and well and have a healthy and happy new year.

OLD LYME GRANGE #162

Corr: Barb Kulisch

Jan. 8, 2010: January Is "National Hobby Month"

Jan. 22, 2010: Snow date for January 8th

Our Steward Norman Stitham came forth at the Oct 23rd meeting & put on a "This 'N That" program, as I was in the ER with Henry. It was enjoyed by all. An Ex Comm. member Norman Emerson brought numbers for the Nov 13th meeting as once again we ended up in the ER & transferred this time to the Hospice Wing of MMH. My members have been keeping the programs going for me & I truly thank them for filling in while I was away!

We continue to be very busy with our Community Service Project & we collect certain items on the "children's wish list" at each meeting. They are just so so appreciative for all that we are doing for the children.....it is good to be needed!

In December we had a "Country Store" which was sent to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen where "for every dollar donated four meals are served".

The Officers & Members of Old Lyme Grange #162 wish our fellow Grangers a Healthy & Happy New Year!

Don Beard receives 75 year certificate



Donald Lanoue (left), Master of New Haven County Pomona No. 5, presents Donald Beard with a certificate in recognition of 75 years of continuous active membership in the Grange. He is currently Chairman of the New Haven County Pomona Executive Committee.

Alaska adds new Grange



Alaska's Homer Grange receives its new Charter from the National Grange.

Almost a year ago, a small group in Homer began to explore the possibilities of developing a Grange to create and preserve sustainable ways of life within our community. At that time, 12 Granges had already been established in Alaska.

Since then, we have had continued support from the National Grange in Washington, D.C. and the State Grange of Alaska. On both levels, leaders have patiently and diligently worked with us as we have journeyed forward toward getting an official charter here in Homer.

During our first meeting, we were honored to meet Ted and Zula Bryan,

Ambassadors with the Washington State Grange, along with Gaye Hunt, the President of the Alaska State Grange. These leaders addressed the history of the Grange and how it has evolved over the years to support grassroots projects all across the nation.

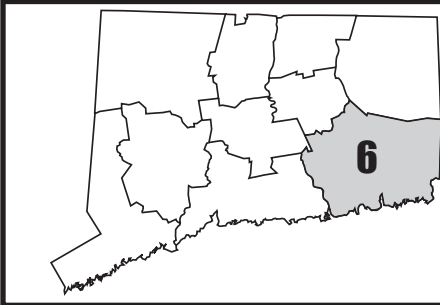
Last week, we were finally presented with our official charter by Gaye Hunt, along with Ed Luttrell, President of the National Grange. We were also able to meet Rusty Hunt, the leadership membership director of the Grange. He is a dedicated individual who helps bring individuals together to create teams of people who wish to better their

communities.

Homer is now the 13th Grange located in Alaska. One of our priorities is to further educate others in the community as to how they can become involved and share their own concerns and ideas. We will be doing our best to discuss upcoming events about our new Grange through newspapers and radio stations.

As of now, you can find more information about the Alaska State Grange at www.alaskagranger.org, or the National Grange at www.nationalgrange.org. We are in the process of developing a local Web site to create a public forum of our own.

New London County Pomona No. 6



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

NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Feb. 6: Movie Night & Potluck 6:30, Norwich Grange

Our Master and Overseer have been doing quite a bit of traveling in the last few months. At the end of October they visited New Hampshire where they attended the New Hampshire State Grange Session. Dan was given the honor of closing the session in the Fourth Degree as Master.

In November they traveled to Michigan to attend National Session. Last summer, on their Yosemite trip, they met Phyllis Wilson, Oregon State Master and National Chaplain. Learning of their talents with flute and harmonica and that they were planning to attend National, Phyllis asked them to play for her Memorial Service in Grand Rapids. In addition to this performance they played for the "Evening of Excellence" representing Connecticut.

Hope to see a big crowd at Norwich on Feb. 6 for our potluck and movie (the snow date is Feb. 7 at 1:30, same place). We had a great time last year and the food was delicious!

So come one down to Norwich

And bring your favorite dish.

We'll chase away your winter blues.

Bring a buddy is you wish.

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Joan Toomey

Jan. 11: Soup's On - 6:00 P.M., Joan Toomey Cooks- 7:00 P.M. Meeting

Colchester Grange has had a busy start of the Grange year. We've held fundraisers to sustain

our scholarships, had a wonderful harvest dinner at our Master's farm and worked hard at community service- total hours over 1,000 hrs. already.

Our Outstanding Volunteer was Jeff Watson. You all read about him in the Granger this fall. We continue to look for new members and hope to visit more Granges in the new year. Because our pianist Roz Etra has a heavy Monday night schedule and school schedule we have to thank Ron Purinton and Dan Mutchler for their assistance with music filling in for Roz. We'd also like to thank Lois Evankow for the lovely bags she provided for us at the last minute to fill with our overflow of pajamas, books, gift cards and stuffed animals for the sleep-over project. Last, but not least, all of my fellow Grangers (you know who you are) thank you all for your continued outstanding work for our Grange and community. Hope you all had happy holidays and have a happy and healthy new year.

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Jan. 8: "My Heart Stood Still" from a "Connecticut Yankee"

Jan. 22: "Hello Dolly" from "Hello Dolly"

We made sure eight needy families in town were provided with a hearty Thanksgiving meal this year. Along with eight certificates for turkeys we added fresh squash (butternut and acorn), 5 pounds of potatoes (thanks to Chris and Ingrid), cranberry sauce, stuffing, gravy, pumpkin for a pie, corn muffin mix and a big box of oatmeal for breakfast. In addition

we have taken many bags of food and clothing and Helen Apicelli's beautiful afghans to the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center.

The contractors are beginning work. The staging is up and the materials have been delivered. Although the weather hasn't been too cooperative so far, by the time this issue hits the streets we should be relaxing, snug and dry, under our newly shingled roof.

Our January programs look really interesting. On the 8th we will hear from David Jones from Bio Tech Pest Controls. he will speak on identifying and controlling pests. (hmmmm...) On the 22nd we are all asked to bring along a doll, a toy soldier or a stuffed animal (new or antique) to share. And if those last leaves will just let go so I can put away the rake and dust off the snow shovel (eeeek!) next time I'll tell you all about delightful December.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Dick Chapman

Jan. 7: Color Us Electric Lime, Show & Tell

Feb. 4: Color Us Red, Lovers, Past & Present

Our hats are off to those fine folks down in Maryland who, a few years ago, were responsible for the Calico Cat becoming Maryland's official state cat. Certainly a great idea. Here in Lyme we have declared this new Grange year the year of the Calico Cat. This goes along very well with the Lecturer's program theme of having a colorful year. We tasted the Calico Cat Muffins at the recent CWA regional meeting and they are absolutely delightful. We can all thank Jane Miller for another great recipe. You must get a hold of the recipe so you can enjoy them well before the judging. Our judging will be in May.

We will remember Oliver H. Kelley's birth anniversary (Jan. 7) by renewing our "Friends" membership with the Friends of the Kelley Farm

in Minnesota.

Our "Christmassy" December meeting was preceded by an awesome Roast Pork Supper and the program was pleasantly seasonal.

Wise words for 2010: "Your Merry Christmas may have depended on what others did for you- but your Happy New Year depends on what you do for others." Unknown.

January is National Polka Month- a great time to polkabrate!

STONINGTON GRANGE #168

Corr: Jeff Barnes

We said goodbye to our snowbirds as they head south to Florida. While they are are enjoying the warm weather they also do some good community service by helping at a food locker and preparing meals for migrant farm workers.

Meanwhile, the rest of us at Stonington Grange

are working on a new Community Service project

Our Lecturer presented her "complete program" in November, A is for Apple, with candy and caramel apples and apple pies galore. We may have our cider in February when it has "improved" with age, according to an expert on the subject.

Barbara and Roger Read got us into the Christmas spirit with their wonderful program in December. Santa will be coming soon and then a New Year begins.

Our January meeting will not be held at the Grange hall. Due to the nature of the program we will be meeting in a private residence. Things like this really help keep us inspired to be more creative in our Grange work.

Wishing all a healthy and happy New Year!

Maryland State Grange cautions delegation

In a letter to the Maryland Congressional delegation, MD State Grange Legislative Director, Allen Stiles, asked each of Maryland's Members of Congress to be sure to read important pieces of legislation before casting their final vote.

"There is growing concern in this country about massive bills that are passed quickly with little debate and even less time for individual members of the Congress and Senate to read and understand the provisions contained in them.

This is not a new problem. The 'Stimulus Package' was voted on with members having only 13 hours to see its 1,100 pages. The Troubled Asset Relief Programs (TARP I & II) were passed in a similar manner. When members of Congress complained loudly about the recent AIG bonuses it was discovered that some of those members had added a provision to the bill, making that practice acceptable.

The problem has been bi-partisan in nature; both parties are guilty of committing these problems. In the last election, the American people voted for a fundamental CHANGE in the way that Washington conducts business. We were looking for a new, more open and transparent way of doing your business. Several groups: liberal, conservative, and libertarian are proposing that members of Congress sign a pledge to actually read any bills before they vote for them. The concerns and the solution are both non-partisan in nature.

One of the first things that a prospective doctor is taught is, "First do no harm." The rule in Washington seems to be: it doesn't matter if it works or not. We must do something even if it is the wrong thing.

Sifting through difficult legislation to understand it is the main job that your constituents have elected you to do. We respectfully ask that you refuse to vote for a bill until you have the opportunity to read and understand it."



Joan Perry
Junior Director

juniors@ctstategrange.org

HILLSTOWN JR. GRANGE #87

Corr: Rita Schaefer

Jan. 15: "Resolutions"

Feb. 19: "Bee Mine"

After a busy year the Jrs. are now enjoying their free time. They held a Christmas party and enjoyed it. They had been working on pine cones for their crafts. They also had a night making small

Junior Grange

apple pies and did very well with them.

In January they will have a speaker on how yarn is made and will try to learn to do crocheting. I guess there will be more plans after the Blue Books come out.

EKONK JR. GRANGE #101

Thanks to the Juniors who diligently worked at our Turkey Supper. Without their willing hands and quick feet, we would often be lost. The Juniors presented an outstanding Christmas program as usual. This time we saw

several new young faces among the cast: future Junior Grangers we are sure! Jan. 8th a business meeting and program will begin at 6:00 P.M. and Jan. 22 Juniors will thrill to the fun and games of the annual Casino Night at the hall at 6:30 P.M. Feb. 5th at 6:00 P.M. they will meet again and have a fun program.

Betsy and Mike Molodich continue doing an exemplary job working with our future leaders and we are in their debt! Well done!

Will you freak out or hunker down?

with Robert Wilson

Sometimes motivation is forced upon us. We are thrust into the Un-Comfort Zone. And, whether we sink or swim depends on how we respond to the situation. How do you react during a crisis?

Here are the stories of two men who faced a crisis late in life and how they dealt with it. One was a restaurant owner; the other a janitor. The former went into bankruptcy at an age when most people retire, and the latter was fired from a job he'd had for nearly 20 years.

The restaurant owner enjoyed a successful business in a small town at the edge of the Appalachian Mountains. It was a great location along busy U.S. Route 25. And, because he offered the best food and service around, his eatery was jammed from sunup to sundown. But it wasn't to last.

The janitor started his job at St. Peter's Church in London as a teenager. Over the years he married and raised a family and enjoyed a perfectly predictable profession with solid job security. That is

until the new vicar came along.

Over the course of 26 years, he was honored by the state governor for his recipes; and was praised by famous restaurant critic, Duncan Hines, in his column Adventures in Good Eating. Then in 1956, the new super highway by-passed the little town. It's amazing the difference just a few miles can make. Two years later the restaurant was closed and the property auctioned off to pay creditors. At 64 years old, the restaurant owner was broke.

It was around the turn of the twentieth century when the new vicar, a stickler for decorum, took over St. Peter's Church. When he learned that the janitor could not read, he gave him three months in which to learn. Quite depressed by the news, the man thought it might make him feel better if he smoked a cigarette.

Unable to afford the cost of opening another restaurant closer to the highway, he reviewed his assets. All he had left was his knowledge and the delicious recipes that made his food so popular. So, he

got into his car.

As he walked home, the janitor searched for a tobacco shop. There was usually one on every block, but there were none near the church. He walked block after block without finding one. By the time he reached his house he knew exactly what he was going to do.

Town by town, he drove, stopping at every restaurant along the way. He told the owners they would be more successful if they served his secret recipes under his brand name and paid him a royalty. Two years later, in 1960, he had 400 restaurants serving his food. By 1963 he was making a profit of \$300,000 per year. And, in 1964, Colonel Harlan Sanders sold Kentucky Fried Chicken to investors for \$2 million, plus a lifetime salary of \$75,000 per year.

With his meager savings, he opened a tobacco shop near the church. It was an immediate success. His profits went to open a second, then a third and before long he thriving tobacco shops all over London. Ten years later, he met with his banker about investing his earn-

In Memoriam

Carl Snow, G.S.

Robert Foote

Alfred Hopkins, Jr.

Elsie E. Roberts, G.S.

Phyllis S. Porter, G.S.

Arthur W. Lowe

Josephine A. Passarella

Coventry Grange #75

Totoket Grange #83

Totoket Grange #83

Norwich Grange #172

Norwich Grange #172

Norwich Grange #172

Norwich Grange #172

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

Chaplain's Message



Amy Whitcomb
State Chaplain

chaplain@ctstategrange.org

Let us look to the New Year to find come certainty in our spiritual journey. When it comes to human progress, certainty has a woeful and sometimes humorous track record. Robert Burns, the national poet of Scotland, already pointed out in the 18th century that there is no such uncertainty as a sure thing.

Of course we kept chasing certainty. We value forecasting so highly that we work out elaborate methods to tell us what's going to happen in the economy, or the weather, or a coming election. We invest our leaders with the expectation of perfect certainty and fault them when their predictions miss the mark, which they often do. When very little in life turns out the way we expect, we keep forgetting about how really good that can be. When they tried to invent a gas for refrigeration, they got a slick substance instead, Teflon.

Sometimes you just have to tinker and I just love the tinkering process. This is not chronic indecision, it is making room for God-given creative spirit to work. To fully work in our lives, God needs our inner space that only we can give. Jesus knew the power of uncertainty to create that inner space: Do not worry about... you are to say; for what you are to say will be given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the spirit of your Father speaking through you. The paradox is that comfort with uncertainty gives a deep, abiding assurance.

The banker gave him some papers to sign. The man asked the banker to read the papers to him, explaining that he didn't know how. Shocked, the banker exclaimed, "You are so successful, just think where you'd be today if you could read!" Albert Edward Foreman smiled and sighed, "I'd be the janitor at St. Peter's Church." (Based on a true story by Somerset Maugham)

Did you know that in Chinese, the symbol for the word 'crisis' is the

same symbol used for the word 'opportunity?' Two sides of the same coin. In other words, it's all in our perspective. Will you find the opportunity in your next crisis?

Robert Evans Wilson, Jr. is a motivational speaker and humorist. He works with companies that want to be more competitive and with people who want to think like innovators. For more information on Robert's programs please visit www.jumpstartyourmeeting.com.